

LACORS model home boarding conditions
Update and clarification, 14th October 2009

In November 2005, LACORS published [model conditions](#) for the home boarding of dogs. LACORS has drafted this update in response to a number of queries received from councils, particularly in relation to the number of dogs from different households that can be boarded at any one time. This update has been agreed by the LACORS Companion Animal Focus Group.

1) Using the model conditions

The LACORS model conditions are a template which councils can choose to use, adapt or amend as appropriate. The conditions can also be amended and adapted to take account of the specific circumstances (e.g. structure, expertise) of a particular premises, in line with the views of the officer, council licensing policy and any veterinary advice.

2) Dogs from different households

Condition 3.2 of the LACORS model licence conditions for home boarding states that:

“Only dogs from the same household may be boarded at any one time. Dogs must not be boarded with any cat, unless they normally live together in the same household.”

The model condition is intended to protect the safety of the dogs and to protect the licensee from any claim for a dog attack, injury, etc. As dogs in home boarding situations have the freedom to move around, there are risks that are not present in boarding kennels. For example, if dogs that are strangers to each other are left unattended, there is the potential for one dog to turn on another (e.g. over feeding time, or to become protective over an area/corner of a room).

LACORS is aware that some councils are choosing to relax this requirement provided the licensee is able to meet a number of additional requirements/ licence conditions. Examples of additional requirements include:

- Specific written consent of each household showing confirmation that they are content for their dogs to be boarded with others.
- A mandatory, trial (documented) familiarisation session for all dogs prior to stay.
- Separation of dogs from different households in secure areas when left unattended.
- Separate feeding of dogs to minimise the likelihood of dispute and aggression.

Both the overall number of dogs to be boarded, and the number of dogs from different households to be boarded, will usually be dependent on the size of the premises and outside area. As with any decisions relating to the number of dogs allowed to be boarded, consideration is also given to whether the premises are constructed to allow:

- Adequate space for dogs (condition 4.3)
- Sufficient space available to be able to keep dogs separately if required (condition 4.5)
- The separation of dogs showing signs of disease (condition 5.6.1).

Measures put in place to ensure disease control will particularly important in circumstances where dogs from more than one household can be boarded together. To minimise the risk and spread of disease, it is

vital that all dogs have current vaccinations against Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Canine Parvovirus and other relevant diseases (as stated in condition 5.5.2). LACORS is aware that some councils are additionally requiring that dogs boarded together are vaccinated against Bordatella kennel cough. Where necessary, councils should seek veterinary advice on vaccination, worming and flea treatment.

It is also recommended that the Licensee check that their Public Liability Insurance company will cover dogs boarded from different households.

3) Age of dogs that can be boarded

Condition 1.6 of the LACORS model conditions states that:

“Puppies under 6 months of age must not be boarded with other dogs including resident dogs.”

The LACORS Companion Animal Focus Group discussed this condition and were of the opinion that, providing they were suitably vaccinated and difficulties had not been identified during a trial socialisation period, dogs under 6 months could be boarded.

4) Further guidance

LACORS - licensing home boarders

In October 2005, LACORS issued guidance on whether host families and/or agencies required a Boarding Establishment Licence.

LACORS - day boarding of animals

This LACORS advice from January 2007 seeks to clarify whether those engaged in the day boarding of animals require a licence under the Animal Boarding Establishments Act.

LACORS - boarding of animals other than cats and dogs

In April 2007, LACORS clarified that the boarding of animals other than cats and dogs (e.g. exotics and small mammals such as rabbits and guinea pigs) is outside the scope of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 and does not require a licence.

CIEH - model conditions for dog boarding establishments

The LACORS model conditions for home boarding establishments are adapted from the CIEH full model conditions for kennelling facilities. The CIEH conditions were drafted in discussion with key partners, including the British veterinary Association (BVA), British Small Animal Association (BSAVA) and Pet Trade and Industry Association (PTIA).

Animal Welfare Act

Both the LACORS model home boarding and CIEH boarding establishment conditions were drafted prior to the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Anyone running a boarding establishment must also comply with the Animal Welfare Act and must ensure that the welfare needs of animals in their care are met. More information about the Animal Welfare Act can be found on the [Defra website](#).

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