

***Interim Progress Report of the  
Irish Working Terrier Committee  
in relation to  
Guidlines for members Regarding  
Terrier Welfare.***



***These guidlines to be read in conjunction with  
the I.W.T.F. Code of Conduct  
and are applied in accordance with that code.***

***June 2013***

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## **1. Objectives of the Welfare Guideline**

The primary objective of the guideline is to set standards and clearly define what is expected of all individuals engaged in the care and management of working terriers. It addresses the main areas of activity and defines the legislation of which owners should be cognisant while active within I.W.T.F. affiliated membership.

The guideline is not intended as an exhaustive list of terrier practices, but clearly highlights what level of knowledge and competence is required while caring for working terriers. It seeks to educate stakeholders on the various legislative elements associated with animal welfare and indicates what constitutes best practice.

Terrier welfare is concerned with the wellbeing of the dog, the physical as well as the social environment. Given that terriers depend on human interaction, we are responsible for their welfare. The guideline emphasises the vital relationship between the terrier carer and the veterinarian and how a strong relationship between both parties will ensure that responsible care be afforded to the terrier.

This Guideline is produced in compliance with the requirements of the Animal Health & Welfare Act 2013. Compliance with this Welfare Guideline, I.W.T.F. Code of Conduct, the Animal Health & Welfare Act 2013 and all other legislative instruments is required by all participants within IWTF affiliated membership and will be of significant benefit to the practising of terrierwork and the very animal that we hold in such high regard.

This Welfare Guideline may be revised from time to time to reflect new knowledge and best practice, such that the welfare of terriers is optimised at all times.

Each affiliated IWTF club shall have a nominated Representative/ Welfare Officer.

## **2. General Welfare Principles**

- a) The owner is responsible for the welfare, action and whereabouts of their terriers.
- b) The owner or keeper of the terrier shall both take full responsibility for the physical and social well being of the terrier and shall do so with full regard to its welfare.
- c) This guideline supports and promotes the principles set out in the “Five Freedoms” which underpin best welfare practice:
  1. Freedom from hunger and thirst;
  2. Freedom from discomfort;
  3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease;
  4. Freedom to express normal behaviour;
  5. Freedom from fear and distress.
- d) Owners and keepers of terriers shall ensure that terriers are kept under conditions reflecting the above principles at all times and where deficiencies are identified, take prompt action to rectify.
- e) When transporting terriers, owners and keepers shall ensure that it is carried out in compliance with current Transport Regulations.
- f) Terrierwork participants shall ensure the continued membership of the I.W.T.F. and ensure compliance with conditions of membership.

### **3. Responsible Ownership**

The owner or keeper of the terrier shall ensure the following:

- a) Provision of accommodation and equipment appropriate to the physical, behavioural and social requirements of the terrier.
- b) Provision of sufficient space for terriers to stand in a normal standing position, move around freely, stretch fully, rest and to express normal behaviour patterns.
- c) Provision of sufficient quantities of appropriate food and water to support optimal health.
- d) That persons charged with the day-to-day management of the terriers are competent and skilled and are sufficiently trained to recognise whether or not the animals are in good health (signs of ill-health include loss of appetite, listlessness, abnormal discharge, lameness, swollen joints, diarrhoea, rapid loss of condition, changes in skin condition, excessive scratching, etc.)
- e) Protection of the terrier from disease, distress and injury.
- f) Provision of prompt veterinary and other appropriate treatment in cases of serious illness or injury.
- g) Implementation of a comprehensive targeted vaccination programme in line with veterinary advice.
- h) Implementation of proper hygiene practices to promote the health of the terrier.
- i) In the event of the need for euthanasia, it should be undertaken as soon as practicable to avoid unnecessary suffering and shall be carried out in a humane way.

### **4. Husbandry Issues**

#### **4.1 Housing**

The owner or keeper of the terrier shall ensure the following:

- a) Location of kennel shall take account of excessive noise and pollution that could cause harm or distress to the terrier.
- b) The kennel must have a water supply, such that terriers have access to water at all times.
- c) Kennels must protect the terriers from rain and wind. It should provide adequate shade to protect from excessive sunlight, and be partially enclosed to provide a sheltered sleeping area. Consideration should be given to temperature, humidity and ventilation.
- d) Kennel housing should be separated by either solid partitions, which would assist in noise reduction, or by galvanised mesh or chain link wire dividers.
- e) Internal surfaces shall be constructed so that they are easy to clean and disinfect and maintained in good condition.
- f) The housing area should be free of sharp objects and all electrical equipment and wiring must be out of reach of the terriers.
- g) A whelping area should be provided for the pregnant terrier, separate from a group kennel. The whelping area should be 2 ½ times the size of the terrier. Suitable bedding should be provided and changed as required.

## **4.2 Exercise**

Dogs shall have the opportunity for exercise to:

- a) Allow them to urinate and defecate;
- b) Give them contact with humans and, if appropriate, with other dogs;
- c) Sufficiently maintain their health and fitness.

## **4.3 Environmental Enrichment**

- a) Enrichments should be supplied to pups to provide an environment that will enhance the dogs' well-being and permit them to live in many social environments in a compatible manner.
- b) How pups are treated, dealt with and handled can help with their behavioural development with respect to socialisation and habituation and have a far reaching effect throughout their lives. Although there will always be a risk of single-event incidents that may lead to fear, nervousness or anxiety in a pup there will be a better chance of a solid, emotionally grounded individual if simple, basic socialisation and habituation techniques are carried out.

## **4.4 Temperature**

- a) The terrier should be protected from extremes of temperature. The minimum indoor allowable temperature for breeding terriers is 10 C (50 F)
- b) For puppies, a temperature of 26C is the most appropriate.
- c) Maximum and minimum temperatures shall be monitored.

## **4.5 Noise**

Noise from barking terriers should be managed to comply with noise regulations.

## **4.6 Lighting**

- a) Terriers should be kept under lighting conditions that reflect as close as possible natural conditions. They should not be kept in permanent darkness and should have access to at least 8 hours lighting per day
- b) Lighting should be adequate so that all areas of the interior of the kennel can be seen clearly.
- c) Sunlight is the preferred means of lighting, provided shaded areas are available.
- d) Artificial light shall be provided, where needed, to allow kennel areas to be thoroughly cleaned and to enable terriers be checked.

## **4.7 Ventilation**

Ventilation should be sufficient to eliminate the build up of stale air, prevent dampness and draughts and to minimise foul or noxious odours without draughts.

#### **4.8 Bedding**

- a) All kennels should provide either a raised sleeping area or a separate lower draught free area, with appropriate bedding.
- b) If permeable bedding is used it should be changed frequently and kept clean and dry.
- c) Whelping terriers should be provided with a suitable whelping box that is lined with clean bedding and cleaned as required, but at least once daily.

#### **4.9 Security**

- a) Kennels should be securely fastened.
- b) Each individual kennel should be fitted with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the incumbent terriers.

#### **4.10 Hygiene**

- a) Kennels and exercise areas should be kept clean so that the comfort of the terrier can be maintained and disease controlled.
- b) Faeces shall be removed daily from kennels which house adult terriers – in the case of housing puppies, faeces should be removed more frequently and at least once a day.
- c) A cleansing and disinfection regime shall be put in place that is appropriate to maintaining good hygiene on the premises thus ensuring the health and welfare of the terriers, The regime should take into account the intensity of the production site, the general animal health and disease situation and risk of introduction of disease through day-to-day activities.
- d) Cleansing and disinfecting agents should be selected based on their suitability, safety and effectiveness. Manufacturer's instructions for the use of these agents should be followed - to dilute a solution may be ineffective and too concentrated a solution may be toxic.

#### **4.11 Chemical Pest Control**

- a) Pests including fleas, ticks, flies, lice and wild rodents should be controlled.
- b) Chemicals used for pest control shall be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- c) As terriers and humans may be adversely affected by chemical pest control agents, expert advice should be sought before chemical pest control operations are carried out.
- d) Food should be stored appropriately, with dry food kept in a rodent free place and fresh meat kept refrigerated.

#### **4.12 Waste Disposal**

Droppings, bedding and any other waste material should be disposed of promptly in accordance with relevant local authority requirements.

### **5. Animal Health**

- a) The health of the terrier brood bitch should be assessed prior to mating and the owner or keeper shall ensure compliance with breeding frequency restrictions stated in the Dog breeding Establishment Act 2010.
- b) A comprehensive vaccination programme, including vaccination against canine distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and parvovirus, should be put in place and be in accordance with veterinary advice and manufacturer's instructions.
- c) Vaccination against kennel cough is recommended.
- d) Programmes for the treatment of gastrointestinal worms should be put in place and be in accordance with veterinary advice and manufacturer's instructions.
- e) A programme for the control of fleas, both on the terrier and in the environment, should be put in place and be in accordance with veterinary advice and manufacturer's instructions.
- f) The terrier should be checked daily to ensure it is eating, drinking, defecating, urinating, behaving normally, is of normal appearance, is able to move freely and has a normal coat.
- g) Changes in health status shall be acted upon promptly.
- h) Terriers known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease shall not be admitted to the establishment without sufficient quarantine facilities in place.
- i) Adequate exercise appropriate to terrier breeds should be provided.
- j) The person in charge should establish a professional relationship with a veterinary practitioner who can attend to the needs of the terrier, the terrier brood in particular at whelping time, and also to advise on disease prevention measures.
- k) Dogs known or suspected to be suffering from an infectious disease should be isolated in suitable facilities.

## **6. Responsible Use of Animal Remedies**

Owners and keepers shall ensure:

- a) Full compliance with the current Animal Remedies Regulations at all times.
- b) That only animal remedies sold or supplied by a licensed vendor (e.g. veterinary practitioner, pharmacist or licensed retailer) and authorised for use in Ireland are permitted for use in terriers.