

Submission by Helga's Pet Resort

Re: Animal Protection and Related Legislation
Amendment Bill 2025



11/08/2025

PREFACE:

Helga's Pet Resort supports the inclusion of Standards and Guidelines for Boarding Facilities and Doggy Day Care Centres.

The following points of clarification refer primarily to the PIAA 'STANDARDS & GUIDELINES FOR BEST PRACTICE BOARDING FACILITIES/ESTABLISHMENTS & DOGGY DAY CARE CENTRES'

General:

If the PIAA code of practice if adopted as written, would businesses in the NT be required or encouraged to become members of the PIAA? Would the mandatory Veterinary inspection and reporting as stipulated in the document, be to the PIAA or NT animal welfare or not mandatory but recommended?

Re. Kennel Size and Fence Height:

As provided in PIAA document -

Dog kennel sizes for overnight boarding: Size of dog	Height of dog at shoulder (cms)	Minimum floor area (m2)	Minimum width (cms) **	Minimum height (cms)	Increased floor area for each additional dog (m2)
Large	>80	3.5	120	180	1.7
Medium	50-80	2.4	90	180	1.2
Small	<50	1.5	90	180	1.0

1. With respect to minimum kennel sizes, we question the need to standardize minimum height requirements.
2. It may be more appropriate to assess and approve kennel sizing and fence security on a case-by-case basis. Just because a fence or enclosure is a certain size does not in itself make it suitable.
3. Kennels must be appropriate to the animal in that environment. They must be safe and secure. Potentially aggressive animals must be kennelled securely and

in such a way that their environment is able to be cleaned daily and they can be fed without risk to the staff.

4. A 1.8m fence without a roof or return at the top, even with direct supervision, may not be suitable, as some dogs will jump over.
5. In the case of chain mesh fencing, some dogs will rip and tear through it. The fencing material must be appropriate and secure.
6. Most small breeds, old or infirm animals may be more suitably housed in kennels that are lower and/or less confined.
7. Some small dogs can, and will, climb fences, even at 1.8m. Fencing for these dogs should be designed to keep the dog safe, secure and prevent the ability to climb out. Fencing must minimize the ability to either escape, enter another kennel or injure themselves from a high fall.
8. All kennels should be engineered and constructed for the climate in which they exist, e.g. heating, cooling, tropical storms, cyclone risk.

Acceptable Kennelling:

1. A designated isolation area may be an area that is used for other purposes until it is needed to be the 'dedicated' isolation space. The reason for isolation may impact on the location of the dedicated space; e.g. infectious vs medical monitoring due to recent surgery.
2. There is nothing about 'sharing' kennels with dogs from different unknown owners. This should not be acceptable practice.
3. There should be oversight of "home boarding", for example 'Mad Paws'. Currently there are no inspections, or guidelines for the safety of the environment, e.g. double doors, fencing height, security. Are they even registered?
4. There should be guidelines for "home visitation" type boarding where someone pops in once a day to feed / water /exercise. There are no guidelines for time spent, care provided, etc.

Staffing numbers:

Re the provision to provide a specified level of staffing for an eight hour period.

Kennels may not operate on an eight-hour day. They may work on a split shift basis with most work with animals happening at morning and evening.

It is necessary to have more staff during hours when kennels are being cleaned and animals are being exercised.

Fewer staff may be required during customer open hours for check-in or check out procedures.

Kennel businesses often operate with restricted work periods and open times to help with animal welfare and noise management. Work in boarding kennels located in the top end should be done before or after the heat of the day, with a resultant quieter time during the middle of the day. During the quiet times, fewer staff may be required.

Documentation:

Maintaining paper copies of vaccination certificates or vet reports may not be necessary where kennel management database systems are used that record this information. Vaccinations need to be updated yearly for KC or Lepto. There is a 3 year vaccine for C3, so the 5 year requirement is excessive.

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Directors