



Staff Report

Report Title: Kennel By-Law

Prepared By: Bill Klingenberg, Manager of Building and Planning

Department: Building/ By-Law Enforcement

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Report Number: BLDG-2024-03-9

File Number: C11 BLDG 24

Attachments: None

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report BLDG-2024-03-9 prepared by Bill Klingenberg, Manager of Building and Planning.

Background:

By-law 2017-116 regulating the licensing of Kennels states that every person who owns or operates a Kennel shall comply with the requirements set out on "A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations". The Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations contains provisions for Ventilation and temperature Control. The Code states the following:

General Principles:

- Freedom from Hunger and Thirst by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- Freedom from Discomfort by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and company of the animal's own kind.

- Freedom from Fear and Distress by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Regulatory Requirements:

1.1.6 Ventilation

Proper air circulation is essential to the prevention of respiratory disease, maintaining suitable humidity levels, controlling odour, and maintaining a comfortable temperature. The number of air changes per hour is extremely important and is dependent on the number of dogs being housed relative to the size of the facility. A source of fresh air is critical. Recirculation of inside air spreads contaminants, viruses, bacteria, and moulds. Drafts, chilling, and excessively high humidity are detrimental to dogs of all ages and promote respiratory disease.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Ventilation and heating systems are constructed to supply fresh air and enable adequate exchange of air and maintenance of optimal environmental conditions for all seasons.
2. Provide additional ventilation by using exhaust fans and/or air conditioning when ambient temperatures reach more than 26°C.

1.1.7 Humidity

Adequate ventilation including use of air exchangers, dehumidifiers, humidifiers, and fans as appropriate will help control humidity. Relative humidity levels less than 25% are associated with increased discomfort and drying of the mucous membranes and skin, which can lead to chapping and irritation. High humidity levels can result in condensation within the building structure and on interior or exterior surfaces with the subsequent development of moulds and fungi. When combined with high temperature, high humidity can also increase the risk of heat distress.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Control indoor humidity levels to maintain animal comfort, minimize the risk of transmission of animal disease, prevent damage to the structural integrity of the building and its contents, and prevent accumulation of excess moisture that can promote growth of mould.

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

- a. Maintain humidity between 35-50%.
- b. In the event that proper relative humidity levels cannot be maintained adequately, consult a heating and ventilation expert.

Discussion:

The concern seems to be the hard reference to the Code of Practice making the recommendations and requirements of the Code black and white. By-law Enforcement's approach has always been meeting the objectives of the codes we are enforcing recognizing the need for flexibility as not all situations are equal.

Neighbouring bylaws and have taken the following excerpts as an example:

ACW

The Kennel building shall have adequate lighting, windows that may be opened for proper ventilation, a heating system sufficient to adequately heat the building, running water and a food preparation area, pursuant to the Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations, Second edition, May, 2007.

South Bruce

The kennel building shall have adequate lighting, windows that may be opened for proper ventilation, a heating system sufficient to adequately heat the building, running water and a food preparation area, pursuant to the Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations, Second edition, May, 2007.

Kincardine

Every person in possession of a kennel licence shall comply with the requirements set out in "Section II — Housing and Accommodation in the Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations Second edition May 2007" as amended from time to time.

Brockton

Has a separate section providing provisions for the Kennel conditions. They do not refer to the Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations.

Recommendations

Staff are not recommending changes to the by-law regarding the Code of Practice rather to interpret the bylaw to ensure that fresh air is supplied by using a system, natural or mechanical, meeting the intent of providing ventilation, to provide a source of ventilation that meets the objectives as noted above. Natural means of mitigating heat, humidity and fresh air are an acceptable method of ensuring that the kennels are comfortable, and their environment provides shelter and a comfortable resting area. Should natural ventilation not meet the standards as determined by the by-law enforcement officer, the kennel operator may be required to utilise mechanical ventilation using a portable power source as a temporary means. This will provide the required ventilation where conditions are such that natural means need to be supplemented to meet the code of practice.

Financial Impacts:

None

Strategic Alignment / Link:

N/A

Respectfully Submitted By:

Bill Klingenberg, Manager of Building and Planning

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer