

Catteries

Pre-inspection information

Notes:

- The staff to cats ratio will be around 1:25
- Any wood used must be smooth and treated and properly maintained to render it impervious
- Additional heat can be provided by a heated bed/pad but this must not be the primary heat source for the cat
- Environmental enrichment is required for each cat
- Each cat unit must include an elevated area (either in the sleeping accommodation or the run)
- Cats must have a hiding place available
- Scratching facilities must be available in each unit
- Communal exercise area are not acceptable
- Some spare cat carriers must be available
- The licence holder must register with a veterinarian
- There must be a designated key holder available in case of emergencies, details of this person need to be lodged with the Licencing authority
- An emergency contact name/number must be displayed on the outside of the premises

Procedures/policies needed:

- A written staff training policy (to include induction, annual appraisal, planned continued professional development, use of online courses and literature, should no staff be employed this should demonstrate the license holders own knowledge development. This must also cover cat welfare, cat handling, cat behaviour, cleanliness and hygiene, feeding and food prep, disease control, recognising and treating sick animals)
- Unit doors should open inwards, any not require a documented procedure to demonstrate staff safety
- A cleaning and disinfecting procedure (to include isolation provisions)
- A procedure covering transportation
- A procedure covering feeding
- A procedure covering the prevention of, and control of the spread of, disease
- A procedure covering the death or escape of an animal
- A procedure covering the care of animals following suspension/revocation of the licence or during and following an emergency (emergency plan)
- A fire risk assessment and documented fire procedure is required
- A daily health and behaviour record for each cat
- An enrichment programme to be documented, to include grooming, socialisation, play and appropriate toys and feeding enrichment
- A record of all euthanasia is to be kept

Consents/information required:

- Dietary requirements must be agreed with the owner
- Consent over the use of toys/interaction preferences
- Consent for cats from the same household to share a unit
- Consent to separate cats from the same household should a problem arise

- Consent to seek a veterinary assessment and emergency treatment and to administer any medicines prescribed by a veterinarian
- Consent as to which veterinarian is to be used
- A record of anything left with the cat at the cattery (basket/bedding/toys etc)
- Suitable emergency contact information is required

Records:

4.1 A register must be kept of all the cats on the premises which must include—

- (a) the dates of each cat's arrival and departure,
- (b) each cat's name, age, sex, neuter status and a description of it or its breed,
- (c) each cat's microchip number, where applicable,
- (d) the number of any cats from the same household,
- (e) a record of which cats (if any) are from the same household,
- (f) the name, postal address, telephone number and email address of the owner of each cat and emergency contact details,
- (g) in relation to each cat, the name, postal address, telephone number and email address of a local contact in an emergency,
- (h) the name and contact details of each cat's normal veterinarian and details of any insurance relating to the cat,
- (i) details of each cat's relevant medical and behavioural history, including details of any treatment administered against parasites and restrictions on exercise,
- (j) details of each cat's diet and related requirements,
- (k) any required consent forms,
- (l) a record of the date or dates of each cat's most recent vaccination, worming and flea treatments, and
- (m) details of any medical treatment each cat is receiving.

Star ratings:

As part of the new regulations each premises will receive a star rating following their formal inspection. In order to achieve the best star rating possible each premises will need to have covered all of the standard conditions and have all consents, policies and procedures in place.

In order to meet the highest possible rating for both the high and low risk categories in the rating matrix certain extra conditions will need to be met. The higher standards are classified in to two types: **required** and **optional** and are outlined below. **Higher standards that appear in blue text are required**, whereas **those that appear in red text are optional**. To qualify as meeting the higher standards, the business needs to achieve all of the required higher standards as well as a minimum of 50% of the optional higher

Required

- Staffing levels will be up to 1 full-time equivalent attendant per 20 cats kept or a higher ratio of qualified staff.
- Cats must be provided with a design and layout that provides them with choice. This can be achieved by, for example, inclusion of raised platforms.
- Temperature in the sleeping environment must be above 18°C.
- All individual cats must be inspected at least once at an appropriate interval during the out of hours period (e.g. 1800-0800).

- Where more than one cat share a unit daily behavioural observations are recorded – these should especially focus on any signs of stress/aggression.
- A competent person must be on site at all times.
- Units must be 1.5 times the minimum sizes stated.
- Each cat must have access to at least two raised areas – one of which must be in the sleeping area and one must be in the exercise area.
- There must be completely opaque sneeze barriers rather than translucent up to 600mm and behind any shelves.
- Where applicable, there must be a completely separate unit for any other activities such as rescue or breeding.

Optional

- A member of staff with an OFQUAL regulated Level 3 qualification in a relevant subject must be present during the working day.
- Ventilation must be a managed, fixed or portable, air system to ensure appropriate temperatures are maintained in all weathers. This can be an air conditioning unit or use of removable fans.
- Provision must include a choice of hiding places and different levels/shelves.
- Behavioural observations must be recorded daily.
- Designated on site isolation facilities must be available and must follow the same size and facility requirements as normal cattery unit.

Scoring Matrix		Welfare Standards		
		Minor Failings (existing business that are failing to meet minimum standards)	Minimum Standards (as laid down in the schedules and guidance)	Higher Standards (as laid down in the guidance)
Risk	Low Risk	1 Star 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	3 Star 2yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 24 month period	5 Star 3yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 36 month period
	Higher Risk	1 Star 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	2 Star 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	4 Star 2yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 24 month period