

APPENDIX J – REPORT FROM THE VETERINARIAN

24th March 2016

Breeding of dogs Act 1973

Mr D. and Mrs B Broadbent, Springfield, Wynyard Road, Thorpe Thewles TS21 3JQ

On 23rd March 2016 I visited the above premises accompanied by Mr C Barnes licensing officer with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. Mr and Mrs Broadbent have applied for a first licence under the Act.

The kennels comprise 1 block of 9 kennels of UPVC units built on the back of remodelled stables and one wooden built block of 5 kennels for isolation.

This is an outdoor commercial breeder type of enterprise.

At the time of the visit there were 5 Shar-Pei; 4 female and 1 male in what is planned to be an isolation block and a mastiff guard dog. This is placed a good distance from the main block of big kennels.

A second block has been constructed similar in quality to the Kennels at Ellechim. These comprise 9 much larger kennels with big runs, housing German Shepherd dogs.

14 German Shepherd dogs were on site at this time. There were also household pets in the accommodation and 2 of the kennels.

The kennels are well insulated and each has direct access to an outside uncovered run through a pop hole which is closed at night. The sleeping areas have heat lamps, raised plastic beds and, I was informed, bedding is supplied on a night and removed in the mornings. Extractor fans are fitted. The kennels were well illuminated, warm, clean and comfortable. The kitchen area has not yet been fully constructed and it is also proposed to add a reception area and another block of 6 kennels for whelping quarters and puppies.

The record keeping is computerised and I discussed the type of records which should be kept, and worming programs for use for puppies and bitches.

The dogs are exercised 3-4 times daily around the fenced paddocks.

One of the staff members is looking into going on a microchipping course.

All the dogs are to be KC registered, hip and elbow scored. The KC rules for breeding will be followed.

I have been made aware Mr and Mrs Broadbent are working with Mr Hedley as a consultant regarding the planning and design of the kennel's and some input into bloodlines for the breeding bitches and the stud dogs. As far as I am aware the two businesses are separate enterprises.

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It was mentioned by the client that there could be a concern regarding staff being onsite overnight. In my professional opinion I would say it is imperative for the dogs' welfare that someone is resident at the property. Mr Hedley, though neighbouring, lives too far away to deal with any emergencies that might arise, particularly as this is a breeding enterprise. The staffing levels during the day would have to be adequate for the number of dogs and dealing with normal day to day welfare issues, such as cleaning and feeding as well as supervision of any whelping issues with new pups.

I would not recommend the council to licence any "lock up" establishments at all.

I was made aware that a cattery has concerns about the noise from the dogs disturbing the cats. It is about a direct 600m away, across the road and up a hill. While the dogs did bark loudly as expected when disturbed by visitors arriving, they quietened quickly and then remained silent during my visit. There is a very high solid wooden fence between the kennels and the road, which should help reduce nuisance noise.

I drove up to the area of the cattery and listened while the dogs were deliberately provoked into barking for me; the sound was audible but not especially intrusive and not at a level where I would consider it detrimental to the cats unless the barking is allowed to become prolonged.

Once completed, the kennels should be very suitable under the Act and the applicants appear to be knowledgeable and experienced.

I recommend a licence be granted under the Act.

Signed

A.J. Holroyd
B.V.M&S. M.R.C.V.S.