



*together for
dogs + cats*

Assessors' Forum

Q+A with Peter Hepburn



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Welfare Committee
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Standard 78

The organisation should have written procedures, followed by all who are responsible for animal care and available to all staff and volunteers, for:

- Feeding
- Cleaning
- Transportation
- Prevention and control of disease spread
- Animal monitoring
- Death of an animal
- Escape of an animal (on and off premises)
- In an emergency

Guidance

If animals are kept in premises:

- (a) A written emergency plan must be in place, known and available to every-one on the premises, and
- (b) Such a plan must be followed where necessary to ensure appropriate steps are taken to protect all animals on the premises (without risking human life) in case of fire, flooding, breakdowns of essential heating, ventilation and aeration or filtration systems or other emergencies.
- (c) The site should be lockable

Any such emergency plan must include details of the emergency measures to be taken for the extrication of the animals should the premises become uninhabitable and an emergency telephone list that includes the fire service and police. The emergency plan includes emergency drills, testing emergency equipment and ensuring that staff know how to use it, electrical safety and testing, back up facilities and accommodation and extremes of weather and temperature.

Euthanasia - Standard 70



Guidance

(67) decision to euthanise an animal should be taken without serious consideration and only if it is judged to be absolutely necessary. Before a decision is made to euthanise an animal a consultation should take place with the individual or individuals who have full knowledge of the animal concerned.

(69) Intravenous injection is the recommended method.

Additional guidance on next slide.

Euthanasia

Every animal shall have a life worth living, not purely that its physical needs are met. Euthanasia can be a response to circumstances in which health and/or welfare are irreversibly and severely compromised and when it is not possible to meet an animal's needs.

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| 67. | Any decision to euthanise an animal shall be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the individual animal. In most cases, except for feral (glossary 9) cats, this decision shall only be made after rehabilitation has been explored and a full and thorough examination carried out to determine the facts surrounding each individual case. |
| 68. | <p>The key factors in deciding whether euthanasia shall be considered are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) To prevent pain or suffering (including mental and emotional).(b) If an animal poses an unacceptable risk to people or to other animals.(c) If quality of life for the animal is compromised to an unacceptable degree, with no realistic prospect of improvement.(d) Any other good reason under organisation's operational procedures (e.g. space and resources) and/or its euthanasia policy. |
| 69. | Euthanasia shall only be carried out by or under the direction of a veterinary surgeon using an approved humane method and, where appropriate, using pre-euthanasia sedation. |
| 70. | Each organisation shall have a written policy on euthanasia. |

Euthanasia - Standard 70



Guidance (Continued.)

- Euthanasia is an extremely controversial topic and there are those who sincerely believe that no apparently healthy animal should ever be euthanised and, where rehoming is not an option, then the animal should be allowed to live its life in the animal welfare establishment.
- The ADCH fully accepts that there are circumstances where particular animals can enjoy a high standard of welfare and a good quality of life at an establishment over a long period.
- However, it is important to remember that animal welfare is more than just physical health and freedom from disease. Other factors, particularly the animal's behavioural needs, which include the expression of social behaviour, have a profound effect on its welfare.
- The World Health Organisation defines "health" as: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."
- Organisations which intend to keep animals on a long term basis need to consider whether the environment is capable of meeting the behavioural and psychological 28 needs of the animal.
- Animals should be regularly reviewed for signs of deterioration in physical and mental health.
- Long term confinement of cats is not appropriate.



Standard 48

Sufficient numbers of people who are competent for the purpose must be available to provide a level of care that ensures that the welfare needs of all the animals in the organisation are met. In foster homes, the foster carer must be trained and given guidance by the organisation, relevant to the animals they are caring for

Guidance

One of the main ways to ensure the competence of people is through training. People must be trained to a level of competence suitable to ensure the care and welfare needs of the animals in their care, depending on the individual's experience and demonstrable skills. This must be demonstrated to be carried out in the following areas:

- animal welfare, including recognising poor welfare,
- animal handling,
- animal behaviour
- cleanliness and hygiene
- feeding and food preparation
- disease control
- recognition and first aid action for sick animals
- new information on disease and inherited disease, legislation and behaviour.

Additional guidance on next slide.

Guidance (Continued.)

People should hold a relevant qualification and/or be able to clearly evidence knowledge through experience, for example through on the job in-house training (such as shadowing from a qualified and experienced individual). The training policy should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis and may include:

- annual appraisal for staff
- planned continued professional development
- recognition of knowledge gaps
- use of online courses and literature
- if no staff are employed the organisation must demonstrate their own knowledge development.

The training policy must be applicable to any members of staff and volunteers and can be evidenced by engagement with courses, written or online learning, keeping up to date with any research or developments for specific species and the documentation of the annual appraisal. Evidence of staff and volunteer attendance or completion of the training should be provided. Training records for individual staff and volunteers should be retained. ADCH can provide signposts to relevant resources for members to achieve this. If animals cannot be cared for under the five welfare needs, then animal intake is to be correspondingly reduced.

Kennel and Pen Sizing - A6 and B16

Standard A6

All dogs shall be provided with a bedding area or bench, large and suitable enough to allow the dog to lie comfortably.

Sleeping areas shall be adequate for the size and breed of the dog. The space shall be sufficient for the dog to stand up, sit fully erect, turn around and lie down in a natural position.

Standard B16

In some catteries that are completely indoors, it is not necessary to have completely separate sleeping and exercise areas. Cat exercise areas should be 1.65 m² for single cats; 2.2 m² for two cats and 2.8 m² for up to 4 cats. The floor area should be equal to the sum of the sleeping (see B9 guidance) and exercise areas and the cat needs a unit to sleep on, e.g. feline fort. The run enclosure should be a minimum of 1.8m tall. Shelves or raised areas should be provided in the exercise area and steps or a ramp should be provided to allow easy and safe access for elderly, ill, very young or disabled cats.

B16 Guidance:

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Standard 79

Where members of the public can view or come into contact with animals, suitable measures must be taken for the safety and welfare of the animals including staff supervision, signage and locked doors.



Guidance

If animals are on public display, signs must be displayed on enclosures to deter members of the public from, for example, tapping on glass or poking fingers into cages. Clear signage must be in place at all times outlining health and safety risk to customers and appropriate behaviour around animals on the premises relevant to the specific species. In addition to signs, other measures may be required, such as limiting access to some animal enclosures. Organisations must ensure that no animal is accessed or handled by the public without supervision or direction of a suitable staff member or volunteer with knowledge of the animal. The animal must be able to decide not to be handled. Signs should inform the public that they should not enter an enclosure or handle an animal without first speaking to a member of staff or volunteer. Hand washing facilities are to be available for the public handling animals.

Standard 14

An animal first aid kit shall be available for use at any animal welfare (rescue) centre or premises with more than 5 pens. The degree of first aid is to keep the animal safe and avoid further harm, while veterinary advice is sought

Guidance

The contents of this kit should be compiled with the advice of the organisation's veterinarian to best match the potential first aid needs of the animals under their care.



Standard 80

Where organisations use third party facilities (such as commercial boarding) to routinely house their animals, they must physically inspect the premises. This must occur prior to the agreement, when self-assessments are requested by ADCH and at any other time they see fit. A formal record of the inspection must be kept. A formal agreement must be held on the care provision given by the premises' staff, and staff and volunteers from the organisation. Premises must be licenced with the local authority. Including the accommodation used by the rescue, if eligible. Units housing rescue or private boarding animals must be separated by a solid door or in a different building. Extra precautions must be taken to prevent the spread of disease. Copies of the organisation's own procedures and ADCH Minimum Welfare and Operational Standards must be provided to the boarding establishment.

Guidance

Further welfare visits should take place more frequently, depending on the number and need of animals under the organisations legal responsibility. The organisation must be able to raise any concerns about the care of their animals, or the facilities, with a named individual (such as the owner or manager) at the premises.