

Feb. 27, 2014

1. Definitions

The term animal, as defined in these standards, refers to a cat or dog.

2. Application

These standards of care apply to:

- an owner or custodian keeping one or more animals; or
- an establishment or business which owns or houses animals.

3. General Care of Animals

An animal shall be provided with the following:

- clean, fresh, unfrozen drinking water;
- food and water in receptacles located in a manner that prevents spillage and contamination by excreta; and in a size and shape to meet the animal's physical characteristics, particularly body size;
- sufficient quantity and quality of food to allow for normal, healthy growth and the maintenance of normal, healthy body weight;
- appropriate grooming to prevent excessive matting of the hair or coat, causing pain or other distress to the animal;
- prompt and adequate veterinary care if the animal is sick, injured, in pain or suffering.

An animal must not be abandoned or otherwise left to live on its own in hazardous conditions that cause distress.

4. Outdoor Care for Animals

An animal may be kept mostly outdoors if its morphology, coat, age, health and adaptation level to heat or cold are such that the animal is adequately protected from the weather conditions to which it is exposed.

Animals kept outside must have shelter that is appropriate to their needs in accordance with these minimum standards. A higher standard may be required to meet the needs of a specific breed, according to the thickness of coat, energy level, age and or health status.

The area in which an animal is kept outside shall be cleaned and have excreta removed from it on a daily basis.

a) Shelter structures

For the purposes of these standards, a shelter is any structure or part of a structure in which an animal is kept, including a barn, dog house, shed, hangar or garage.

A shelter in which an animal is kept must be built and maintained so as to not present a risk for the animal's safety. The shelter must:

- be weatherproof, waterproof, and insulated;
- protect the animal from the adverse effects of the sun;
- be sufficiently ventilated in a manner that prevents the accumulation of moisture and odours.

The size and design of a shelter for an animal shall be adequate and appropriate for the size of the animal, as follows:

- The minimum ceiling height of the sleeping area in a shelter for an animal shall be five centimetres greater than the height of the dog in a sitting position, measured from the top of the dog's head to the ground.
- An animal's bedding must be clean and dry and sufficient to provide adequate insulation from cold weather conditions.

b) Animal pen or enclosure

A pen or enclosure is an outside space designed to prevent an animal from leaving a property, by means of a fence, wall, or natural barrier.

The pen or enclosure must be designed to prevent injury or distress to the animal:

- The size of the floor of a pen or enclosure shall not be less than nine square metres, to be increased by one square metre for each additional animal;
- The minimum height of a pen or enclosure shall be one metre greater than the height of the tallest animal in a standing position that is confined in that pen or enclosure, with height measured from the top of the animal's shoulder to the ground;
- The pen or enclosure shall be in a good state of repair;
- The pen or enclosure shall have a clean, dry place for the animal to lie down.

The location of a pen or enclosure in which an animal is confined shall not pose a high risk of injury or other distress to the confined animal.

If an animal is to be housed primarily outside for 12 hours or more, a pen or enclosure shall contain a shelter that is designed, built, and maintained in accordance with these standards.

c) Dog Tethering

A tethered dog must be left no longer than a period of 12 consecutive hours with a mandatory break from tethering of seven consecutive hours during a 24-hour period.

If a dog is to be tethered primarily outside for a full 12-hour period, the dog must have access to a shelter that is designed, built, and maintained in accordance with these standards.

The restraining device used to tether a dog unsupervised, outside, shall:

- allow the dog to reach its food and water;
- allow the dog to move in a manner that is safe and unrestricted excepted by its length;
- not be liable to get stuck or shortened, in particular by wrapping itself around an object;
- not cause discomfort for the dog, because of the weight or type of the tether.

The length of the tether shall be a minimum of five metres, or at least five times the length of the animal, whichever is greater. For the purposes of these standards, the length of an animal shall be measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.

The animal's collar or restraining device must not hamper the animal's breathing or cause, or be likely to cause, pain or injury.

5. Transportation of Animals

An animal may be transported in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle.

An animal must not be transported in the trunk of a motor vehicle. (This does not apply to a station wagon, passenger van, sport-utility vehicle, hatchback or another type of motor vehicle that does not have a trunk.)

A person shall not transport an animal in a motor vehicle outside the passenger compartment unless the animal is confined or secured in a container in a manner to prevent the animal from falling off the vehicle or otherwise injuring itself or causing a hazard to other vehicles.

If a container is used to transport the animal in a motor vehicle outside passenger section, the container must be:

- constructed in a way that prevents the animal from escaping;
- durable and maintained in good repair;
- large enough for the animal to turn around normally while standing, to stand and sit erect, and to lie in a natural position; and
- secured to the vehicle.

In a vehicle that is parked or otherwise stopped, an animal in the passenger section of the vehicle must not be left in conditions that cause the animal distress, including:

- for extended periods of time;
- facing extreme hot or cold;
- without food, water, blankets, etc. needed to keep the animal comfortable.

6. Sale of animals

No person shall offer an animal for sale without a certificate of health from a registered veterinarian.