Introductory Course for Commercial Dog Breeders

Topic 5: Exercise
Learning Objectives

1. Describe the components of a written exercise plan.
2. Describe exercise requirements for dogs.
3. Describe a few ways in which you can provide exercise for dogs at your facility.
Written Exercise Plan
Written Plan of Exercise

AWA requires dealers, exhibitors and research facilities to:

– Develop
– Document (in writing)
– Follow

a plan for providing dogs with the opportunity to exercise.
Exercise Plan Requirements

- Reviewed and approved by veterinarian
- Include standard exercise procedures
- Available forAPHIS inspection
Exercise Plan Components

• Methods
• Duration
• Frequency
• Type of housing:
  – Individual
  – Group
Exercise: Exemptions

Animal’s health, well-being or condition prohibits exercise

Exemptions:

- Documented in writing
- Reviewed every 30 days
  - Unless permanent condition
- Kept available at all times for APHIS inspectors to review
Exercise Requirements:
Individual vs. Group Housing
Exercise: Individually Housed Dogs

Dogs housed individually in cages/runs must be provided with regular opportunities to exercise if:

- Cages/runs provide less than two times the required floor space for that particular dog.
Individually Housed Dogs

\[ ((\text{Length} + 6”) \times (\text{Length} + 6“)) \times 2 = \text{No additional exercise required} \]

Minimum floor space (inches)

*Exercise required for individual dogs housed in enclosures less than 2x the minimum floor space*
Individual Housing: Example

“Sparkles” - Scottish Terrier

18 inches from tip of nose to base of tail

\[ (18+6) \times (18+6) = 576 \text{ sq. in. minimum floor space} \]

\[ 576 \times 2 = 1152 \text{ sq. in. minimum floor space if offering no additional exercise} \]

* Convert to square feet: \( \frac{1152 \text{ sq. in.}}{144 \text{ in per sq. ft}} = 8 \text{ square feet} \)
Example cont’d

4 sq. ft.  

Additional exercise opportunities required

4 sq. ft. + 4 sq. ft.  
(8 sq. ft. total)

No additional exercise opportunities required
Group Housing

- Dogs over 12 weeks of age
- No additional exercise opportunities needed if:
  - Cage/ run is 100% of the required space for each individual animal
Group Housing Example

Additional exercise opportunities required

No additional exercise opportunities required
Group Housing: Example
Group Housing: Compatibility

Advantages:

– Increased exercise
– Socialization
– Play time

Animals over 12 weeks of age may be housed in compatible groups unless:

– Health or well-being is affected
– Aggressive or vicious behaviors are exhibited
Methods for Providing Exercise Opportunities in Your Kennel
Benefits

Exercise, play and positive physical human contact benefits dogs:
- Alleviates stress of kenneling
- Better socialization

Consider exercise and play time even if not required.
Exercise Methods

Acceptable methods:
– Positive physical human contact and play
– Access to an open area/run
– Compatible group housing

Unacceptable methods:
– Treadmill
– Swimming
– Carousel type walkers
Group Exercise Playroom
Enrichment
Group Housing Exercise
Exercise within Housing Unit
Conclusion

You should now be able to:

1. Describe the components of a written exercise plan.
2. Describe exercise requirements for dogs.
3. Describe a few ways in which you can provide exercise for dogs at your facility.
Questions?
Acknowledgments

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