
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. As requested by Council, By-law 47/2019 is currently under review. Please Note: Any reference to "OSPCA" will be removed and [Animal Welfare Ontario.ca](http://AnimalWelfareOntario.ca) will be inserted.

The Township of Wellesley currently has 21 active licensed kennels. Please take the time to review key sections of the Township of Wellesley existing By-law.

The Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations appendix "C" (Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, 3rd Edition 2018) incorporated in our existing By-law 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.

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 conditions.

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: In the event of 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: 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 comply with the 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 and 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 breeding dog including what they will do with the dog when the dog reaches eight (8) years of age.

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.

Licensing 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.

References:

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