



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Guidance Document

## Isolation in Boarding Establishments and Rescue and Rehoming Centres

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## Part 1

### Key standards that we will require boarding establishments, and rescue and rehoming centres to adopt;

1. Veterinary supervision must be provided by or approved by APHA.
2. No animal should have contact with another animal (unless licensed to share a unit)
3. Dogs should be on a lead and muzzled when exercised.
4. Cats must be housed in a way that prevents them from scratching/spitting at another animal which could potentially lead to disease transmission.
5. Animals can use the common exercise runs as long as no other animal is using it at the same time and provided the area is cleared of faeces/vomit after use.
6. The animal(s) must not leave the authorised premises.
7. All staff must be trained on the dangers of rabies, precautions to prevent cross-infection, escape and unauthorised entry and the obligation to report any escape incidents immediately.
8. Staff must be advised about the Department of Health's offer to provide a pre-exposure rabies vaccination which is available free of charge.
9. Each unit must be numbered with a place to carry a notice giving details of the occupants. The details on this must include:
  - a. A brief description of the animal including the owner's name
  - b. Animal's name
  - c. Import licence no.
  - d. Country where it previously resided and the date of landing
10. The only people allowed access to animals undergoing quarantine are:
  - a. The supervising vet or their deputy/deputies
  - b. The owner or operator of the authorised premises and members of their staff
  - c. An APHA veterinarian
  - d. Any persons visiting a quarantined animal with the permission of the owner or operator of the authorised premises, and
  - e. Any person employed by the emergency services, requiring access to the premises in the event of an emergency.

11. The supervising vet must be informed of new arrivals.
12. Staff must cooperate with the authorised veterinary surgeon at all times when requested. Staff will receive a weekly telephone call and may receive visits from the authorised veterinarian to confirm that these conditions are being met and animals remain healthy. If the authorised veterinarian has any concerns about the health of the animal, access to the premises will be required.
13. Staff must take a daily note of the health and wellbeing of the animal and discuss this with the authorised veterinary surgeon at the weekly calls.
14. An animal must not be released from quarantine before the date confirmed by APHA, which may be extended.
15. If any animal(s) die, escape or are removed without authorisation, the supervising vet and APHA should be informed immediately.
16. Following any biting or scratching incidents with quarantined animals, the kennel must:
  - a. Ensure staff know they must consult their own doctor
  - b. Notify the local Consultant in Community Disease Control, and
  - c. Consider with APHA whether the circumstances warrant action to defer the animal's release if due within 15 days
17. A case history must be kept of each animal in quarantine which includes:
  - a. A detailed description of the animal
  - b. A record of the country where it previously resided
  - c. Date of landing
  - d. Date of entry into quarantine
  - e. Movement of the animal into and out of units
  - f. Movement of the animal from the premises
  - g. Any incidents in which staff or visitors are bitten or scratched
  - h. Any veterinary treatment administered whilst in quarantine (include batch number of vaccines), illness and other incidents concerning the animal

## Part 2

### **Requirements for isolation which registered boarding kennels and catteries are already required to meet under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 (LAIA);**

1. All doors required for the security of animals must be fitted with devices that make them escape-proof to animals. Animals should not be able to escape when the door is closed.
2. It should not be possible for anybody to gain access to animals without the knowledge of kennel staff.
3. Cat blocks and cat units must be securely roofed.
4. Partitions between cat units must be of solid construction so it is impossible for one cat to spit at another.
5. Cats and dogs cannot share a unit.
6. Where possible, when an animal needs treatment it should be carried out in their individual unit to avoid unnecessary movement and risk of cross-infection. However major treatment must be carried out in a veterinary treatment room or securely in a veterinary surgery.
7. Where the animal needs to attend the vets in an emergency, it must be transported securely with full precautions taken to ensure security and prevent transfer of infection to other animals.
8. Hot and cold hand wash basins should be provided within the facility for the use of staff and visitors.
9. The whole of the premises must be kept in a clean, tidy and hygienic condition with action taken to control vermin.
10. Areas must be thoroughly cleaned before disinfection takes place.
11. Pet bedding must be kept in a clean, dry and hygienic condition. Bedding must not be transferred between animals or re-used without first being cleaned and disinfected. If this is not possible, the bedding must be securely disposed of immediately after use.
12. Beds and sleeping benches must be cleansed and disinfected once the unit has been vacated.
13. A dog or cat must not be allowed to come into contact with any articles, including toys, used on or by other animals unless such articles have first been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. All articles, including bedding must also be thoroughly cleansed and

disinfected before being taken out of the premises during the isolation period. If they are of no further use elsewhere or cannot be cleansed and disinfected, articles must be incinerated.

14. Articles and toys in use by an animal at the time of its release may be removed untreated by the animal's owner at the same time.
15. Food preparation rooms and kitchens must be disinfected daily and kept in a clean and hygienic condition at all times.
16. In order to discourage rodents, uneaten food must not be left in the unit after feeding time.
17. Food and drinking bowls and any other utensils used by an animal must be kept in good condition, and be made of a material that can be cleansed and disinfected. They must not be transferred between animals without first having been cleansed and disinfected.
18. Faeces must be disposed of carefully into a secure bin which cannot be accessed by other animals/wildlife.
19. Efforts should be made to ensure no waste water contaminates adjoining rooms, units or passageways.
20. If for any exceptional reason the premises are left unattended, they must be securely locked.
21. Animal records must be retained on the premises for 12 months from the date of release of the animal and must be producible at all reasonable times on demand to a APHA inspector or the local authority or constable.