



GARRETT COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

152 Oakland Sang Run Road
Oakland, Maryland 21550

GARRETT COUNTY KENNEL STANDARDS

I. HOUSING FACILITIES

A. HOUSING FACILITIES – GENERAL

1. Structure – Construction. Housing facilities for dogs and cats must be designed and constructed so they are structurally sound. They must be kept in good repair, and they must protect the animals from injury, contain the animal securely, and restrict other animals from entering.
2. Condition and Site. Housing facilities and areas used for storing animal food or bedding must be free of any accumulation of trash, waste material, junk, weeds, and other discarded material.
3. Surfaces – General Requirements. The surfaces of housing facilities must be constructed in a manner and made of materials that allow them to be readily cleaned, sanitized, or removed and replaced when worn or soiled. The area must be free of excessive rust that prevents the required cleaning and sanitation, or affects the structure strength of the surface. The area must be free of jagged edges or sharp points that might injure the animals.
4. Maintenance and Replacement of Surfaces. All surfaces must be maintained on a regular basis. Surfaces of housing facilities that cannot be readily cleaned and sanitized must be replaced when worn or soiled.
5. Storage. Supplies of food and bedding must be stored in a manner that protects the supplies from spoilage, contamination, and vermin infestation. The supplies must be stored off the floor and away from the walls, to allow cleaning underneath and around supplies. Foods requiring refrigeration must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination and deterioration of its nutritive value.
6. Drainage and Waste Disposal. Housing facility operators must provide for regular and frequent collection, removal, and disposal of animal food wastes, bedding, debris, garbage, water, and other fluids and wastes, and dead animals, in a manner that minimizes contamination and disease risks. Housing facilities must be equipped with disposal facilities and drainage systems that are constructed and operated so that animal waste and water are rapidly eliminated and animals stay dry. All drains must be properly constructed, installed, and maintained.
 - If closed drainage systems are used, they must be equipped with traps to prevent the backflow of gases and the backup of sewage onto the floor.
 - If the facility uses sump or settlement ponds, or other similar systems for drainage and animal waste disposal, the system must be located far enough away from the animal area of the housing facility to prevent odors, diseases, pests, and vermin infestation.
 - Standing puddles of water in animal enclosures must be drained or mopped up so that the animals stay dry
 - Trash containers in housing facilities and in food storage and food preparation areas must be leak-proof and must have fitted lids on them at all times.

- Dead animals, animal parts, and animal waste must not be kept in food storage or food preparation areas, food freezers, food refrigerators, or animal areas.
7. Proper Space. Shelter space for all animals shall allow for each animal to stand to their full height, stretch out, turnaround, lie down, and make normal postural adjustments comfortably. Space available to the animal must be usable, maintained in a safe and healthful manner, free of accumulated waste and debris. The size of a dog pen is determined by the size and number of dogs housed therein. Dogs housed together must be socially compatible.

Minimum space for dogs in pens (NOT INCLUDING SHELTER SPACE) shall be as follows:

Number of Dogs	Small (to 25lbs)	Medium (25-50 lbs)	Large (Over 50 lbs)
1	3 X 7 (21 sq. ft.)	6 X 10 (60 sq. ft.)	8 X 10 (80 sq. ft.)
2.	4 X 8 (32 sq. ft.)	8 X 10 (80 sq. ft.)	8 X 12 (100 sq. ft.)
3	5 X 9 (45 sq. ft.)	8 X 12 (96 sq. ft.)	10 X 14 (140 sq. ft.)
4	8 X 10 (80 sq. ft.)	10 X 12 (120 sq. ft.)	12 X 16 (192 sq. ft.)

*** Although these standards exist, it will be the Animal Control Officer's discretion if the space for each animal is adequate.

8. Location of Kennel. Any dog or cat kennel or buildings associated with the kennel must be positioned at least 100 feet from any other dwelling, water source, or other property not owned by the kennel operator.

B. INDOOR HOUSING FACILITIES

1. Heating, Cooling, and Temperature. Indoor housing facilities for dogs and cats must be sufficiently heated and cooled when necessary to protect the dogs and cats from temperature or humidity extremes and to provide for their health and well-being. When dogs and cats are present, the ambient temperature in the facility must not fall below 50 degrees F for dogs and cats not acclimated to lower temperatures. This also will be applied to those breeds that cannot tolerate lower temperatures without stress or discomfort (such as short-haired breeds), and for sick, aged, young, or inform dogs and cats, except as approved by the attending veterinarian. Dry bedding, solid resting boards, or other methods of conserving body heat must be provided when temperatures are below 50 degrees F. The ambient temperature must not fall below 45 degrees F for more than 4 consecutive hours when dogs and cats are present.
2. Ventilation. Indoor housing facilities for dogs and cats must be sufficiently ventilated at all times when dogs and cats are present to provide for their health and well-being, and to minimize odors, drafts, ammonia levels, and moisture condensation. Windows, vents, fans, or air conditioning must provide ventilation. Auxiliary ventilation, such as fans, blowers, or air conditioning must be provided when ambient temperature is 85 degrees or higher. The relative humidity must be maintained at a level that ensures the health and well-being of the dogs and cats housed therein, in accordance with the directions of the attending veterinarian and generally accepted professional and husbandry practices.
3. Lighting. Indoor housing facilities for dogs and cats must be lighted well enough to permit routine inspection and cleaning of the facility, and observation of the dogs and cats. Animal areas must be provided a regular diurnal lighting cycle of either natural light or artificial light. Lighting must be uniformly diffused throughout animal facilities and provide sufficient illumination to aid in maintaining good housekeeping practices, adequate cleaning, adequate inspection of animals, and for the well-being of the animals. Primary enclosures must be placed so as to protect the dogs and cats from excessive light.

C. OUTDOOR HOUSING FACILITIES

1. Restrictions. The following categories of dogs or cats must NOT be kept in outdoor facilities, unless that practice is specifically approved by the attending veterinarian:
 - Dogs or cats that are not acclimated to the temperature prevalent in the area or region where they are maintained.
 - Breeds of dogs or cats that cannot tolerate the prevalent temperatures of the area without stress or discomfort (such as short-haired breeds)
 - Sick, infirm, aged, or young dogs or cats.
2. When their acclimation status is unknown, dogs and cats must NOT be kept in outdoor facilities when ambient temperature is less than 50 degrees F.
3. Shelter from the Elements. Dog and cats must be provided with adequate shelter from the elements at all times to protect their health and well-being. The shelter structures must be large enough to allow each animal to sit, stand, and lie in a normal manner and to turn about freely. In addition to the shelter structures, one or more separate outside areas or shade must be provided, large enough to contain all animals at one time and protect them from direct rays of the sun. Shelters in outdoor facilities for dogs and cats must contain a roof, four sides, and a floor, and must:
 - a. Provide the dogs and cats with adequate protection and shelter from the cold and heat;
 - b. Provide the dogs and cats with protection from the direct rays of the sun and the direct effect of wind, rain, or snow;
 - c. Be provided with a wind break and rain break at the entrance; and
 - d. Adequate clean, dry bedding material if the ambient temperature is below 45 degrees F for dogs and cats.
 - e. Construction – Building surfaces in contact with animals in outdoor housing facilities must be impervious to moisture. Metal barrels, cans, refrigerators, or freezers, and the like must not be used as shelter structures. The floors of outdoor housing facilities may be of compacted earth or absorbent bedding and must be replaced if there are any prevalent odors, diseases, insects, pests, or vermin. All surfaces must be maintained on a regular basis. Surfaces of outdoor housing facilities that cannot be readily cleaned and sanitized must be replaced when worn or soiled.

D. DOGS ON TETHER

If a dog is confined on a tether, except periods of time that are brief and incidental, the tether shall be at least fifteen (15) feet in length and be positioned to prevent tangling and hanging. The tethered dog shall wear a properly fitted harness or buckle type collar, and be released from the tether at least twice daily for exercise. A properly installed and positioned running line is preferable to a stationary tether.

II. FEEDING

- A. Dogs and cats must be fed at least once a day, except as otherwise recommended by a veterinarian to provide adequate veterinary care. The food must be uncontaminated, wholesome, palatable, and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain the normal condition and weight of the animal. The diet must be appropriate for the individual animal's age and condition.
- B. Food receptacles must be used for dogs and cats, and must be readily accessible to all dogs and cats, and must be located so as to minimize contamination by excreta and pests, and be protected from rain and snow. Feeding pans must either be made of a durable material that can easily be cleaned and sanitized or be disposable. If the food receptacles are not disposable, they must be kept clean and must be sanitized according to Section IV. If the food receptacles are disposable, they must be discarded after one (1) use. Self-feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food. If self-feeders are used, they must be sanitized according to Section IV. Measures must be taken to ensure that there is no molding, deterioration, or caking of feed.

III. WATERING

If potable water is not continually available to the dogs and cats, it must be offered to the dogs and cats as often as necessary to ensure their health and well-being, but not less than twice daily for a least one (1) hour each time, unless restricted by an attending veterinarian. Water receptacles must be kept clean and sanitized according to Section IV, and before used to water a different dog or cat or social grouping of dog or cats.

IV. EXERCISE FOR DOGS

- A. Kennel Operators must develop, document, and follow an appropriate plan to provide dogs with the opportunity for exercise. In addition, the attending veterinarian must approve the plan. The plan must include written standard procedures to be followed in providing the opportunity for exercise.
1. Dogs over 12 weeks of age must be provided the opportunity for exercise regularly if they are kept individually in cages, pens, or runs that provide less than two times the required living space (according to Section I A). Dogs over 12 weeks of age housed in groups do not require additional opportunity for regular exercise if they are maintained in cages, pens, or runs that provide in total at least 100 percent of the required space for each dog if maintained separately.
 2. The opportunity for exercise may be provided in a number of ways, such as:
 - Group housing in cages, pens, or runs that provide at least 100 percent of the required space for each dog if maintained separately under the minimum floor space requirements.
 - Maintaining individually housed dogs in cages, pens, or runs that provide the minimum floor space required.
 - Providing access to a run or open area at the frequency and duration prescribed by the attending veterinarian.

V. CLEANING, SANITIZING, HOUSEKEEPING, AND PEST CONTROL

- A. Excreta and food waste must be removed from primary enclosures daily, and from under primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent an excessive accumulation of feces and food waste, to prevent soiling of the dogs or cats contained in the primary enclosures, and to reduce disease hazards, insects, pests, and odors. Hard surfaces of primary enclosures and food and water receptacles must be sanitized using one of the following methods:
1. Live steam under pressure;
 2. Washing with hot water and soap or detergent, as with a mechanical cage washer;
 3. Washing all soiled surfaces with appropriate detergent solutions and disinfectants, or by using a combination of both products that accomplishes the same purpose, with a thorough cleaning of the surfaces to remove all organic material and mineral buildup, and to provide sanitation followed by a clean water rinse.
- B. Pens, runs, and outdoor housing areas using materials that cannot be sanitized by using methods provided in section V – A, must be sanitized by removing the contaminated material as necessary to prevent odors, diseases, pests, insects, and vermin infestation.
- C. Premises where housing facilities are located, including building and surrounding grounds, must be kept clean and in good repair to protect the animals from injury, to facilitate the cleaning practices required in this section, and to reduce or eliminate breeding and living areas from rodents and other pest and vermin. Premises must be kept free of trash, junk, waste products, and discarded matter. Weeds, grasses, and bushes, must be controlled for pests and to protect the health and well-being of the animals.

- D. An effective program for the control of insects, external parasites affecting dogs and cats, and birds and mammals that are pests, must be established and maintained so as to promote the health and well-being of the animals and reduce contamination by pests in animal areas.

VI. STAFFING

Each kennel is subject to the Garrett County Kennel Standards regulations. To maintain these standards for dogs and cats, you must provide sufficient staff to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required. The staff that provides for husbandry and care, or handle animals, must be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs and cats to supervise them. The kennel operator must be certain that the supervisor and other staff can perform to these standards.

VII. HEALTH RECORDS AND VACCINATIONS

- A. Kennel Operators must present a vaccination and health plan, which has been approved by an attending veterinarian. The health plan will include all of the following but is not limited to worming, DHLPP for dogs, PCRC for cats, rabies. All plans must also be submitted to the County annually with application. All vaccination records must be reviewed and approved by an attending veterinarian.
- B. Rabies vaccination must be provided for dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens over the age of four (4) months.

VIII. RECORDS TO BE MAINTAINED

- A. Every kennel operator shall keep for two (2) years a records of each dog and cat at any time kept in the kennel. Such records shall show:
 1. The breed, color, markings, sex, and age of each dog or cat;
 2. The date on which each dog or cat entered the kennel;
 3. From where it came;
 4. To whom it belonged to;
 5. For what purpose each dog or cat is kept in the kennel;
 6. The date on which each dog or cat leaves the kennel;
 7. How and to whom it is dispenses;
 8. Medical records kept for each dog or cat;
 9. The name, address, and telephone number of the licensed veterinarian used by the kennel.Such record shall be open to inspection and may be copied by an employee of the department.