

Guidance Notes for Home Boarding and Dog Creches

These facilities are sometimes called pet 'crèches', and are most commonly for dogs. They might be found at large agricultural (or similar) shows, agricultural colleges, specialist premises or in peoples homes.

We look at the 'primary function' of the business. Where the primary function is to board animals, then this would mean that the business requires a licence. Businesses where the boarding is ancillary to the primary function are unlikely to require a licence, for example pet groomers and trainers.

The dictionary definition of 'board' means the provision of meals, with or without lodgings. Therefore, where a 'crèche' is providing food and water for animals they are effectively providing board and are, to that end, a Boarding Establishment and would require a licence. However, if food and water were not provided the premises could still require a licence if the primary function is to board animals. A lack of food and/or water might constitute a welfare matter.

If a home boarder is providing board during the day only then this will also require a licence.

The number of dogs allowed to be boarded is dependent on the size of the premises and outside area, a decision would be made following a visit.

Familiarisation with any dog that would be boarded will be required prior to stay.

Written permission from each household is required showing confirmation that they allow their dog/dogs to be boarded with others.

It must be ensured that all dogs have the appropriate inoculations and vaccination cards should be copied and recorded in the records.

Feeding of dogs must be completed separately so that no disputes occur between them.

Check your Public Liability Insurance company will cover dogs boarded from separate households.