

The Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme

Welfare Kennel Check Sheet

Introduction

Since its inception, Dogs Trust has supported Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners to set up and run the Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme for their force, through the provision of information, meetings and training for both police officers and Independent Visitors.

Dogs Trust ensures that the scheme is running in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme booklet and awards those who are complying with the scheme with a certificate of compliance.

Only those forces that are members of the Animal Welfare Independent Visitors Scheme are allowed to adopt or rehome dogs from Dogs Trust.

All forces are encouraged to engage with a professional animal welfare organisation to act as a consulting body, and if necessary as an Independent Visitor.

Only welfare organisations which are members of the Association of Dog and Cat Homes (ADCH) are to be used. Details can be found at www.adch.org.uk

Using the assessment criteria

For each criteria point there is a column for the Independent Visitors to check **Yes (Y)** if the criteria is fully met, **Partially (P)** if the criteria is partially met, and **No (N)** if the criteria is not met at all. Where an Independent Visitor has ticked Partially (P) or No (N) they must elaborate why this has been ticked in the **Notes** column and can provide constructive feedback.

Name of Force:

Date of visit:

NAME OF VISITOR.....	DOGS NAME/COLLAR NUMBER.....
LOCATION.....	AGE/BREED/SKILL.....
TYPE OF VISIT.....	VACCINATIONS
KENNEL.....	MEDICATION.....
VEHICLE/REG.....	OTHER.....
TRAINING/LOCATION.....	DOG UNIT SERGEANT/MANAGER.....
SINGLE OR PAIR-HOUSED?.....	PCC ADMINISTATOR.....

2. The need for a suitable environment

Criteria	Y	P	N	Comments
Is the dog in a safe environment with adequate protection from hazards? (e.g., cleaning equipment removed from the kennel area and no damage to kennel)				
Is the dog in a comfortable, clean, dry, quiet, draught free environment which is protected from adverse weather?				
Is there evidence of records to show regular spot cleans and full cleans of the kennels?				
Is the living environment appropriately ventilated and temperature controlled?				
Does the dog have a choice of areas within the kennel to spend time in and rest, such as an inside and outside area of the kennel				
Is there evidence of regular checks of the dog, ensuring they are free from distress and danger? (e.g., ensuring the dog is comfortable with being alone in the kennel)				
Does the dog have access to a suitable, spot cleaned toilet area away from their bedding area which they can access as frequently as needed? (e.g., a clean, dedicated outside space)				
Is the space large enough for the dog to move around comfortably and for them to fully stretch out when resting? (e.g., being able to move around the space without any part of their body contacting the walls or ceiling)				
Does the dog unit have a safe compound area that the dog can go into for further physical and environmental enrichment? E.g. a compound area which may have with different platforms and surfaces (grass, sand, etc).				

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2. The need for a suitable diet

Is there fresh drinking water available and within reach in a clean bowl?				
Are there records available to track any changes in eating and drinking patterns?				
Is the dog a healthy body condition, as per the WSAVA guidelines? <i>(See booklet for more details).</i>				
Are the feeding instructions for the dog food being used readily available for staff to read?				
Is there evidence that vet guidance has been sought for any dogs who require specific diets?				
Is the food preparation area clean and evidence that dogs are being fed twice a day, unless otherwise advised by a vet?				
Is there a feeding schedule which avoids feeding the dog within an hour of strenuous exercise when possible? Does the feeding schedule allow for modifications when the dog is expected to				
Is there a procedure in place for when and how to seek advice from a vet if any changes are noticed or dietary questions arise?				

3. The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns

Criteria	Y	P	N	Comments
Is there evidence to show the dog is given the choice to engage with to at least two enrichment categories daily from the below, with ideally multiple provisions from each category, suitable to the individual dog: -Category 1: Food-based enrichment (<i>e.g. food toys, chews, scatter feeding</i>) -Category 2: Environmental enrichment (<i>e.g. walks, different surfaces</i>) -Category 3: Social enrichment (<i>e.g. interaction with humans and/or dogs</i>)				
Does the kennel layout and daily routine allow for areas and periods where the dog can rest undisturbed? (<i>e.g. an "indoor" and "outdoor" part of the kennel, multiple bedding options, times of day where the dog is left to rest</i>).				
Is there evidence to show the dog is exercised daily, with attempts to provide opportunities for natural behaviour (<i>e.g. playing, sniffing, digging</i>) during walks? Please note if a vet recommends against daily exercise.				
Is there evidence to show daily monitoring and accurate record keeping of the dog's health and behaviour in kennels?				
Is there evidence to show accurate records are kept in relation to monitoring the dog's training/behaviour needs or progress.				
Can the staff members demonstrate the use of positive reinforcement/reward-based methods when handling and training the dog (in line with Approved Police Practice)?				
Is there evidence to show appropriate procedures are in place to report welfare concerns, including if staff/handlers were to use aversive methods?				
Are there appropriate procedures in place for behavioural referral if the dog should need this? (<i>e.g. is the dog registered with a vet, who can then refer to an appropriately qualified Clinical Animal Behaviourist</i>).				

4. The need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals

Criteria	Y	P	N	Comments
Is there evidence to show that there have been appropriate social housing considerations for the individual dog? (e.g., <i>assessment of social behaviour when interacting with other dogs, including allowing choice to interact or not</i>)				
Does the dog, if kennelled with another, have enough space to be separate from them and have an area to rest undisturbed by the other?				
Are there enough resources provided for all the dogs housed together? (e.g., <i>toys, beds, food and water bowls</i>)				
Can the staff members demonstrate kind and gentle handling in the way they, and others, interact with the dog? (e.g., <i>staff members ensure children or un-trained personnel are not left unsupervised with the dog and interactions are suitable for the individual dog</i>)				

5. The need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

Criteria	Y	P	N	Comments
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Does the dog appear to be in good health? Please note if the dog is currently receiving vet treatment for an illness or injury.				
Are there records of daily monitoring for signs of injury, disease, or illness?				
Are there records to track any change in the dog's behaviour?				
Does the dog's coat appear to be healthy with grooming equipment readily available for daily use? <i>(e.g. coat is an appropriate length for the time of year and appears clean and free from matting)</i>				
Are there records for when the dog last had a vet health check and for when their next one is booked? Minimum every 12 months				
Is there a record of when the dog was last vaccinated and received treatment to control parasites (e.g. fleas and worms) and when they are next due to be vaccinated and treated?				
Are there cleaning materials available to ensure dog faeces can be safely disposed of?				
Is any prescribed medicine safely stored? Please place NA in comments if no medicine has been prescribed.				
Is there a record of prescribed medicine being administered to the dog it has been prescribed for? Please place NA in comments if no medicine has been prescribed.				
Is there a disposal procedure in place for any unused prescribed medicine? Please place NA in comments if no medicine has been prescribed.				
Are emergency contact details of a vet easily accessible?				
Are suitable sized collars and identity tags available for use when needed?				

<p>If a harness is used, is it an appropriate size, free from any mechanism that may cause discomfort and in good condition?</p> <p>Please place NA in comments if no harness is used.</p>				
<p>Are suitable procedures in place for responsible breeding and puppy care, under the guidance of a vet?</p>				

Other comments