

Terms and Conditions for Cat Breeding

1 Interpretation

1.1 In these terms and conditions, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "AVS" means the Animal and Veterinary Service, a division of the National Parks Board
- (b) "Licensee" means the holder of a licence issued by the Director-General of Animal Health and Welfare for the breeding of cats under the Animals and Birds Act (Cap. 7)
- (c) "veterinarian" means a veterinarian licensed under the Animals and Birds Act (Cap. 7)

2 Housing and Management of Environment

2.1 Every cat must be provided with an area that is sheltered and well ventilated.

2.2 Cages, enclosures, pens and/ or catteries must be:-

- (a) cleaned once a day, and while the housing areas are being cleaned, the cat must be removed from the area;
- (b) disinfected frequently and at every change of occupancy; and
- (c) kept clean and dry, the exception being during housekeeping. Faeces and urine must be removed regularly from all areas and at least twice a day.

2.3 The housing areas where cats are kept should be maintained in good condition and should not pose any risk of injury or discomfort to the cats.

2.4 The flooring must provide firm and safe support for the cats and must not have gaps which may result in the entrapment of the cats' feet or paws.

2.5 Cages must not be stacked on top of each other unless:

- (a) cages are placed securely on a frame or secured to the wall;
- (b) there is proper drainage of waste and wastewater which should not spill into the cages below; and
- (c) there are no more than 2 tiers per stack.

2.6 Cats for breeding and their kittens must be kept separately in demarcated areas of the farm and must not come into contact with an animal that is on the premises for any other purpose, such as boarding, grooming, training or the breeder's own pet(s).

2.7 Cats must be provided with a/an:

- (a) elevated area and suitable facility for scratching;

- (b) bed or sufficient bedding material so that all animals can sleep comfortably at the same time;
 - (c) appropriate hiding space for visual concealment; and
 - (d) litter tray. Cats kept together may share the litter tray. The number of litter trays should be appropriate to the number of cats kept together.
- 2.8 Any bedding and litter trays provided must be kept clean. The trays should contain appropriate material for the animal (e.g. commercial cat litter, sand, shredded paper or shavings.)
- 2.9 An adequate pest control programme as well as daily sanitation and cleaning regime must be implemented to keep the housing areas clean and free of pests at all times.

3 Diet

- 3.1 Separate areas must be provided for food storage, preparation and washing of utensils. The areas should be kept clean.
- 3.2 Opened packets of dry food must be stored in a cool and dry environment with protection against pest infestation (e.g. by storing them in covered receptacles).
- 3.3 Feed provided to the cats must be:
- (a) wholesome (e.g. not mouldy, rancid, expired); and
 - (b) free from contamination.
- 3.4 Cats must have constant access to clean fresh drinking water.
- 3.5 The water containers must be kept clean.

4 Healthcare

- 4.1 The licensee must set up a designated isolation area for the care of sick and injured cats and ensure that:
- (a) there is adequate separation of the isolation area from other areas in the premises using solid walls, closed doors or such equivalent measures to minimise airborne transmission of pathogens;
 - (b) any staff or personnel who enters the isolation area must change their footwear or put on disposable shoe covers, disposable gloves and disposable masks before entering the isolation area. They must then change their footwear and dispose of the disposable shoe covers, gloves, and mask before they leave the isolation area;
 - (c) disinfectants are regularly used to clean the isolation areas to prevent the spread of pathogens to other areas in the premises;

- (d) animals that are sick or injured must be isolated from other animals and the Licensee shall arrange for such animals to receive prompt attention and treatment from a veterinarian. In addition, the Licensee shall provide the necessary supportive care until the animal is deemed to be fully recovered or well by the veterinarian; and
- (e) feeding bowls and water bottles used in the isolation area are cleaned and disinfected regularly, to prevent the spread of pathogens to other areas in the premises.

You may refer to Annex A1 for a list of conditions that require immediate veterinary attention.

- 4.2 All cats must be checked at least once daily by you or your staff and more regularly as necessary to assess their health and wellbeing.
- 4.3 Any signs of pain, suffering, injury, disease or abnormal behaviour of the cat must be recorded. The advice of a veterinarian must be sought promptly and followed.
- 4.4 An appropriate healthcare and disease prevention programme must be implemented for adult and young cats (including kittens), developed jointly with a veterinarian. The programme must cover the following:
 - (a) Compulsory vaccination for breeding cats and kittens for protection against:
 - (i) feline parvovirus/panleukopenia virus,
 - (ii) feline calicivirus, and
 - (iii) feline herpesvirus/rhinotracheitis virus.

Vaccination of cats in high animal density environment for protection against Feline Chlamydiosis is strongly recommended.

- (b) the primary and booster vaccinations should be given in accordance to the Singapore Vaccination Guidelines for Dogs and Cats. Any deviation from the recommendation of the guidelines should be based on the directions of a veterinarian with the reasons for deviation properly documented and produced for checks upon request by AVS.
- 4.5 Appropriate measures must be put in place for the prevention of internal and external parasites.
- 4.6 Diet and nutrition suitable to meet the nutritional requirements of the animals at various life stages must be provided. For example, kittens, pregnant, lactating and non-breeding queens and retired studs and cats must be provided with adequate and appropriate diet and nutrition.
- 4.7 There must be appropriate sanitation and biosecurity management which include:
 - (a) an effective cleaning and disinfection programme utilising effective, broad-spectrum disinfectant in accordance to the manufacturer's recommendations; and
 - (b) appropriate housing of high-risk animals such as nursing, young and old cats in an area that reduces risk of disease. For example, high-risk animals should not

be allowed to share outdoor areas with other cats and animals and should be kept separate from other cats and animals.

- 4.8 There must be a plan for the appropriate management of animals in the event of an outbreak of infectious diseases. The plan must cater for the isolation and treatment of sick cats and the implementation of biosecurity measures to prevent further spread of the infectious disease. In particular, the plan must provide that:
- (a) the movement of personnel and cat should be carried out in such a way that it minimises the spread of disease. For example, the Licensee and/or any personnel in charge of animals in their premises should refrain from, or eliminate completely, unnecessary contact and movements to and from other premises by themselves and visitors; and
 - (b) personnel must change their footwear or put on disposable shoe covers, disposable gloves and disposable masks before entering the housing areas where the diseased cat is kept. They must then change the footwear and dispose of the shoe covers, gloves and mask before they leave the housing area.
- 4.9 An annual individual health check of all breeding cats must be conducted by a veterinarian to determine if the cats are healthy and are suitable to continue mating and breeding.
- 4.10 The check must be documented in a veterinarian's report and produced during AVS' inspection.
- 4.11 Any veterinary treatment, surgical procedures and follow up, and medication should only be administered or given to an animal under the direction and/or advice of a veterinarian.
- 4.12 AVS must be informed immediately of any abnormal disease event that lead to abnormal morbidity or mortality rates. The licensee may contact AVS at 1800 476 1600 or <https://www.avsgov.sg/feedback>.
- 4.13 Records or documentary proof of vaccination, annual health check of all breeding cats, veterinary treatment, any surgical procedures must be kept at the farm for at least 2 years, (from the date of vaccination/ annual health check/ veterinary treatment/ surgical procedures) and produced for AVS' inspection.
- 4.14 Any surgical procedures such as tail-docking, removal of dewclaws or any other cosmetic surgery must only be carried out due to medical reasons and by a veterinarian who shall perform such procedures in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Veterinarians.
- 4.15 All retired breeding cats must be sterilised, within 6 months after retiring from breeding by a veterinarian. Licensee must provide post-retirement care for the cats, such as to continue caring for the animals on the farm or rehome them.
- 4.16 Breeding cats, queens and kittens shall not be euthanised unless it is due to medical reasons. If a cat is to be euthanised, the procedure shall only be performed by a veterinarian.

5 Staff

5.1 The licensee must:

- (a) ensure that himself/herself and all staff responsible for the day-to-day running of the premises and care of the animals who are not qualified veterinarians or veterinary nurses or technicians attend training (on pet care and management) at a teaching institution approved by AVS. In addition, the licensee shall ensure that such staff undergo a refresher course once every three years and attend any briefing conducted by AVS.
- (b) maintain training records and make them available for AVS' inspection. Records are to be retained for a minimum period of two (2) years from the date that the staff joined service.

6 Traceability and Record-Keeping

6.1 The licensee must keep a staff register, indicating the respective roles and duties of the staff. Such register shall be retained for at least two (2) years from the date that the staff joined service, for AVS' inspection at all times according to the format provided by AVS. Licensee must update AVS when there are changes to staff, roles and duties.

6.2 The licensee must maintain the following records in the prescribed format and make available to AVS for inspection:

- (a) record of deaths on the premises;
- (b) record of information on breeding cats, queens and their kittens;
- (c) record of microchip numbers of each breeding cat, queen and kitten; and
- (d) a visitor and personnel register.

6.3 Record of death on the premises

The licensee must maintain a record of cats that have died on the premises, their age, date and cause of death.

6.4 For cats above 7 days in age, the farm must issue a death certificate which should be kept at the premises for at least 1 year (from the date the death is registered). The probable/presumed/determined cause of death, where applicable, must be clearly stated on all death certificates issued.

6.5 Record of information on breeding cats, queens and their kittens

The licensee must maintain accurate records of breeding cats, queens and the kittens produced in the format prescribed by AVS and update such records regularly. The information required to be specified such records is set out in Annex A2.

6.6 Such records must be kept for at least two (2) years beginning with the date on which the record was created or updated. For records in electronic form, the electronic records must be backed up.

- 6.7 Record of microchip numbers of each breeding cat, queen and kitten
The licensee must maintain a record of the microchip numbers of each breeding cat, queen and kitten that is housed on the premises and such records must be submitted to AVS by the 5th of every month.
- 6.8 The License must account for each cat in PALS and furnish any required information within the timeframe as stipulated by AVS.
- 6.9 Any transfer of ownership must be updated in PALS before the cats are physically moved.
- 6.10 Visitor and personnel register
The licensee must maintain a personnel register recording the names of all staff and personnel entering and leaving the premises and the corresponding date and time of entry and exit of such staff/ personnel.
- 6.11 The licensee must maintain a visitor register indicating, at a minimum, the visitors' names, visiting times, contact details and reasons for visiting the premises.

7 Emergencies

- 7.1 There should be a person designated as a key holder with access to all areas of the premises at all times. Such designated person must be available and able to travel to the premises promptly to attend to an emergency.

8 Cat Breeding

- 8.1 Breeding cats may be kept in cages, enclosures, pens and/ or catteries.
- 8.2 Pregnant, kittening and nursing cats must be kept individually.
- 8.3 For cats kept individually, the dimensions of the housing shall meet all the following minimum requirements:
- (a) Length = 2 x length of the animal from nose to base of tail;
 - (b) Width = 1.5 x the length of the animal from nose to base of tail; and
 - (c) Height = Sufficient headroom to stand upright on its hind legs.
- 8.4 If 2 or more cats are kept together, each cat must have enough headroom to stand upright on hind legs, lie down and stretch and be able to move, turn around without hitting the sides of the housing area. Each cat must have a floor area equivalent to at least:
- (a) Length = 1.5 x Length of longest cat from nose to base of tail; and
 - (b) Width = 1.5 x Length of longest cat from nose to base of tail.
- 8.5 In addition, the licensee shall ensure that cats that are kept together are compatible and minimally do not fight with each other. Fight injuries observed on any cat will be considered a sign of incompatibility between the cats.

- 8.6 If a nest box is to be used, it may only be used to house a whelping or nursing cat and her kittens, up to time when the kittens are 3 weeks of age. The nest box must be large enough to comfortably accommodate the cat when she is fully stretched out. The sides of the nest box should be high enough to confine the kittens but allow the cat to step out. There must be a separate area where the cat can have time away from her kittens, to exercise or relieve herself. The base and sides of the cage must not have gaps wide enough for the kittens to get trapped.
- 8.7 Breeding cats may only be sourced from AVS licensed pet farms/ shops. If the licensee wishes to import breeding cats, or cats for sale, such importation must be in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Animals and Birds Act (Cap. 7) and meet all import requirements.
- 8.8 The licensee ensure that a cat is not used for breeding with:
- (a) the cat's progeny;
 - (b) a parent or sibling of the cat; and
 - (c) a cat that displays or has been diagnosed with a heritable condition or produce litters that show congenital defects. Some examples of harmful heritable condition are Brachycephalic syndrome, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and polycystic kidney disease.
- 8.9 The licensee must ensure that no queen:
- (a) under 12 months or above 6 years of age is mated;
 - (b) is mated at the first heat;
 - (c) gives birth to more than one litter of kittens within a 12- month period; and
 - (d) is mated if it had previously undergone 2 caesarean.
- 8.10 All breeding cats, queens and their kittens (by 12 weeks of age) have to be microchipped. NParks reserves the right to issue microchip(s) to the licensee in which case, the licensee shall be responsible for ensuring that such NParks'-issued microchip is implanted in the breeding cat, queen or kitten.
- 8.11 The licensee must provide DNA samples of breeding studs and queens to NParks upon request.

9 Sale and Transfer of Cats/Kittens

- 9.1 The licensee must not advertise or offer for sale a cat or kitten that is not bred by him/her from the licensed premises or from any unapproved source.
- 9.2 The licensee shall ensure that any advertisement for the sale of a cat or kitten should include the name of the breeder/company.
- 9.3 Any details on the cat or kitten being advertised must correspond with the records kept by you.
- 9.4 No kitten under 12 weeks of age is allowed to be sold. Viewing through physical segregation or online means may be allowed for younger kittens bred on premises

before the sale, provided that the public do not come into physical contact or exposure with them.

- 9.5 The licensee shall not provide the buyers with any drugs at any point in time, whether it is before, during or after the sale of the cat or kitten to the buyer unless it is based on the directions of a veterinarian and is accompanied with a prescription from that veterinarian. This is regardless of the licensee's knowledge of the uses or the ingredients content of the drugs.
- 9.6 The licensee shall ensure that the buyer is informed of the age, sex and veterinary record of the cat or kitten being sold in written form, for example, in the sale agreement.
- 9.7 The licensee shall ensure the cat or kitten is shown to a prospective buyer before sale.
- 9.8 The buyer must be provided with a vaccination card/ certificate signed by a veterinarian at the time of the transfer of the ownership of the cat or kitten.
- 9.9 The vaccination card/ certificate must have the following information:
 - (a) microchip number, breed, sex, date of birth, colour of the animal;
 - (b) name and type of vaccine;
 - (c) name and signature of the veterinarian who performed the vaccination; and
 - (d) date of vaccination and booster vaccination due date.
- 9.10 The licensee must allow the viewing of the breeding area/parents (e.g. online means) of the kittens upon written request by the buyer.
- 9.11 To safeguard biosecurity, this viewing should be done remotely through e.g. CCTV installed in the farm or mobile phone camera recording.

Annex A1

Problems that require immediate veterinary attention include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Breathing difficulties
- (b) Pale gums
- (c) Sudden weakness
- (d) Neurological abnormalities (fits, staggering, convulsions, mental dullness, coma)
- (e) Severe or protracted vomiting
- (f) Severe or protracted diarrhoea
- (g) Severe or protracted coughing
- (h) External signs of bleeding
- (i) Rapid or sudden bloating
- (j) Unable to urinate or defaecate
- (k) Exposure to or ingestion of toxin or poisons
- (l) Sudden lameness
- (m) Burns
- (n) Birthing problems
- (o) Trauma

Annex A2

The licensee's records should include the following information:

- (a) Name
- (b) Sex
- (c) Microchip number and database details
- (d) Date of birth
- (e) Postal address where it normally resides
- (f) Breed or type
- (g) Description
- (h) Date or dates of any mating(s), and whether it was successful or not successful
- (i) Details of its biological mother and biological father (e.g. name and microchip number)
- (j) Details of any veterinary treatment
- (k) Date and cause of death (where applicable)

Additional Information on breeding queens in the record:

- (l) The name and microchip number of the stud with which it is mated
- (m) The number of matings
- (n) Age at the time of each mating
- (o) The number of litters
- (p) The date or dates on which it has given birth
- (q) The number of caesarean sections it has had, if any

Information on breeding queens during whelping in the record:

- (r) The date of birth of each kitten
- (s) Each kitten's sex and colour
- (t) The number of kittens in the litter
- (u) The number of living kittens
- (v) The number of stillborn kittens
- (w) Any other significant events