

The Standard for Dog Breeding

Standard	Guidance
<p>1 The breeder must comply with all legislation relevant to their breeding establishment. Welfare legislation requires dogs' needs to be provided and they are expressed thus:</p> <p>"an animal's needs shall be taken to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) its need for a suitable environment, b) its need for a suitable diet, c) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, d) any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and e) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease." 	<p><i>All dogs in England and Wales are subject to the Animal Welfare Act 2006, in Scotland to the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, and in Northern Ireland to the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. In addition some breeders may be subject to additional legislation. A list and summary of their provisions is given at Annex A.</i></p> <p><i>While this standard is not constructed strictly in the same order as the legislation, the Dog Breeding Reform Group considers that complying with these standards is likely to fulfil the requirements of the welfare legislation.</i></p>
<p>2 Records must be kept for all activity relating to the dogs and kept for 10 years. Records must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Name, date of birth and permanent identification; b) Breed where appropriate; c) Colour and other distinguishing marks; d) Registration number where appropriate; e) Date of acquisition; f) Weight; g) All veterinary treatment; h) Dates of mating; i) For bitches, date of whelping and number of puppies; j) For dogs, dates of matings and number of puppies; k) Results of all tests for inherited defects and the date of the tests; l) Date of leaving the breeder, and contact details for destination. 	<p><i>Records may be kept manually or on computer. When kept on computer some means of printing records for an inspector should be available. There should also be facility for regular back-up of records to prevent loss.</i></p>
<p>3 When euthanasia is required at any age it must be carried out by a veterinary surgeon and recorded to include the reason for euthanasia and the name of the veterinary surgeon who performed it. Breeding stock must not be routinely euthanised when no longer required for breeding.</p>	<p><i>This applies equally to terminally ill breeding stock as well as to puppies. Puppies should not be euthanised simply because they have a colour or conformation defect that will not affect welfare or can be corrected without compromising welfare. Affected dogs should be neutered.</i></p> <p><i>Ex breeding stock should only be euthanised where they are incapable of being re-homed, as certified by either a veterinary surgeon, or a behaviourist working at the level of Applied Animal Behaviourist, Clinical Animal Behaviourist or Veterinary Behaviourist, as defined by the Animal Behaviour and Training Council www.abtcouncil.org.uk</i></p>

Breeding Animals

Standard	Guidance
<p>4 Dogs used for breeding must be kept in an environment that allows adequate social contact when the stage of the breeding cycle permits. Temperament must be monitored to ensure that the possibility of inter-dog aggression is minimised. Bitches close to whelping and when lactating must not be mixed with other adult dogs. On those occasions where dogs have to be kennelled on their own, the level of social contact with humans must be increased to compensate.</p>	<p><i>Fulfilment of social needs may be provided by mixing compatible dogs and by contact with humans. When the social contact is provided by humans, the contact should be for the majority of the day. When dogs are kept in a kennel environment this should be the working day and in a domestic environment the normal waking hours of the household. Care should be taken when mixing dogs and they should be maintained in groups compatible in terms of temperament, size, and number. When dogs are mixed, the compatibility of the dogs may vary depending on the stage of the breeding cycle and this should be borne in mind.</i></p>
<p>5 Dogs must have access to clean drinking water at all times. Unless automatic drinkers are provided, drinking water must be checked at least twice daily.</p>	<p><i>Where dogs are mixed it is advisable to provide a number of drinking bowls. How often bowls are re-filled will depend on circumstances and the potential for contamination. There will be occasions where access to water is inappropriate, such as during transport. In such circumstances dogs must be offered water at regular intervals.</i></p>
<p>6 Dogs must be fed a diet appropriate to their age, breed, activity level and stage of the breeding cycle. Dogs must be fed individually with separate bowls. Food must be stored in vermin-proof containers and fresh food must be refrigerated. Dogs must be weighed every three months and their weight recorded.</p>	<p><i>For most dogs in breeding establishments two meals should be provided daily. Pregnant bitches will require increasingly frequent meals of higher quality food as their pregnancy progresses. Lactating bitches also need frequent high quality food to prevent excessive weight loss. Ad lib feeding may be appropriate. Activity feeders will enhance dogs' mental stimulation. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)¹</i></p>
<p>7 There must be an area for food preparation. Hot and cold running water must be provided.</p>	<p><i>To ensure proper hygiene the kitchen should be kept clean and dry. A cleaning and feeding Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)² should be provided. Where dogs are bred in a domestic establishment food may be prepared in the house kitchen as long as appropriate hygiene control is undertaken.</i></p>
<p>8 Dogs kept in domestic premises must have free access to more than one room and there must be a specific bed or indoor kennel for each dog. The bed must have clean bedding. The bed and any indoor kennel provided must be large enough for the dog to lay flat on its side and stand in a natural standing position.</p>	<p><i>Keeping dogs in domestic premises occupied by people provides a good social environment that has adequate temperature control and ventilation. However more care may be required to ensure adequate hygiene when floors are covered with permeable covering such as carpet. Where indoor kennels are used, dogs should not be confined in them for more than eight hours a day without being let out during this period for exercise and socialization with both humans and other animals. Dogs sharing an indoor kennel should always be compatible in both temperament and stage of breeding cycle.</i></p>

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<p>9 Dogs kept in kennel accommodation must be provided with a clean and durable environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Kennels must be constructed of impermeable material that can be cleaned and disinfected. b) Kennels must be divided into sleeping and activity areas. No floor area dimension may be less than 1.5 m. Dogs must be able to lie flat on their sides outside their bed in the sleeping area. The activity area must be a minimum of 4m for a single dog and a minimum 1m for each additional dog. Dogs must be able to walk, turn around easily, wag their tails without touching the kennel sides, and lie down without touching another dog. c) The sleeping area must contain a bed with clean bedding large enough for the dog to lie flat on its side. d) The ambient temperature must be between 10°C and 26°C and records kept. e) The kennel must have sufficient lighting to enable dogs to be examined and the kennel to be cleaned. f) There must be sufficient ventilation to prevent excessive odours or contamination without causing draughts. g) The kennel must be constructed to minimise noise levels. 	<p><i>The use of wood for kennel surfaces is undesirable. Where it is used it should be painted or lined with waterproof material so that it is impermeable and should be kept in good, splinter-free condition. Wood should not be used in new builds. The floor must be smooth concrete or tiles or a similar impermeable and cleanable surface.</i></p> <p><i>Kennels should normally be at least 2m high to allow dogs to move freely and to allow efficient cleaning.</i></p> <p><i>Heating should be provided to ensure the temperature does not fall below the minimum. This may be by 'spot' heaters. It is recognised that high external ambient temperature may make it difficult to achieve the maximum at all times. High temperatures should be alleviated by providing additional air movement. A maximum/minimum thermometer should be placed in a kennel or in domestic environments the temperature should be thermostatically monitored. Electronic monitors are ideal to maintain records.</i></p> <p><i>Kennels should have natural daylight.</i></p> <p><i>Noise can be reduced by the use of noise absorbent materials such as ceiling tiles in the construction of the kennel. External sources of noise should also be minimised.</i></p>
<p>10 There must be a routine cleaning regime. This must include the removal of faeces at least twice daily and routine disinfection. Floors must be dried after cleaning. Regular hygiene audits should be undertaken and records kept.</p>	<p><i>A cleaning Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)² should be provided. Disinfection is not required on a daily basis except in the face of infection. Kennels and outside exercise areas should be cleaned and disinfected between occupants.</i></p>
<p>11 Dogs must be provided with environmental enrichment and the ability to have some control over their environment. There must be a standard daily routine including rest periods.</p>	<p><i>Activity feeders that are changed regularly are ideal enrichment. Regularly changed toys may also be useful but generally require human interaction to be effective. There should be more toys or feeders than there are dogs in the kennel. The use of raised beds and the ability to move out of other dogs' sight should be provided. The environment and toys should be appropriate for the breed. Daily or weekly activities are provided as appropriate that meets the emotional and behavioural needs of all dogs and provides an appropriate balance with respect to activity (eg as defined above), socialising, play, resting, grooming, eating and chewing. Daily Routine Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)³</i></p>

Standard	Guidance
<p>12 All dogs must have access to an exercise area and must be allowed a minimum of two periods daily of at least 30 minutes to run free.</p>	<p><i>Exercise may be provided by walking individual or small groups of dogs or by access to an exercise run appropriate to the size and breed of dog. The use of further enrichment such as swimming or fetching a ball should be encouraged. Where dogs are walked it should be possible to show that sufficient staff are present to provide twice daily exercise with the majority of the time spent off lead in a safe area.</i></p>
<p>13 Bitches in season must be kept out of visual and auditory range of entire males.</p>	<p><i>There should be completely separate accommodation for bitches in season.</i></p>
<p>14 In addition to the habituation set out in paragraph 38, breeding dogs must be trained so that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Walk on a lead; b) Come when called; c) Sit when requested; d) Are capable of being physically examined and treated under normal conditions. e) All training must be based on reward, not punishment. 	<p><i>Basic training should be given to all dogs so that they can be handled easily and safely and can be re-homed at the end of their breeding career. Reward based training should be used.</i></p>
<p>15 All breeding stock must be permanently identified.</p>	<p><i>Microchip implanted by a trained operator is a legal requirement unless a veterinary exemption certificate is in place. Additional means of identification may be acceptable.</i></p>
<p>16 Breeding stock must be selected on their temperament and their physical and genetic health irrespective of other factors such as a breed standard. All potential breeding stock must be examined by a veterinary surgeon prior to mating and certified free from any inherited defect apparent on physical examination. All breeding stock must be able to see, breathe normally, be physically fit, and able to run freely.</p> <p>Where scientifically validated tests for inherited disease are available, dogs intended for use in breeding must be tested and re-tested where appropriate before being used for breeding.</p>	<p><i>The great majority of dogs live as pets in a domestic environment. Their health and behaviour are therefore far more important than their appearance. It is accepted that a simple physical examination by a veterinary surgeon may not disclose all potential health issues e.g. Chiari-like malformation, but can usually determine general health, fitness and well being.</i></p> <p><i>Dogs that display adverse temperament traits, such as withdrawal from or aggression towards handlers or other dogs should not be bred from.</i></p> <p><i>The intention of testing for inherited disease is to improve genetic health and that can only be achieved by selecting the best breeding stock. Where tests are based on DNA, affected dogs should not normally be used for breeding and carrier dogs should normally only be mated to clear dogs. It is recognised, however, that the careful breeding of affected animals to clear animals may be acceptable in certain breeds, depending on the severity of the condition and the individual breed's genetic picture. Where such tests provide a score, no dog should be used for breeding if their score is worse than the average published for the breed. Longevity of relatives, particularly in short-lived breeds, should also be considered.</i></p> <p><i>Genetic counselling should be provided in writing for both the breeder and the purchaser of puppies that may be used for breeding.</i></p>

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<p>17 All dogs must be examined daily by staff and any signs of disease or injury acted upon.</p>	<p><i>The examination does not need to be extensive and should include the dog's behaviour. Treatment does not necessarily imply veterinary intervention as some disease, e.g. mild diarrhoea, may only require self-directed management. Daily records of health should be kept.</i></p>
<p>18 The breeder must have a veterinary health plan for their dogs as agreed with their veterinary surgeon. As a minimum this must include an annual examination by the veterinary surgeon, vaccination, and regular treatment for external and internal parasites. All veterinary treatment must be recorded.</p>	<p><i>The health plan may be a very simple document detailing routine treatments required, disease prevention procedures, and procedures related to breeding. These should include measures to prevent the transmission of roundworm larvae from bitch to puppies. Standard Operating Procedure SOP⁴</i></p>
<p>19 There must be procedures for introducing new dogs to the breeding establishment.</p>	<p><i>A veterinary health certificate from the vendor should be provided. In breeding establishments where dogs are accommodated in kennels a quarantine area should be provided in which all new dogs are kept for 14 days to prevent any possible transmission of disease or infection to resident dogs. Extra human contact during this period is advisable. At the end of the quarantine period, introduction to the resident dogs should be controlled. Care should be taken in introducing dogs to existing groups of dogs in a domestic environment, to avoid stress to either new or resident animals. Where new dogs are introduced to groups in either domestic or kennel environments, behaviour should be observed for signs of aggression or fear.</i></p>
<p>20 Dogs whose breeding career has been finished must either be retained for the rest of their natural life or be responsibly re-homed. Dogs must be neutered prior to re-homing. Dogs must only be euthanised as defined in standard 3.</p>	<p><i>Responsible re-homing should include an assessment of the adopter to ensure that they can provide a suitable home environment, and a requirement to return the dog if the adopter is unable to continue to care for it. A record of return rates should be kept.</i></p>

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Breeding and Rearing

Standard	Guidance
<p>21 All dogs and bitches must be at least two years old before they are used for mating.</p>	<p><i>It is as important for male dogs as it is for bitches that they are physically and mentally mature before they are allowed to breed. Some breeds mature later and may need to be older and some inherited diseases are late onset. Consequently the decision about when to breed should be related to these factors.</i></p>
<p>22 Bitches may not have a litter within 12 months of their previous litter. Bitches may not have more than four litters in their lifetime.</p>	<p><i>Pregnancy and lactation are a significant drain on metabolic resources and sufficient interval must be left to allow for full recovery after a litter.</i></p>
<p>23 Bitches that have had a caesarean section may not be bred from again unless a veterinary surgeon certifies that mal-presentation of a puppy was the sole reason for the surgery. When a bitch is registered with the Kennel Club the caesarean must be reported.</p>	<p><i>It is very likely that a bitch that has required a caesarean section will require surgery at a subsequent whelping. It is not in the welfare interests of the bitch to be bred from again. A record of all caesarean sections must be kept in addition to dogs' health records.</i></p>
<p>24 Bitches may only be mated to a dog when the Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI) of the resulting puppies as measured from a five generation pedigree would be lower than 12.5%.</p>	<p><i>Inbreeding is likely to increase the risk of producing puppies that are affected with inherited disorders. COI measures the degree to which any given dog is already inbred. For dogs registered with the Kennel Club COI's are available at Mate Select</i></p> <p><i>Useful information is available on the Dog Breed Health website at www.dogbreedhealth.com</i></p>
<p>25 Dogs that have required surgery to rectify an exaggerated conformation that has caused adverse welfare (e.g. an excessively flat face or short nose or eyelid abnormalities etc.) must not be bred from.</p>	<p><i>Dogs with the most exaggerated conformations that may be associated with adverse welfare should not be bred from as such conformation is very likely to affect the resulting puppies.</i></p>
<p>26 Bitches must not be transported later than 49 days after mating and for 48 hours after whelping unless to a veterinary surgeon for treatment.</p>	<p><i>The stress of transport is more likely to adversely affect welfare during this period.</i></p>
<p>27 Bitches must be introduced to their whelping accommodation 50 days after mating or sooner if signs of imminent whelping are shown. Once separated there must be increased social contact with humans.</p>	<p><i>The bitch needs to get used to the whelping environment. Increased human contact will also ensure that the bitch is closely observed prior to whelping. It may be necessary to exercise the bitch separately from other dogs. It should be possible to demonstrate adequate staff resources to do so.</i></p>

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<p>28 There must be a separate whelping pen or room for each bitch in which to whelp.</p>	<p><i>Bitches can become protective of puppies at whelping and this may result in aggression. Care should be taken by staff in approaching or handling bitches during this period, in addition to other dogs being kept away.</i></p>
<p>29 Each whelping pen must be constructed of easily cleanable materials. Where a bitch is whelped in a domestic environment it is acceptable for a temporary disposable covering to be used. The area must be cleaned regularly and a record kept of cleaning procedures. The whelping pen must have a divider to allow the bitch to access an area where she cannot be reached by the puppies. There must be natural daylight.</p>	<p><i>Both the bitch and puppies are more susceptible to disease around the time of whelping and the routine use of appropriate disinfectant is necessary. In a domestic environment where a room is used, covering existing flooring such as carpet or floor boards to enable regular cleaning is acceptable. Where a whelping kennel is used it must be constructed to the same standard as general kennels.</i></p>
<p>30 There must be a whelping bed raised off the floor and with sides high enough to prevent new-born puppies from falling out. The bed must contain bedding to ensure a soft surface for the bitch and to enable the absorption of mess resulting from whelping. The bed must be constructed of easily cleanable material and must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between litters. The bitch must be able to leave the whelping bed to a cooler area.</p>	<p><i>The use of wood is acceptable for a whelping bed as long as it has been treated to render it impervious with paint or varnish. Bedding should be of soft material that may be covered by absorbent material. The use of newspaper alone is not acceptable and sawdust and straw should not be used in whelping beds. The use of 'pig rails' to prevent a bitch lying on her puppies is advisable until puppies are well enough developed to be able to move out of the bitch's way.</i></p>
<p>31 The whelping area must be maintained between 26°C and 32°C.</p>	<p><i>Where heat is provided by a heat lamp or a gas device, precautions should be taken to avoid excessive heat or contact with any flame, and there should be adequate ventilation to prevent the build-up of Carbon Monoxide and other noxious gases or vapours. Alarms should be provided. There should be a temperature monitoring device such as a max/min thermometer and records should be kept. Electronic logging devices are ideal and should be placed appropriately.</i></p>
<p>32 Bitches must be constantly supervised during and immediately after whelping and records kept of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Time of birth and identification of each puppy; Puppies' sex, colour and weight; Placentae passed; Any other significant events including puppy mortality. 	<p><i>Accurate records are essential in the event of any difficulty. A paper record, a summary of which is transposed to the full veterinary record later, is acceptable. The person supervising must be aware of the signs of abnormal whelping.</i></p>

Standard	Guidance
<p>33 Puppies must be checked for obvious congenital defects shortly after birth.</p>	<p><i>Abnormalities such as cleft palate should be detected as soon as possible and appropriate action taken.</i></p>
<p>34 Bitches must be offered the opportunity for a minimum of four periods a day for toileting and exercise away from their puppies.</p>	<p><i>Bitches should be allowed out without contact with other dogs and for short periods from a few days after whelping.</i></p>
<p>35 Puppies must be handled regularly from shortly after birth to habituate them to human contact and to examine them for any sign of disease and to ensure they are feeding properly.</p>	<p><i>Handling should consist of gently picking up and examining each puppy. This should be done at least twice daily. Care should be taken as bitches may be anxious or potentially aggressive when puppies are approached.</i></p>
<p>36 Records must be kept for all puppies and kept for 10 years detailing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Date of birth, sex, colour and any other identifying marks; b) Weight at birth and weekly until sold or at six months of age; c) All veterinary treatment. 	<p><i>Good records are essential to monitor puppies' health and development. A copy of the records should be given to the purchaser.</i></p>
<p>37 Puppies must start the weaning process as soon as they are capable of ingesting food on their own. The food offered must be appropriate for the stage of development of the puppies.</p>	<p><i>Weaning should normally commence at 3-4 weeks old. The initial diet may be liquid progressing to solid food over the ensuing period.</i></p>
<p>38 Puppies must initially be offered food five times a day. Each puppy must have its own bowl and staff must ensure that each takes the correct share of the food offered.</p>	<p><i>Feeding five times a day at the start of weaning is necessary to allow adequate food intake and may be reduced to four times a day at about 6 weeks. Meals should be spread evenly during the day. Monitoring weight gain is important.</i></p>
<p>39 Puppies must have access to an indoor area adjoining the whelping bed for exercise and toileting.</p>	<p><i>The whelping bed may be in a larger area so that, once puppies are mobile, they can leave the bed. There should be further area where the bitch can get away from the puppies.</i></p>
<p>40 From 3 weeks old puppies must be habituated to events likely to be encountered on homing to a domestic environment. This should include the sights and sounds in households, such as appliances, as well as differing surfaces on which to walk.</p>	<p><i>Introduction to novel sights and sounds should be gradual so that puppies do not show a fearful response such as startling or withdrawal. In a domestic environment this may occur naturally whereas in a kennel sights and sounds should be introduced in a structured manner. Recordings of sounds likely to cause fear when first encountered later in life, such as firework and traffic noises, should be introduced at a low volume. TV and radio may also be useful. Standard Operating Procedure: Habituation to Household Noises (SOP)⁵</i></p>

Standard	Guidance
<p>41 Puppies must be introduced to a variety of people including adults of both sexes, children of different ages, and wearing a variety of clothing styles.</p>	<p><i>Both adults and children should be used to interacting with dogs and their interaction should be calm and consistent such that the experience is positive for the puppy. Standard Operating Procedure: Socialisation of Puppies to People (SOP)⁶</i></p>
<p>42 Puppies must be provided with environmental enrichment by the provision of toys and a complex environment. There must be rest periods included.</p>	<p><i>Toys to chew and places to hide under and behind should be provided. Where toys are used human interaction is necessary.</i></p>
<p>43 Puppies must be introduced to social adult dogs in addition to the bitch.</p>	<p><i>The adults may be others on the premises and all should be fully vaccinated and healthy. The adults should be from a number of different breeds where possible.</i></p>
<p>44 Puppies must be maintained as a litter or with puppies of a similar age and size. However puppies must be separated from litter mates and the bitch for short periods from the age of six weeks. During periods of separation there must be human social contact.</p>	<p><i>Puppies should be separated to habituate them prior to re-homing. Periods of separation should initially be very short, such that puppies do not show signs of distress, and the period of separation gradually increased.</i></p>
<p>45 Puppies must be microchipped prior to sale by a person trained in the appropriate technique and the puppy registered to the breeder. The microchip must be shown on all documentation.</p>	<p><i>Microchip is a legal requirement and should be implanted by a trained person. (Trained person is a veterinary surgeon, veterinary nurse or a person trained to the legal minimum).</i></p>
<p>46 Puppies must be examined by a veterinary surgeon prior to sale. Veterinary advice in the establishment health plan must include the routine for treating puppies' internal and external parasites and vaccination regime.</p>	<p><i>The examination should be limited to a simple physical examination and should be recorded in the puppy's treatment record. Where vaccinations are undertaken a completed vaccination certificate should be provided. This examination should not preclude an examination by the purchaser's veterinary surgeon shortly after acquisition.</i></p>

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Standard	Guidance
<p>47 A register must be maintained and kept for 10 years of all puppies sold showing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The name and contact details of the purchaser; b) The puppy's microchip number; c) The date of sale. 	<p><i>Records may be an integral part of the breeders' records and may be kept manually or on computer.</i></p>
<p>48 Puppies must not be sold before the age of 8 weeks unless a veterinary surgeon certifies that they are fit to be re-homed.</p>	<p><i>Early sale should only be authorised when it is for the benefit of the puppy's health or welfare. There should be some assurance that the puppy's environment will be appropriate.</i></p>
<p>49 Potential purchasers of puppies must be vetted to ensure that they will be able to provide a suitable home and that they are committed to caring for the puppy for the whole of its life.</p>	<p><i>The breeder should ask about the potential purchaser's lifestyle and availability of resources to properly care for the puppy for the whole of its life. A certificate from a veterinary surgeon who knows the purchaser may be a useful means of monitoring.</i></p>
<p>50 The AWF/RSPCA Puppy Contract and Puppy Information Pack (PIP) must be used to provide information to the purchaser.</p>	<p><i>The Contract and PIP provide a check list of all the necessary information in a clear manner.</i></p>
<p>51 The purchaser must be given a copy of all relevant records relating to the puppy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The pedigree showing five generations including for cross-breeds when possible; b) Treatment records; c) Vaccination certificate when given; d) Veterinary health check results; e) Results of all health tests on both parents and the puppy where appropriate; f) Microchip certificate; g) Kennel Club or other registration certificate. 	<p><i>These should form an integral element of the PIP.</i></p>
<p>52 The breeder must also supply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The puppy's feeding regime with sufficient of the food for 5 days; b) Temporary health insurance; c) Advice on training and socialisation; d) Advice on special care such as grooming where appropriate; e) The AWF/RSPCA Puppy Contract; f) Breeder's contact details. 	<p><i>Advice on training and socialisation should be up to date and welfare compatible, and should not include information on outdated concepts such as 'status reduction' nor advice to use punitive or coercive training techniques. Draft information on suitable organisations accrediting those giving behavioural advice is available from the Animal Behaviour and Training Council.</i></p> <p><i>At the time of sale, the breeder should demonstrate willingness to accept back, or assist in re-homing, any dogs bred and sold, by the breeder, to the purchaser, which can no longer be cared for by the purchaser.</i></p>

Standard	Guidance
<p>53 Numbers of staff must be appropriate for the breed/type and number of dogs being bred. Numbers must be sufficient to provide the level of care set out in paragraphs 4, 10, 12, 14, 17, 32, 33, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 44, and 47.</p>	<p><i>Owing to the significant variation in workload between breeds and numbers of litters it is not possible to set a minimum staff : dog ratio. Establishing the number of staff required will require an assessment of the conditions at the establishment. The breeder should be prepared to show how the daily routine allows sufficient staff resource. In domestic environments, it is advisable for either other members of the household, or dog sitters to be provided with guidance notes in regard to general day to day care - feeding, grooming, cleaning, exercise and compatibility issues - especially where several dogs, or breeds of dogs, are involved.</i></p>
<p>54 Where staff are employed there must be an induction and training SOP. There must be some continuation training.</p>	<p><i>This should detail exactly what members of staff are required to do with all the dogs on site and provide sufficient knowledge to allow the staff to undertake their duties competently. In domestic environments the daily routine referred to above will be appropriate.</i></p>
<p>55 Where the number of dogs is large enough to require staff other than the immediate family of the owner (generally spouse) at least one member of staff must have an appropriate animal care qualification.</p>	<p><i>There are a number of nationally recognised relevant qualifications available.</i></p>
<p>56 Where staff are employed, there must be separate washing, toilet and eating facilities.</p>	<p><i>Staff should not be using areas used for preparing dog's food for their own purposes. In a domestic situation, the use of the normal household facilities is suitable with appropriate hygiene measures in place.</i></p>
<p>57 For commercial dog breeding establishments an Emergency Evacuation Plan (EEP), Fire Warning Procedure and Contingency Plan should be in place.</p>	<p><i>The EPP should be posted where staff may become familiar with it. The procedure should include instructions for where dogs are to be evacuated to, and contingency for their accommodation and care if the premises are rendered unsafe or unsuitable. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)⁷</i></p>