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## Order on the minimum animal welfare requirements for keeping dogs<sup>1</sup>

The following is laid down by virtue of Section 9(4) and (5), Section 10(1), Section 11(1) to (3), Section 13, Section 19(1), Section 21(1) and (2), Section 25(2), Section 27(3) to (5), Section 29, Section 30(4), Section 33, Section 34, Section 45, Section 49 and Section 58(8) to (9) of the Animal Welfare Act, cf. Consolidation Act No 61 of 19 January 2024, and Sections 58 and 64 of the Animal Keeping Act, cf. Consolidation Act No 62 of 19 January 2024 and by authorization under Section 7(1) and (6) of Order No 1721 of 30 November 2020 on the duties and powers of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration:

### Title I

#### Initial provisions

##### Chapter 1

##### *Scope and Definitions*

##### *Scope*

**Section 1.** The rules laid down in Sections 3 to 14 and Section 22(1) of this Order shall apply to any keeping of dogs.

(2) The provisions of Section 22(1) and (2) and Sections 23-31 shall also apply to the keeping of watchdogs.

(3) The provisions of Section 22 (1) and (3) and Sections 32-36 shall also apply to the keeping of guard dogs.

(4) The requirements in Sections 37-70 also apply to the commercial trade in and breeding of dogs as well as dog pensions and dog shelters.

(5) The provisions of this Order are minimum requirements that must always be met, unless more stringent requirements are laid down in other legislation.

##### *Definitions*

**Section 2.** The following terms shall have the meanings indicated for the purposes of this Order:

(1) Elbow joint dysplasia (AD): An umbrella term for several disorders that gradually develop in the elbow joint.

(2) Auscultation: Examination using a stethoscope.

(3) BOAS modulation: Clinical assessment of a dog's breathing before and after a stress test.

(4) Bracycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS): A complex of diseases of the respiratory tract, affecting short-snouted breeds.

(5) Manager: The person who has the daily responsibility of the care of the animals.

(6) Commercial trade in dogs: The acquisition of dogs for resale.

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<sup>1</sup>The Order contains provisions that implement parts of Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market (OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, pp. 36-68). Order No 1043 of 16 December 1999, which was extended by Order No 607 of 25 June 2009, which this Order replaces, has been notified as a draft in accordance with Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (the Information Procedure Directive), as last amended by Directive 98/48/EC. The Order contains provisions that have been notified as a draft in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (codification).

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- (7) Commercial breeding of dogs: Breeding where three or more litters of puppies are bred per calendar year using three or more breeding bitches.
- (8) Hip joint dysplasia (HD): A disorder in which dogs gradually develop unstable hip joints.
- (9) Insemination: Artificial insemination with fresh or frozen semen.
- (10) Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD): Abnormal growth and development of the spine discs.
- (11) Mitral valve prolapse: Protrusion of the heart valve in the front chamber of the heart.
- (12) Myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD): Heart disease in which the heart valve between the left anterior chamber of the heart and the left ventricle become thickened and leaking.
- (13) Syringomyeli: Development of cysts or cavities in the spinal cord.
- (14) Syrinx: cyst or cavity.
- (15) Ultrasound scanning: Examination using ultrasound that is sent into the body and reflected to a scanner with an image.
- (16) Watch dogs: Dogs that are kept for commercial guarding purposes.
- (17) Guard dogs: Dogs used for outdoor guarding of livestock. Livestock means animals other than dogs kept by humans, such as sheep, pigs, horses, cattle, poultry, etc.

## Title II

### Common provisions for the keeping of dogs

#### Chapter 2

##### *Binding, devices, and collars*

##### **Section 3.** Dogs must not be tied up.

(2) However, by way of derogation from paragraph 1, the temporary tying of dogs shall be permitted in the following situations:

- (1) In connection with training, hunting or the like.
- (2) Outside shops or similar places where dogs do not have access.
- (3) During journeys where the circumstances so require.
- (4) If the dog is staying in a garden or similar together with the possessor or other persons.
- (5) Other situations where exceptional circumstances make it necessary to tether the dog temporarily.

(3) If the dog is tethered temporarily, see. paragraph 2, the leash must be long enough that the dog can easily turn around, lie down and get up. It must also be ensured that the dog is protected from the weather, including, if necessary, access to shade.

**Section 4.** The use of any remote-controlled or automatically operating device that is attached to dogs and which inflicts electric shocks or other significant adverse effects when activated is banned.

**Section 5.** Collars shall be made of a material that is well suited for use on dogs and which does not harm the dog in any way.

(2) The use of collars that are equipped with sharp or pointed spikes on the inward-facing side is banned.

(3) Only collars with a fixed closure or with a sliding closure that has a self-releasing tightening effect may be used.

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### Chapter 3

#### *Transfer of dogs*

**Section 6.** It is prohibited to sell or otherwise transfer, or to buy or otherwise acquire puppies if the delivery of the puppies takes place before they are 8 weeks old.

(2) The rule laid down in paragraph 1 shall not apply in the case of a joint transfer or acquisition of dams and puppies.

**Section 7.** The transfer of dogs to markets is prohibited.

### Chapter 4

#### *Operational and similar interventions*

**Section 8.** Dogs may only be tail-docked or ear-docked if this is specifically required for veterinary reasons.

**Section 9.** Tail and ear docking of dogs may only be carried out by a veterinarian.

(2) The dog must be stunned before the tail or ear docking is performed, and the dog must also be given longer-term pain treatment.

**Section 10.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 8, tail docking may be carried out on puppies of pedigree-booked parent animals of the following breeds:

- (1) Wire-haired pointer.
- (2) Short-haired pointer.
- (3) Weimaraner.
- (4) Vizsla.
- (5) Breton.

(2) Procedures in accordance with paragraph 1 shall not be carried out when the dog is more than 4 days old. The provisions of section 9 shall apply to procedures in accordance with paragraph 1.

**Section 11.** Complete or partial removal of a dog's vocal cords is prohibited.

(2) However, by way of derogation from paragraph 1, the removal of all or part of a dog's vocal cord may be carried out if so required for veterinary reasons.

**Section 12.** The castration of dogs must always be carried out by a veterinarian.

(2) The dog must be anaesthetised before the castration is carried out and the dog must be given prolonged pain treatment at the same time.

#### *Exhibition of dogs that have undergone certain surgical procedures*

**Section 13.** Tail- or ear-docked dogs shall not be exhibited or otherwise presented for the assessment of the external characteristics, functionality or skills of the dog. However, the prohibition does not apply to dogs that have been tail-docked in accordance with section 10.

(2) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may, upon application, grant an exemption from the provision in paragraph 1, point 1, when there is evidence that tail or ear docking has occurred for veterinary reasons.

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### Chapter 5

#### *Killing of dogs*

**Section 14.** The person wishing to kill a dog must ensure that the dog is killed as quickly and painlessly as possible. The killing of dogs by drowning is not allowed, see Section 25(1) of the Animal Welfare Act.

(2) The killing of dogs may only be carried out by veterinarians, butchers, persons with hunting licences or other persons who have received training in slaughtering or killing.

(3) Paragraph 2 does not apply to the killing of puppies, where the killing is carried out in immediate connection to birth and not later than one week after birth.

(4) The provision in paragraph 2 may be departed from to the extent necessary in the case of dogs which, due to illness or injury, must be killed immediately.

(5) Children under 15 years of age shall not carry out stunning or killing.

### Title III

#### **Provisions on the breeding of dogs**

### Chapter 6

#### *Acquiring a dog*

**Section 15.** A dog shall not be included in breeding if it can reasonably be expected that the health condition or anatomical, physiological or behavioural characteristics of the dog risk having an adverse effect on the welfare and health of the dam or offspring.

#### *Prohibition of inbreeding of dogs*

**Section 16.** It is forbidden to mate dogs that have a relationship with each other as parents and offspring, siblings, half-siblings, or as grandparents and their grandchildren.

#### *General provisions on the use of breeding bitches*

**Section 17.** A bitch shall be paired for the first time at the earliest:

(1) When the bitch is at least 18 months old, if the bitch belongs to a small or medium breed where the breed has a typical weight of up to approximately 20 kg.

(2) When the bitch is at least 24 months old, if the bitch belongs to a large or giant breed, cf. Annex 3, where the breed has a typical weight of approximately 20 kg and more.

(2) A bitch may give birth to no more than five litters in her lifetime.

(3) A bitch may give birth to a maximum of three litters of puppies within a period of 2 years.

(4) Once a bitch has had three litters, including any stillborn litter, there shall be a period of recovery of at least one year before the female dog is mated again.

(5) A bitch which has had two caesarean sections may no longer be used for breeding.

(6) A bitch older than 8 years of age may only be used in breeding if a veterinarian certifies that this is justifiable in relation to the welfare and health of the bitch. The dog's possessor must keep the certificate for at least 3 years, and the certificate must be presented to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration on request.

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## Chapter 7

*Examination for certain hereditary diseases and conditions in dogs**BOAS modulation*

**Section 18.** The possessor of a bitch or male dog of the English bulldog, French bulldog or pug breeds wishing to let the dog enter into breeding shall have the dog, before the first mating, except as provided for in Section 72(2), undergo a breathing test (BOAS modulation) in order to establish whether the dog has difficulty in breathing (Brachycephalic Obstructive Airspace Syndrome (BOAS)), cf. Annex 1, Section 1. The same applies to inseminated bitches and male dogs from which semen is taken for insemination.

(2) The provision of paragraph 1 shall also apply to crossbreeds that include only the three breeds referred to.

(3) The assessment of whether the dog may be included in breeding is carried out in accordance with Annex 1, section 1, points 1-4.

(4) Dogs covered by point 4 of Section 1 of Annex 1 shall not be used for breeding.

(5) Dogs that have undergone an operation to alleviate symptoms of BOAS must not be included in breeding.

(6) The result of a BOAS modulation is valid for 2 years from the date on which modulation has taken place. After this, the dog must undergo a new BOAS modulation before it can again be mated, inseminated or have semen taken for insemination.

(7) Documentation of the BOAS modulation must be kept for the period of validity and presented to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration upon request.

*Examination for hip joint dysplasia (HD) and elbow joint dysplasia (AD)*

**Section 19.** The keeper of a female dog or male dog of the breeds referred to in Annex 2, Section 1, who wishes to have the dog enter into breeding, shall arrange for the dog, before the first mating, without prejudice to Section 72 (2), to undergo an X-ray examination for signs of tendencies of HD. If the dog belongs to one of the breeds referred to in paragraph 2 of Annex 2, the X-ray examination shall also include AD. The same applies to inseminated bitches and male dogs from which semen is taken for insemination.

(2) The provision of paragraph 1 shall also apply to crossbreeds in which one or more of the breeds referred to in Annex 2, Sections 1 and 2, taken together, account for 50 per cent or more.

(3) The assessment of whether the dog may be included in breeding is carried out in accordance with Annex 1, section 2, points 1-6.

(4) Dogs covered by point 4 or 6 of Section 2 of Annex 1 shall not be eligible for breeding.

(5) The examination referred to in the first paragraph is valid for the remainder of the dog's lifetime.

(6) Evidence of the outcome of the examination referred to in paragraph 1 shall be kept for as long as the dog is to be included in breeding and shall be presented to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration on request.

*Examination of dachshunds for Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)*

**Section 20.** The keeper of a female or male dachshund wishing to have the dog enter into breeding shall have the dog, except as provided for in Section 72(2), undergo an X-ray examination before the first mating

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for signs of tendencies to IVDD. The same applies to inseminated bitches and male dogs from which semen is taken for insemination.

(2) The provision in paragraph 1 shall also apply to crossbreeds in which the breed dachshund is included by 50 percent or more.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply to dachshund dogs which have reached the age of 4 on the date of entry into force of this Order.

(4) The assessment of whether the dog is eligible for breeding shall be carried out in accordance with points 1 to 4 of Section 3 of Annex 1.

(5) Dogs covered by point 4 of Section 3 of Annex 1 shall not be eligible for breeding.

(6) The examination referred to in the first paragraph is valid for the remainder of the dog's lifetime.

(7) Documentation of the examination results, as referred to in paragraph 1, shall be kept for as long as the dog is used in breeding and shall be presented to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration on request.

### *Study of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels for syringomyelia and myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD)*

**Section 21.** Without prejudice to Section 72 (2), the possessor of a bitch or male dog of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel breed wishing to include the dog in breeding must have the dog examined for syringomyelia and MMVD before first mating, cf. Annex 1, section 4. The same applies to inseminated bitches and male dogs from which semen is taken for insemination.

(2) The provision of paragraph (1) shall also apply to crossbreeds in which the Cavalier King Charles breed is used at a rate of 50 % or more.

(3) The assessment of whether the dog is eligible for breeding shall be carried out in accordance with Section 4 of Annex 1.

(4) Dogs covered by point 6 or 12 of Section 4 of Annex 1 shall not be eligible for breeding. Dogs covered by point 7 of Section 4 of Annex 1 may only be included in breeding under the conditions specified in Annex 1, Section 4, point 7(a) to (c).

(5) The test for syringomyelia is valid until the dog reaches the age of 3 years, after which the dog must be re-examined before it can be mated, inseminated or have semen taken for insemination. If the dog is examined after the age of 3 years, the examination is valid until the dog is 5 years old. If the dog is examined after it has reached 5 years of age, the examination is valid for the remainder of the dog's life.

(6) The test for MMVD is valid until the dog is 4 years and 2 months old. After that, the dog must undergo a new examination before once again being mated, inseminated or having semen taken for insemination.

(7) Documentation of the MMVD examination results shall be kept for as long as the dog is used in breeding and shall be presented to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration on request.

## Title IV

### **Provisions on the keeping of dogs in places where the possessor does not live, including watchdogs and guard dogs**

#### Chapter 8

#### *Authorisation requirement for the keeping of dogs in places where the possessor does not live, including watchdogs and guard dogs*

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**Section 22.** It is prohibited to keep dogs in places where there is no residence, unless the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration grants permission to do so. Such permission can only be given when there is deemed to be assurance that the dog will be looked after properly, and the permission can be revoked at any time.

(2) A permit for the keeping of watchdogs in places where there is no habitation can only be granted if the requirements of section 24, paragraphs 1 to 6, section 26, paragraph 1, and sections 27 and 28 are met, and it is probable that the requirements of section 25, paragraphs 1 to 4, section 26, paragraphs 2 and 3, section 30, paragraph 1, and section 31, paragraph 1, will be met.

(3) A permit for the keeping of guard dogs in places where there is no habitation can only be granted if the requirements of section 33, section 34, paragraph 1, and sections 35 and 36 are met, and it is probable that the requirements of section 34, paragraphs 2 and 3 will be met.

## Chapter 9

*Provisions for watchdogs*

**Section 23.** The provisions of Sections 24-31 shall apply to watchdogs.

*Living conditions of a watchdog's permanent place of residence*

**Section 24.** The dog's accommodation at the permanent residence where the dog is, when it is not at a watch location, must be properly prepared and must in size and layout take into account the dog's need for movement and natural expression.

(2) The roof of the living area shall be sealed and the floor shall be impermeable to moisture. The floor shall be equipped with drainage.

(3) A suitable couch shall be provided above the floor as a resting place for the dog, where the dog can rest without unwanted effects of draft, heat or cold. The space shall have sufficient access to light and air and shall be able to be kept frost-free.

(4) External walls shall be moulded or constructed of stone. However, wooden outer walls may be used if they are insulated. Partitions shall either consist of planed boards or be moulded or constructed of stone.

(5) The dog's living room with its couch, etc. must be kept clean.

(6) There must be an exercise area where the dog has daily access to fresh air and exercise.

(7) The provisions of paragraphs (1) to (6) shall not apply when the dog is kept in a private residence.

**Section 25.** The dog must be checked-on at intervals of no more than 8 hours. The time of such checks must be noted. These records shall be provided to the supervisory authority and the supervising veterinarian upon request.

(2) The dog must be fed at least once every 24 hours and have continuous access to fresh water.

(3) The dog must have individual human contact every day for at least 15 minutes. This shall not include contact in connection with the feeding, care or similar activity for the dogs.

(4) Sick and injured dogs shall be isolated in an accommodation space room with appropriate surfaces or, if necessary, removed from the premises and placed in a sick room. Sick and injured dogs shall be given appropriate treatment. In case of serious illness or if the dog does not recover quickly, a veterinarian should be called immediately.

(5) The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 and paragraph 4, first point, shall not apply when the dog is kept in a private residence.

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### *Conditions of watchdogs at the watch location*

**Section 26.** At the watch location, the dog must have access to an accommodation space that can provide protection against rain, wind, heat and cold. The accommodation space, which shall have a solid floor, shall be wide and high enough to allow the dog to turn and stand upright.

(2) The dog must be checked-on at intervals of no more than 8 hours. Records shall be kept of the place, date and time of the dog's placement in and removal from a watch location, as well as the time of checks. These records shall be provided to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration on request.

(3) The dog must be fed at least once every 24 hours and have continuous access to fresh drinking water.

**Section 27.** The keeper of the watchdog must place a notice at the watch location with information on how to contact the keeper. The notice must be visible from the outside.

**Section 28.** The watchdog may only be free to roam during a watch if the watch location is fenced and closed in order to prevent the escape of the watchdog. The enclosure must be designed in such a way that the dog is not unnecessarily aroused by surroundings or passers-by.

**Section 29.** The provisions of Sections 26 to 28 shall not apply if a person is present at the watch location and the person has supervision over the dog.

**Section 30.** The dog must not be at a watch location if it has been present at a watch location for more than 72 hours in the last 96 hours.

(2) However, the provision in paragraph 1 shall not apply to the extent that a person is present at the watch location and the person has supervision of the dog or if the watch location meets the requirements of Section 24 (1) – (6).

### *Veterinary supervision of watch dogs*

**Section 31.** The possessor of the dog shall, at his own expense, ensure that the dog and its whereabouts are inspected by an authorised veterinarian at least four times a year.

(2) The owner must, on request, provide the supervisory authority with information on who is the supervising veterinarian for the dog.

## Chapter 10

### *Provisions for guard dogs*

**Section 32.** The provisions of Sections 33-36 shall apply to the keeping of guard dogs.

**Section 33.** Guard dogs must not be kept alone, but must be kept at least in pairs.

**Section 34.** When dogs are guarding, they must have access to adequate protection against rain, wind and cold. This protection may consist, for example, of hides under trees and shrubs or by bales of straw, hides under fixed agricultural wagons or hides under fixed or mobile devices providing the necessary protection. In addition, the dogs must be given the opportunity to find shade.

(2) Dogs must be fed at least once every 24 hours and have continuous access to fresh water.

(3) Sick and injured dogs shall be isolated in an accommodation space room with appropriate surfaces or, if necessary, removed from the premises and placed in a sick room. Sick and injured dogs shall be given

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appropriate treatment. In case of serious illness or if the dog does not recover quickly, a veterinarian should be called immediately.

**Section 35.** The area where the guard dogs are guarding must be fenced and closed so that the guard dogs do not escape.

**Section 36.** At the place of supervision, a notice shall be placed indicating how the keeper of the guard dogs can be contacted. The notice must be visible from the outside to passers-by.

(2) The notice shall also include the following information:

- (1) Guard dogs at work.
- (2) Maintain a distance between the fence and yourself and your dog/pet.
- (3) Do not enter.
- (4) Do not feed or interact with the dogs.
- (5) Keep your dog on a short leash.
- (6) Pass quietly – do not run.
- (7) Get off your bicycle and move slowly past.

## Title V

### Commercial trade in and breeding of dogs as well as dog kennels and dog shelters

#### Chapter 11

##### *Permit requirement*

**Section 37.** The provisions of Sections 38-70 shall apply to the keeping of dogs in the context of:

- (1) Professional trade in dogs.
- (2) Commercial breeding of dogs.
- (3) Commercial operation of dog kennels or dog shelters.

(2) The enterprises specified in paragraph 1 may only be operated with permission from the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, cf. Section 30(1), first and second sentences, of the Animal Welfare Act.

(3) Paragraphs 1 and 2 and the provisions of Sections 38 to 70 shall not apply to dog boarding facilities and dog shelters where fewer than 4 dogs are kept at a time.

##### *Conditions for licensing, etc.*

**Section 38.** Licence for an enterprise, cf. Section 37(2), may be granted only if the enterprise meets the requirements of Sections 49-50, Section 50(3) and (4), Section 52(1), (2), (4) and (5) and Sections 53-56 and makes it probable that the requirements of Sections 42-48, Section 51(1), Section 52(3) and Sections 58-61 will be met. If commercial trade in dogs is conducted outside a fixed establishment, the requirements apply to the place where the dogs of the business are kept.

(2) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may lay down conditions for the operation of the establishment with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

**Section 39.** An application for a permit must contain information about the maximum number of dogs that the enterprise shall have, as well as about the location and construction of the company's buildings and premises. The application shall also be accompanied by an overview plan indicating the location of the individual parts of the establishment and proportional drawings of buildings and premises.

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(2) In connection with the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's decision on the licence referred to in paragraph 1, the enterprise concerned shall be inspected by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

**Section 40.** Authorisations for activities covered by this chapter shall be granted by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, specifying the scope of the authorisation, the conditions and the maximum number of dogs that may be present in the establishment.

(2) The licence may be revoked, cf. Section 37(1), fourth sentence, of the Animal Welfare Act, where special circumstances so warrant.

(3) If the establishment is covered by Section 37(1)(3), the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration must take a decision within 6 months of receipt of the application and all necessary information.

(4) The deadline referred to in paragraph 3 may be extended once if, due to the nature of the case, it is not possible to take a decision before the deadline. If the deadline is extended, the applicant will be informed of this and the final date for when a decision will subsequently be made before the expiry of the deadline. The notification shall state the reasons for the extension and the deadline laid down therein.

(5) The overrunning of the deadline under (3) or the extended deadline under (4) does not mean that the applicant may consider a permit to be granted.

(6) If the enterprise is covered by Section 37(1)(3), an acknowledgement of receipt of the application shall be sent to the applicant as soon as possible after receipt of an application. The confirmation shall contain information on the deadline referred to in paragraph 3 and on the possibility of extending the deadline referred to in paragraph 4. The confirmation must also contain instructions for appeals.

**Section 41.** The extension or substantial conversion of establishments referred to in Section 37 shall be approved by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. The facilities may not be used until they have been approved by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. The provisions of Sections 38-40 shall hereby apply *mutatis mutandis*.

## Chapter 12

### *General provisions on professional dog keeping, etc.*

**Section 42.** The business operator shall ensure appropriate conditions for the dogs so that the physiological, behavioural and health needs of the dogs are taken into account.

**Section 43.** Only dogs that do not injure each other should be kept together. In the event of persistent aggression or stress, the dogs in question must be separated.

#### **Section 44.**

In the event of disease or injury, the establishment must ensure that the dog is isolated where necessary and that care is taken. In case of serious illness or if the dog does not recover quickly, a veterinarian should be called immediately.

**Section 45.** Before being introduced into the establishment, dogs shall, if necessary, be treated against vermin (ectoparasites) and intestinal worms (endoparasites) in accordance with the instructions of the supervising veterinarian associated with the establishment, cf. Section 61.

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**Section 46.** Dogs entering the establishment must be vaccinated immediately against canine distemper, parvovirus and hepatitis, unless there is a veterinary certificate stating that they have been vaccinated against those diseases in accordance with vaccination practices to a generally recognised professional standard.

(2) Puppies born in the establishment shall be vaccinated against canine distemper, parvovirus and hepatitis no later than when they are 12 weeks old and always before they leave the establishment.

(3) The requirement in paragraph 2 shall not apply if the puppy leaves the establishment with the mother before it is 8 weeks old.

**Section 47.** Feed must be stored hygienically and out of the reach of animals.

(2) Food and drink bowls must be kept clean and washing of the bowls must take place outside the dogs' living area.

### *Records of dogs in the establishment*

**Section 48.** The operator of an establishment covered by Section 37 shall keep records of dogs present in the establishment. The records shall include information on the breed, sex, age and ID number of the dogs, as well as proof of vaccination in accordance with Section 46. In the case of dogs entering the establishment, the name and address of the owner or seller and the date of introduction shall also be indicated. In the case of the sale of dogs, the name and address of the purchaser and the date of the sale must be indicated.

(2) For breeding bitches in establishments covered by Section 37(1)(2), the records shall also include information on the dog's age at first mating, the number of litter born to the bitch and the time of the birth, as well as information on any Caesarean sections.

(3) The manager must keep the records for at least 3 years.

(4) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and the supervising veterinarian, cf. Section 61, shall be able to review the records at any time.

### *Design of premises, etc.*

#### *Pens*

**Section 49.** When the dogs are kept in buildings other than private dwellings, the dogs must be kept in pens. The provisions concerning the accommodation for the dogs (see Section 50) shall also apply to the dogs' pens. Pens are arrangements that, without being rooms, divide the dogs individually or into smaller groups.

### *Accommodation spaces, exercise areas and outdoor areas*

**Section 50.** The dogs' accommodation space room must be properly furnished and must in size and layout take into account the animals' need for movement and natural development. The dogs' accommodation space and any run must contain an enriched environment consisting of at least play equipment and the possibility to seek shelter.

(2) The dog's accommodation space must meet at least the following area requirements:

(1) Dogs weighing up to 15 kg. : 4 m<sup>2</sup>.

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2) Dogs weighing 16 - 40 kg. : 6 m<sup>2</sup>.

3) Dogs weighing more than 40 kg. : 8 m<sup>2</sup>.

(3) Without prejudice to paragraph 4, the minimum area requirements laid down in paragraph 2 shall be halved for subsequent dogs where more than one dog is kept per accommodation space.

(4) Where the dogs have free access to a run, the area requirements laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 may be reduced by up to half, provided that the total area of the dogs' accommodation and run complies with the minimum area requirements laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3.

(5) A litter of puppies aged 6-10 weeks of age shall be provided with space equivalent to an adult dog in the weight class of the mother.

(6) Accommodation for bitches with puppies must be arranged so that the needs of the bitch and the puppies are taken into account, including that the bitch must be free to seek separation from the puppies from when the puppies are 3 weeks old.

**Section 51.** Dogs must have access to daily exercise and fresh air for at least 30 minutes at least twice a day. This should be done either by walking the dogs on a leash or by letting them out in a suitable outdoor area.

(2) Free access to runs, see section 50, paragraph 4, shall not be deemed to meet the requirement laid down in paragraph 1.

(3) An outdoor area, see paragraph 1, shall contain an enriched environment, which, as a minimum, consists of play equipment and the opportunity to seek cover and shelter.

(4) The outdoor areas must be properly designed so that the physiological, behavioural and health needs of the dogs are met, and so that the dogs cannot escape.

**Section 52.** When dogs are kept in buildings other than private dwellings, the roofs of the accommodation space shall be leak-proof and the floors shall be impermeable to water and moisture. The floors shall be equipped with drainage.

(2) A couch or similar resting device shall be provided for a resting place for the dogs, where the dogs can rest without unwanted effects of draft, heat or cold.

(3) The dogs' accommodation spaces and associated couches, etc. shall be kept clean, and at least 1 time a month and before new dogs are introduced, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the instructions of the supervising veterinarian attached in accordance with Section 61.

(4) The climate in the dogs' accommodation spaces shall be adapted to the needs of the dogs and the accommodation spaces shall be able to be heated. Ventilation in the dogs' accommodation spaces must be sufficient and must not cause unnecessary draught.

(5) Electrical installations in the dogs' accommodation spaces must be shielded or placed in such a way that they are inaccessible to the dogs.

**Section 53.** The dogs' accommodation spaces must be arranged in such a way that the dogs cannot escape and such that outside persons can be injured.

(2) Grids, nets and other devices shall be designed and adapted so that the dogs cannot penetrate through gaps, get stuck or incur harm. Materials and reinforcement in grids, nets and other arrangements must be adapted to the size and physical strength of the dogs so that the dogs cannot escape by, for example, scratching, digging or gnawing.

**Section 54.** In the dogs' accommodation space, direct daylight or artificial lighting must be available to allow the dogs to maintain normal activity and behaviour. The light intensity must be regulated so that it

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does not cause discomfort or injury to the dogs and so that the dogs can follow their natural circadian rhythm.

**Section 55.** The accommodation spaces for the dogs shall be designed and arranged such that each dog has the opportunity for an undisturbed and natural intake of feed and fresh water.

(2) The dogs must have access to fresh water in sufficient quantity at all times.

**Section 56.** The accommodation for the dogs shall be designed and configured such that supervision and care can take place without difficulty and without inflicting unnecessary stress on the dogs.

**Section 57.** There must be at least one separate room where newly arrived, sick or injured dogs can be isolated and where customers do not have access.

**Section 58.** The person responsible for the establishment must ensure that the dog is checked-on at least twice a day.

### *Care and socialisation*

**Section 59.** The dogs must have individual human contact on a daily basis, in addition to the contact in connection with feeding, care or similar activity for the dogs.

(2) In the case of commercial breeding of dogs, each dog over 4 weeks of age must have individual human contact every day for at least 15 minutes and sufficient socialisation of the dog must be ensured. This shall not include contact in connection with the feeding, care or similar activity for the dogs.

### *Staff, etc.*

**Section 60.** Operators must have sufficient experience and professional knowledge to operate properly in terms of animal welfare and to guide and advise the customers of the enterprise on the proper keeping of the dogs. The operator referred to in paragraph 1 shall have completed training on the handling of dogs and thereby have acquired the necessary knowledge on the following subjects:

- (1) The legislation in force on animal welfare, infection protection for dogs and imports of dogs.
- (2) Dog behaviour and dog welfare.
- (3) Care and transport of dogs.
- (4) Hygiene, cleaning, disinfection and waste management.
- (5) Nutritional training and feed management.
- (6) Infection protection.
- (7) Handling of dogs.
- (8) Dogs' sensitivity to environmental influences and stress.
- (9) Dog breed groups.
- (10) Morbidity and injury management.

(2) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration approves the programmes covered by (1)

(3) The provision in paragraph 1(2) shall not apply to persons who can prove that, for a continuous period of 1 year within the last 5 years, they have had day-to-day responsibility for a similar enterprise covered by Section 37 and the experience relates to the same type of activity.

(4) Documentation of the circumstances referred to in paragraph 3 shall be produced to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration on request.

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**Section 61.** A veterinarian must be associated with the establishment and at the expense of the establishment.

(2) The operator must inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration of the name of the supervising veterinarian. In the event of a subsequent change of supervising veterinarian, the enterprise shall inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration accordingly.

(3) The establishment must arrange for the veterinarian to visit the establishment at least 2 times a year.

(4) The establishment shall be able to provide documentation evidence of the veterinarian's supervision in accordance with paragraph 3.

### Chapter 13

#### *Information and advice*

##### *Obligation to provide information*

**Section 62.** If the establishment is covered by Section 37(1)(3), the establishment operator shall provide the customers with contact details to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. The information must be provided to or made available to the customer before an agreement is reached on the placement of the dog in the kennel or shelter.

(2) The information shall be provided or made available in the manner that the operator considers most appropriate. In particular, the information may be made available by electronic means via an address provided by the person concerned or by the fact that the information is available at the place where the establishment is located.

##### *Care instructions*

**Section 63.** In the case of the sale of dogs, a written care manual shall be delivered to the purchaser on how to properly raise and care for the dog not later than the time of conclusion of the contract.

(2) The care instructions shall include information on at least:

- (1) Breed or type;
- (2) Life expectancy;
- (3) Full adult size;
- (4) Feeding;
- (5) Recommended size and design of recreation areas and any installations;
- (6) Stimulation and need for exercise;
- (7) Social needs;
- (8) Special care needs;
- (9) Typical signs of disease or reduced well-being; and
- (10) Propagation, nursery care and possible neutering.

(3) In cases where the breed or type of the dog in question cannot be readily established, the provisions of paragraph 2(1) to (3) and (5) shall apply only to the extent that it is possible to provide the information.

### Chapter 14

#### *Verification and disclosure*

##### *Verification*

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**Section 64.** In establishments which have been granted authorisation under Section 40(1), the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration shall carry out checks on veterinary matters, including animal welfare, by means of an annual ordinary inspection visit pursuant to the Act on the keeping of animals and the Act on veterinarians.

(2) If the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has carried out two ordinary inspections without any findings (warnings, injunctions, prohibitions, fines or police reports) in an establishment and the establishment has not otherwise received any findings in the intervening period, the frequency is reduced to one inspection every two years. The reduction shall cease if, at a later date, the establishment receives a notice of infringement of veterinary legislation, including animal welfare legislation.

(3) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may, as part of inspection campaigns and the like, carry out additional inspection visits to the enterprises covered by paragraph 1. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may also, in special cases, refrain from carrying out control visits if the Agency considers that compliance with veterinary legislation, including animal welfare legislation, can be more appropriately controlled by other means.

### *Summary of control results*

**Section 65.** The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration shall publish the results and penalties on the basis of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's checks pursuant to Section 64.

**Section 66.** The result of the verification pursuant to Section 64 shall be entered on the inspection report. The result is summarised in a category, on [www.findhundesmile.dk](http://www.findhundesmile.dk), with one of the symbols shown in Annex 4.

(2) Enterprises shall not, through the use of previous inspection reports or in any other way, mislead customers as to the results of the inspection.

**Section 67.** For all enterprises which have been granted authorisation under Section 40(1), the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration shall publish the last two inspection reports on [www.findhundesmile.dk](http://www.findhundesmile.dk).

(2) A company's last 2 inspection reports are published on [www.findhundesmile.dk](http://www.findhundesmile.dk) until the company ceases or there is a registered change of ownership.

(3) Operators may submit written comments on the last two inspection reports to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. Comments of up to 300 characters will then be published on [www.findhundesmile.dk](http://www.findhundesmile.dk).

**Section 68.** Enterprises that market activities or services covered by Chapter 7 of this Order on their own website or on social media shall display the most recent inspection report, cf. Section 66, in an easily visible place on the website or social media. This can be done by linking to the inspection report on the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's [www.findhundesmile.dk](http://www.findhundesmile.dk).

**Section 69.** By publication of results from inspection campaigns, inspection visits and the like, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may publish the names and addresses of the companies covered by Chapter 9.

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**Section 70.** The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration publishes inspection results, including the amount of fines, before the administrative appeal possibilities have been exhausted, the penalty notice has been finally adopted, or there has been a final judgement.

## Title VI

## Penalties and entry into force

## Chapter 15

*Penalties*

**Section 71.** Unless other legislation stipulates higher penalties, the penalties for following actions are fines or imprisonment for up to 4 months for a person who

- (1) violates Sections 4–5; Sections 7–10; Section 11, paragraph 1; Section 12; Section 13, paragraph 1; Section 14, paragraph 2; Sections 15–17; Section 18, paragraphs 1–2 or paragraphs 4–6; Section 19, paragraphs 1–2 or paragraph 4; Section 20, paragraphs 1–2 or 4; Section 21, paragraphs 1–2 or paragraphs 4–6; Section 24, paragraphs 1–6; Section 25, paragraphs 1, 2, and 4; Sections 26–28; Section 30, paragraph 1; Section 31 or Sections 33–36, or
- (2) fails to prevent violation of Section 14, paragraph 5.

- (2) Unless higher penalties are stipulated under other legislation, penalties will be imposed on those who
  - (1) violate Section 3; Section 6, paragraph 1; Section 15, paragraph 1; Section 18, paragraph 7; Section 19, paragraph 6; Section 20, paragraph 7; Section 21, paragraph 7; Section 25, paragraph 3; Sections 41–45; Section 46, paragraphs 1–2; Sections 47–50; Section 51, paragraphs 1, 3, and 4; Sections 52–59; Section 60, paragraphs 1 and 4; Sections 61–62; Section 63, paragraphs 1–2; Section 66, paragraph 2; or Section 68;
  - (2) operate without a licence pursuant to Section 38, paragraph 1;
  - (3) operate a business after a permit is revoked, see Section 40, paragraph 2, or
  - (4) violate the conditions laid down pursuant to section 38, paragraph 2.

(3) Attempted violation of Section 7 is punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to 4 months.

(4) When determining the penalty in accordance with (1)-(2), it shall be considered an aggravating circumstance if the violation is committed in connection with the exercise of the profession, see Section 58(12), first sentence, of the Animal Welfare Act.

(5) Companies, etc., (legal persons) may be held criminally liable in accordance with the regulations set out in Chapter 5 of the Penal Code.

## Chapter 16

*Entry into force and transitional provisions*

**Section 72.** This Act shall enter into force on 1 July 2025.

(2) For dogs that – before the entry into force of this Order – have already been mated, inseminated or had semen taken for insemination, the provisions of Sections 18, 19, 20 and 21 shall apply only when the dog is to be mated, inseminated or has semen taken for insemination for the first time after the entry into force of this Order.

(3) Order No 1749 of 30 November 2020 on minimum animal welfare requirements for the keeping of dogs is hereby repealed.

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### Annex 1

#### Section 1

##### *BOAS modulation*

- (1) The BOAS modulation must be carried out by a veterinarian.
- (2) The dog must be at least 12 months old at the time of BOAS graduation.
- (3) the result of the BOAS modulation is given as follows:
  - (a) Grade 0: The dog is clinically unaffected and has no respiratory tract symptoms.
  - (b) Grade 1: The dog is clinically affected and has mild BOAS symptoms that do not affect the activity of the dog.
  - (c) Grade 2: The dog is clinically affected, has moderate symptoms of the respiratory tract and may need treatment.
  - (d) Grade 3: The dog is clinically affected, the respiratory tract shows serious symptoms of BOAS, and should be carefully examined for treatment.
- (4) Dogs assessed as Grade 2 or Grade 3 in accordance with point 3(c) and (d) during BOAS modulation shall not be included in breeding, cf. Section 18 (4)

#### Section 2

##### *Examination for hip joint dysplasia (HD) and elbow joint dysplasia (AD)*

- (1) The X-ray examination must be carried out by a veterinarian or under the responsibility of a veterinarian.
- (2) The dog must be at least 12 months old at the time of the examination for HD and AD. However, dogs of giant breeds referred to in Annex 3 must be at least 18 months of age.
- (3) On the basis of the X-ray examination, the dog is assigned an HD status as follows:
  - (a) A and B: HD-free.
  - (b) C: Mild HD.
  - (c) D: Moderate HD.
  - (D) E: Severe HD.
- (4) Dogs assessed on the basis of the X-ray examination to grade C, D or E as referred to in point 3 shall not be included in breeding, cf. Section 19 (4).
- 5) If the dog is also examined for AD, the dog is assigned an AD status on the basis of the X-ray examination as follows:

An AD status from 0 to 3. At status 0, the elbow joint is free from skeletal malformations/abrasion lesions. Status 3 is the worst, where the bone formations around the joint are more than 5 mm high.

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(6) Dogs that are assessed on the basis of the X-ray examination to be status 2 or 3, cf. point 5, may not be included in breeding, cf. Section 19(4).

### *Section 3*

#### *Examination of dachshunds for Intervertebral Disc Disease (IVDD)*

- (1) The X-ray examination must be carried out by a veterinarian.
- (2) The dog must be between 2 and 4 years old at the time of the examination for IVDD.
- (3) On the basis of the X-ray examination, the dog is assigned an IVDD status as follows:
  - (a) Free: 0 calcifications.
  - (b) Light: 1-2 calcifications.
  - (c) Moderate: 3-4 calcifications.
  - (d) Severe: 5 or more calcifications.
- (4) dogs which, on the basis of the X-ray examination, are deemed to have 5 or more calcifications, as referred to in point 3(d), may not be used for breeding, cf. Section 20(5).

### *Section 4*

#### *Testing of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels*

##### *Testing for Syringomyelia*

- (1) Examination for syringomyelia must be done by means of an MRI scan.
- (2) The dog must be at least 12 months old at the time of the examination.
- (3) On the basis of the examination, a syrinx graduation is assigned to the dog according to the following scale:
  - (a) 0: Free from syrinx.
  - (b) 1: Moderate incidence of syrinx.
  - (c) 2: Severe occurrence of syrinx.
- (4) Depending on the age at the time of the study, the dogs are divided into the following groups:
  - (a) From 5 years onwards and the rest of the dog's service life;
  - (b) From 3 years and up to 5 years inclusive;
  - (c) From 12 months and up to 3 years.
- (5) The status of the dog for use in breeding is the degree of severity of syrinx, designated as 0, 1 or 2 (see point 3), combined with the age group to which the dog belongs, designated as a, b or c (see point 4). The dog is thus assigned a status designated as a combination of one of the numbers 0, 1 or 2 and one of the letters a, b or c.

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(6) dogs which have the following status, as referred to in points 3 to 5, may not be used for breeding, cf. Section 21 (4):

- (a) Status 1c.
- (b) Status 2a.
- (c) Status 2b.
- (d) Status 2c.

(7) Dogs that have the following status, cf. points 3-5, may be included in breeding under the specified conditions, cf. Section 21(4):

(a) Dogs of status 1a if the dog with which they are paired is inseminated with semen from, or supplies semen for insemination of, is 0a, 0b or 0c.

(b) Dogs of status 1b if the dog with which they are paired is inseminated with semen from, or supplies semen for insemination of, is 0a, 0b or 0c.

(c) Dogs previously assigned status 1c, but who, when in age group b, are assigned status 0b or 1b.

*Study for myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD)*

(8) Testing for MMVD shall be performed by a combination of auscultation for abnormal sound and ultrasonic scanning for the degree of mitral valve prolapse. This must be certified by a veterinarian.

(9) The dog should be at least 18 months old at the time of the study.

(10) At the auscultation referred to in paragraph 8., listen for an abnormal sound assessed on a scale from 0 to 6, where 0 means no abnormal sound.

(11) In the ultrasonic scanning referred to in paragraph 8, the degree of mitral valvular prolapse is assessed on a scale from 0 to 3, where 0 is no prolapse.

(12) The following dogs may not be used for breeding, cf. Section 21 (3):

(a) Dogs that have a failure rate of 0 or 1, as referred to in paragraph 10, and which at the same time have a prolapse rate of 3, as referred to in paragraph 11.

(b) Dogs which have a failure rate of 2 as referred to in point 10 and which at the same time have a prolapse rate of 2 or more as referred to in point 11.

(c) Dogs with a failure rate of 3 or more as referred to in point 10 and dogs with a prolapse rate of 3 as referred to in point 11.

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**Annex 2**

*Section 1*

Dogs of the following breeds shall undergo an examination for hip joint dysplasia (HD) (see Section 19 and Annex 1, Section 2) prior to mating, etc.:

**Shepherd and cattle dogs**

Bearded collie

Gronendael

Tervueren

Laekenois

Malinois

Border collie

Bouvier

Briard

Cesko

Collie

Puli

German shepherds

**Schnauzers, pinchere, molossians and Swiss cattle dogs**

Appenzeller cattle dogs

Boxers

Dobermann

Hovawart

Swiss white shepherd dog

Pyrenees

Giant Schnauzer

Schnauzer

Black Russian Terrier

**Spitz dogs**

Akita

Alaskan malamute

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American akita

Finnish lapphund

Greenland dog

Icelandic sheep dog

Swedish elkhound

Karelian bear dog

Keeshond

Samoyed

Shiba

**Standing hunting dogs**

Breton

Old Danish pointer

Large Münsterlander

Red-white Irish setter

Irish setter

Small Münsterlander

German wirehaired pointer

Stabyhoun

German long hair

Vizsla

Weimaraner

**Reporting hunting dogs**

Chesapeake bay retriever

Clumber spaniel

Lagotto romagnolo

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### *Section 2*

Before mating, etc., dogs of the following breeds must undergo an examination for hip dysplasia (HD) and albeued dysplasia (AD), Section 19 and Annex 1, Section 2:

#### **Schnauzers, pinchere, molossians and Swiss cattle dogs**

Berner Sennen

Broholmer

Bull mastiff

Cane corso

Continental bulldog

Bordeaux mastiff

Greater Swiss mountain dog

Leonberger

Mastiff

Pyrenean mastiff

Spanish mastiff

Neopolitan mastiff

Newfoundland dog

Olde English bulldogge

Presa canario

Rottweiler

St. Bernhard

Tibetan Mastiff

#### **Spitz dogs**

Eurasian

#### **Running hunting dogs and scent hunds**

Rhodesian ridgeback

#### **Reporting hunting dogs**

Golden retriever

Labrador retriever

Nova Scotia duck tolling retriever

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**Annex 3.**

*Dog breeds known as giant breeds*

The following dog breeds are referred to as giant breeds, cf. Section 17(2) and Annex 2, Section 2, point 2:

*Giant breeds subject to the testing requirement for HD/AD:*

Bull mastiff

Bordeaux mastiff

Greater Swiss mountain dog

Continental landseer

Leonberger

Maremma

Mastiff

Pyrenean mastiff

Spanish mastiff

Neopolitan mastiff

Newfoundland

Pyrenean dog

St. Bernhard dog

*Giant breeds which are not subject to the requirement for examination for HD/AD:*

Great Dane




Irish Wolfhound

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Annex 4

Categorisation

The categorisation includes the following symbols:

	1: Nothing of note
	2 and 3: Warnings, injunctions or prohibitions
	4: Suspension or revocation of the authorisation