

Mills, Simon

From: Carrie Evans [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 May 2017 12:18
To: Mills, Simon
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Home Boarding

Morning Simon

Further to my initial e mails and our subsequent telephone conversation, as discussed I am writing to express my concern over the changes to the Home Boarding suggestions originally devised by LACORS which Stockton council are now looking to adopt.

As a registered Clinical Animal Behaviourist with the Animal Behaviour and Training Council, I will outline each concern and offer more appropriate suggestions. However; as a professional if the council chooses to adopt these suggestions I would like to be credited, by using my name when publishing relevant documentation.

1. Specific written consent of each household showing confirmation that they are content for their dog to be boarded with others – Acceptable / appropriate
2. A mandatory trial (documented) familiarisation session for all dogs prior to stay – How would this be documented? Are home boarders knowledgeable in understanding and documenting canine / feline behaviour for other professionals, such as council officers.

How would this be carried out?

Where?

Who would be present?

What should be recorded?

Perhaps training could be offered to Home Boarders at a cost to ensure this is done correctly? Council Officers could also attend so they are aware of the process.

I would be happy to devise in conjunction with the veterinary surgeon, Welfare Officers and Licencing a course which could be delivered to Home boarders. This also ensures everyone has a standard to apply and follow.

3. Separation of dogs from different households in secure areas when left unattended – Acceptable & appropriate
4. Separate feeding of dogs to minimise the likelihood of dispute & aggression – acceptable / appropriate

Where there is a resident dog or cat at the household, written consent from the owners must be gained following a trial familiarisation session:

The dog and owner should attend the premises – This is extremely likely to cause major issues, the resident dog could become territorially aggressive / protective

To spend 30 minutes familiarising their dog with the home boarders dog

One 30 minute session is inadequate and will not in most cases provide sufficient time for the dogs to become familiarised.

I would suggest several sessions of at least 30 minutes.

Again, the same applies to dogs being boarded together from different households.

A documented familiarisation session 30 minutes prior to a dog being left – this is totally unacceptable, you cannot expect a dog owner to attend one of these sessions to then be told that their dog cannot stay. This must happen several weeks ahead of the planned stay. Most people plan their holiday well in advance and most Home Boarders will be booked well in advance so could easily be accommodated.

My main concerns are the familiarisation sessions.

Bringing an unknown dog into an established dog's territory is very likely to elicit a response of some degree.

How this is managed will impact on both dogs behaviour.

Introducing 2 or more unknown dogs to each other at the Home Boarders Home would also cause issues There are more suitable and appropriate options which could be considered and applied which would produce more successful results.

I would suggest the following:

Several 30 minute sessions take place at least 6 weeks before the planned stay

These would be documented

Documented, does not simply mean a note that they took place. This should include a written account of each dog's body language. Appropriate action taken, concerns or issues. How incidents would be managed.

Owner's comments – signed off

Dog's should be introduced on neutral territory.

Owners should be present as this offers the opportunity for them to gain confidence in the Home Boarder and the other dog their dog will have contact / engagement with.

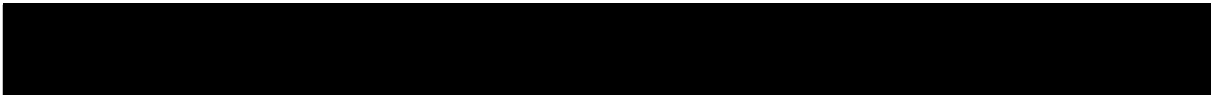
How the dog's engage with each other is paramount to the success as inappropriate engagement will affect individual dog's behaviour

I personally would only ever have one dog. How can you focus on more than one person's dog?

Does Home Boarding include people who run Dog Day Care's from their home?

I would be happy to work with you and the team in devising and delivering a course which you could sell to Home Boarders to ensure this is undertaken successfully and to the required standard.

I hope this is of help?



Best wishes

Carrie

Home Boarding Dogs and Cats Conditions Review

Responses to the Consultation from the Trade

Five Traders agreed with conditions

Seven Traders felt that condition 4 below would be difficult and unfair on the customer to implement and suggested the following condition.

Condition 4

If the home boarder is unable to comply with the above requirements in terms of familiarisation of other dogs which are scheduled to be staying at the same time, then a documented familiarisation session should still take place. The owner should attend the home boarders' house 30 minutes prior to their drop off to undertake a documented familiarisation session with the other dogs which are being boarded. If there are any difficulties between the newly arriving dog and the other dogs being boarded then the newly arriving dog cannot be accepted by the boarder.

Suggested Condition

If there are any concerns about a new dog at the initial familiarisation the dog should attend a longer visit without its owner prior to the boarding date. If there are any difficulties between the new dog, the home boarders dog/s or any of the dogs boarding at that time, the booking should be cancelled. This should be documented.