

FACT SHEET

Kennel Operations in Wellesley Township

We appreciate respectful input, commitment to animal welfare, and community members' diligence with understanding the existing bylaw regarding dog kennel operations in Wellesley Township. Council recently passed By-law 25/2022 relating to Dogs and Kennels.

The Township of Wellesley currently has 24 active licensed kennels. Please take the time to review key sections of the Township of Wellesley new By-law.

The Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations, appendix "C" provides The Five Freedoms, a core concept in animal welfare stating that an animal's primary welfare needs can be met by safeguarding the five freedoms as identified below. This concept is frequently referenced by animal welfare professionals around the world, especially in relation to farm animal care.

1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

Fact: Every Kennel shall be properly equipped with accessible fresh water and adequate feed both in clean, properly sized containers to maintain animals in a healthy condition.

2. Freedom from Discomfort by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

Fact: Floor surface is self draining and absolutely no wire floors are permitted.

Fact: No animal shall be kept in unsanitary conditions including an accumulation of feces, odour, insect or rodent infestation.

Fact: The Kennel building shall have floors and walls made of sealed concrete or other impermeable material (including rigid plastic); wire floors will not be permitted.

Fact: Every Kennel shall be provided with adequate natural or artificial light, proper ventilation and sufficient heat to maintain healthy conditions.

Fact: Every Kennel shall be provided with adequately shaded, open air runs, properly fenced to maintain control of the dogs and with adequate space to accommodate the breed of dog being housed.

Fact: Audible smoke and CO alarms are required in each kennel as well as fire extinguishers to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the dogs.

3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

Fact: All puppies, prior to final sale from the Kennel, shall be microchipped and/or tattooed.

Fact: All new adult dogs entering into the Kennel must be accompanied by a letter from a qualified veterinarian stating the dog has been examined and has no health issues and in acceptable body form.

Fact: All dogs, being adopted and/or sold from the Kennel, must be certified by a qualified veterinarian to be healthy with no issues including teeth, weight, eyes etc. The Kennel must keep all records of such adoptions and sales for review by the Animal Control Officer.

Fact: Kennel operators/owners shall not admit a dog into the Kennel unless it is immunized against distemper, hepatitis, rabies, parvovirus, para influenza and bordatella.

Fact: If a veterinarian confirms that a Kennel has an outbreak of distemper, hepatitis, rabies, parvo virus, or any infectious or contagious disease, the Kennel may be closed by an Animal Control Officer, the OSPCA, the Chief Building Official, or his/her designate under the Building Code Act 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 23, the Health Unit or such other Person as may be appointed by Council and/or a police officer and the licence suspended. The Kennel may reopen and have its licence reinstated by Council upon a written report from the veterinarian that danger of disease is past.

Fact: The medical history of the dog shall be given to the prospective buyer /adopter.

4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

Fact: All Breeding Kennels shall provide sufficient designated space for the proper enrichment and socialization of puppies to be offered for sale.

Fact: Shaded open air runs, properly fenced with adequate space to accommodate the breed housed.

5. Freedom from Fear and Distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Conditions and treatment have been identified in several sections above.

Fact: every owner/operator of a kennel shall have regard with their requirements set out in "A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations" (Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Third Edition 2018), as amended. All active kennel operators are provided with a copy of this document.

Breeding Kennels:

Fact: Dogs can not breed before one (1) year of age and must be retired at eight (8) years of age. Dogs, after they reach six (6) years of age must have a letter from a qualified veterinarian stating they are in good health and breeding is not a danger to their health.

Fact: Every Breeding Kennel owner or operator shall maintain accommodations, separate from the balance of the dogs in the Kennel, for a Whelping Bitch. The accommodations shall be a minimum of 2 ½ times the size of the Whelping Bitch, shall have adequate supplemental heat, separate outdoor run to prevent transfer of diseases from other adult dogs to the puppies.

Fact: The kennel operator must develop a succession plan for each dog. What will you do with the dog when they reach eight (8) years of age?

Kennel Inspections

Fact: Every owner/operator of the Kennel shall, at all reasonable hours, be open to inspection by an Animal Control Officer, an inspector from the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the "OSPCA"), or any other such Person trained in the area of disease control and sanitation as may be appointed by the Council. Licencing inspections are conducted annually without an appointment. Additional inspections may be conducted throughout the year as deemed necessary by any of the above named persons or organizations.

Fact: A minimum of two (2) inspections are conducted annually. Inspections are conducted without an appointment.

Veterinarians

Fact: Any and all veterinarians in good standing with the Ontario Veterinarian Association are qualified to provide care, guidance and instruction to the kennel operators.

References:

1. www.ckc.ca
2. www.canadaguidetodogs.com
3. [Animal Pedigree Act \(Canada\)](#)