

Commercial Dog or Cat Breeder Inspection Guidelines

Facilities:

- (1) **Lighting.** An indoor confinement area must have at least eight hours of illumination sufficient to permit routine inspection and cleaning. (346.39)
- (2) **Ventilation.** An indoor confinement area must be ventilated. Drafts, odors, and moisture condensation must be minimized. Auxiliary ventilation, such as exhaust fans, vents, and air conditioning, must be used when the ambient temperature rises to a level that may endanger the health of the animal. (346.39)
- (3) **Sanitation.** Food and water receptacles must be accessible to each animal and located so as to minimize contamination by excreta. Feeding and water receptacles must be kept clean. Disposable food receptacles must be discarded when soiled. Measures must be taken to protect animals from being contaminated with water, wastes, and harmful chemicals. Where applicable, flushing methods and a disinfectant must be used periodically. Bedding, if used, must be kept clean and dry. Outdoor enclosures must be kept clean and base material replaced as necessary. (346.39)
- (4) **Confinement and exercise area surfaces.** Where applicable, the interior surfaces of confinement and exercise areas, including crates or containers, must be constructed and maintained so that they are substantially impervious to moisture and may be readily cleaned. They must protect the animal from injury and be kept in good repair. (346.39)
- (5) **Drainage.** Where applicable, a suitable method must be used to rapidly eliminate excess fluids from confinement areas. (346.39)

Standards of care:

- (6) **Food.** Dogs and cats must be provided with food of sufficient quantity and quality to allow for normal growth or the maintenance of body weight. Feed standards shall be those recommended by the National Research Council. (346.39)
- (7) **Water.** Dogs and cats must be provided with clean, potable water in sufficient quantity to satisfy the animal's needs or supplied by free choice. Snow or ice is not an adequate water source. (346.39)
- (8) **Shelter size.** A confinement area must provide sufficient space to allow each animal to turn about freely and to easily stand, sit, and lie in a normal position. Each confined animal must be provided a minimum square footage of floor space as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail, plus 25 percent, expressed in square feet. The formula for computing minimum square footage is: (length of animal plus 25 percent) times (length of animal plus 25 percent), divided by 144. A shaded area must be provided sufficient to protect the animal from the direct rays of the sun at all times during the months of May to October. (346.39)
- (9) **Dogs kept outdoors or in an unheated enclosure.** A person in charge or control of any dog which is kept outdoors or in an unheated enclosure shall provide the dog with shelter and bedding as prescribed in this section as a minimum. The shelter shall include a moistureproof and windproof structure of suitable size to accommodate the dog and allow retention of body heat. It shall be made of durable material with a solid, moisture-proof floor or a floor raised at least two inches from the ground. Between November 1 and March 31 the structure must have a windbreak at the entrance. The structure shall be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable bedding material consisting of hay, straw, cedar shavings, blankets, or the equivalent, to provide insulation and protection against cold and dampness and promote retention of body heat. Shade from the direct rays of the sun, during the months of May to October shall be provided. In lieu of the requirements in this section for shelter and shade, a dog kept on a farm may be provided with access to a barn with a sufficient quantity of loose hay or bedding to protect against cold and dampness. All shelters required by this section shall be subject to all building or zoning regulations of any city, township, county, or state. (343.40)
- (10) **Cats.** Cats must not be housed in outdoor confinement areas. (347.59)
- (11) **Temperature.** Confinement areas must be maintained at a temperature suitable for the animal involved. (346.39)
- (12) **Exercise.** All dogs and cats must be provided the opportunity for periodic exercise, either through free choice or through a forced work program, unless exercise is restricted by a licensed veterinarian. (346.39)
- (13) **Animals exercised in groups.** Animals exercised in groups must be compatible and show no signs of contagious or infectious disease. (347.59)
- (14) **Group housing and breeding.** Animals housed together must be kept in compatible groups. Animals must not be bred so often as to endanger their health. (346.39)

- (15) **Females in estrus.** Females in estrus must not be housed in the same confinement area with unneutered males, except for breeding purposes. (347.59)
- (16) **Minimum age at time of sale.** Animals must not be sold, traded, or given away before the age of eight weeks unless a veterinarian determines it would be in the best interests of the health or well-being of the animal. (347.59)
- (17) **Enrichment and positive physical contact.** Animals must be provided daily enrichment and must be provided positive physical contact with human beings and compatible animals at least twice daily unless a veterinarian determines such activities would adversely affect the health or well-being of the animal. (347.59)
- (18) **Training or handling.** A person may not inflict cruelty on a pet or companion animal by the use of a cruel training or handling device or method. (346.37)
- (19) **Health care.** Adequate health care, including parasite and pest control, must be provided to each pet or companion animal. (346.37)
- (20) **Adequate staff.** The commercial breeder must provide adequate staff to maintain the facility and observe each animal daily to monitor each animal's health and well-being, and to properly care for the animals. (347.59)
- (21) **Transportation and shipment.** When dogs or cats are transported in crates or containers, the crates or containers must be constructed of nonabrasive wire or a smooth, durable material suitable for the animals. Crates and containers must be clean, adequately ventilated, contain sufficient space to allow the animals to turn around, and provide maximum safety and protection to the animals. Exercise for 20 to 30 minutes and water must be provided at least once every eight hours. Food must be provided at least once every 24 hours or more often, if necessary, to maintain the health and condition of the animals. (346.39)

Identification of animals:

- (22) **Identification.** The commercial breeder must provide identification and tracking for each animal, which is not transferable to another animal. (347.59)

Records:

- (23) **Records.** The commercial breeder must keep records on each animal at the facility that includes: the name, address, and United States Department of Agriculture license number, if applicable, from whom an animal was received; the date the commercial breeder received the animal; the date of the animal's birth; the breed, sex, color, and identifying marks of the animal; any identifying tag, tattoo, microchip, or collar number; worming treatments, vaccinations, and name of the person who administered the vaccination; medication received by the animal while in the possession of the commercial breeder; and any disease conditions diagnosed by a veterinarian; and the name and address of the person or entity to whom an animal was transferred. The commercial breeder must maintain a copy of the records required to be kept for two years. (347.58)

Veterinary Protocol:

- (24) **Veterinary protocol.** A commercial breeder must establish and maintain a written protocol for disease control and prevention, euthanasia, and veterinary care of animals at each facility. The initial protocol must be developed under the direction and supervision of the board. A commercial breeder must maintain a written protocol that is updated at least every 12 months and that is signed and dated by the board or by a veterinarian along with the commercial breeder. The written protocol must be available to the board upon request or at the time of inspection. (347.58)
- (25) **Veterinary health certificates.** An animal sold or otherwise distributed by a commercial breeder must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate completed by a veterinarian. The certificate must be completed within 30 days prior to the sale or distribution and must indicate that the animal is current with vaccinations and has no signs of infectious or contagious diseases. (347.58)
- (26) **Brucellosis tests.** The certificate accompanying an adult dog that was not spayed or neutered must indicate that the dog has no signs of infectious or contagious diseases and was tested for canine brucellosis with a test approved by the board and found to be negative. (347.58)

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