

Standards of Care for Cats and Dogs Regulations
made under Section 39 of the
Animal Protection Act
S.N.S. 2008, c. 33
N.S. Reg. 182/2014 (November 27, 2014, effective December 2, 2014)

Citation

1 These regulations may be cited as the *Standards of Care for Cats and Dogs Regulations*.

Application of these regulations

- 2 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), these regulations apply to every owner or caretaker of a cat or dog.
- (2) These regulations do not apply with respect to a cat or dog that is being cared for at a veterinarian facility in any of the categories set out in Section 70 of the *Veterinary Medical Regulations* made under the *Veterinary Medical Act*.

Definitions

3 In these regulations,

“Act” means the *Animal Protection Act*;

“animal” means a cat or a dog;

“pen” means an outdoor enclosure used to confine an animal by means of a fence, wall or natural structure in order to prevent the animal from leaving a property;

“shelter” means a structure, such as a dog house, shed, hangar, barn or garage, or part of such a structure, to which an animal has access;

“tether” means a rope or similar material that is attached on one end to the neck, head or body of an animal for restraint or control and is affixed at the other end to a stationary object.

General standards of care

4 (1) For the purposes of clause 2(2)(a) of the Act,

(a) water is adequate if it meets all of the following criteria:

- (i) it is clean, fresh, potable, unfrozen water of a drinkable temperature,
- (ii) it is accessible by an animal in sufficient volume, taking into account the weather and temperature, to maintain normal hydration for the age, species, condition, size and type of the animal, or in a volume prescribed by a veterinarian;

(b) food is adequate if it meets all of the following criteria:

- (i) it is accessible to an animal in sufficient quantities and nutritive value to enable the animal to maintain healthy growth and a healthy body weight for the age, breed, condition and size of the animal, or in quantities or nutritive value prescribed by a veterinarian,
 - (ii) it is provided at suitable intervals for the species, age, and condition of the animal, but at least once daily, or at intervals prescribed by a veterinarian.
- (2) An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that a receptacle or container that is intended for providing food or water to the animal is usable and designed and placed in a manner that prevents spillage, injury and contamination.
- (3) An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that the animal receives regular grooming and claw care.
- (4) An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that a collar or restraining device that is used on the animal meets all of the following requirements:
 - (a) it must be well-fitted;
 - (b) it must be appropriate to the age and size of the animal;
 - (c) it must not hamper the animal's ability to breathe;
 - (d) it must not cause trauma or injury to the animal.

Standards of care for animals outdoors

- 5** (1) An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that an area in which the animal is being kept outdoors meets all of the following requirements:
- (a) the area must provide protection from inclement weather to which the animal could otherwise be exposed and that could cause the animal to be in distress;
 - (b) shade must be accessible to the animal at all times within the area;
 - (c) the area must be clean and free from excess excrement.
- (2) In deciding whether protection from inclement weather is required under clause (1)(a), an animal's owner or caretaker must consider all of the following to determine the animal's ability to adapt to weather conditions:
- (a) the animal's age;
 - (b) the animal's health;

- (c) the animal's breed;
- (d) the animal's ability to adapt to the heat or cold;
- (e) the animal's coat;
- (f) the outdoor temperature;
- (g) the inclement weather that the animal could be exposed to.

Standards of care for shelters

- 6 (1)** An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that the animal has continuous access to a shelter if the animal is kept outdoors
- (a) for more than 12 hours at a time; or
 - (b) in any weather conditions that could cause the animal to be in distress.
- (2)** In deciding whether protection from weather conditions is required under clause (1)(b), an animal's owner or caretaker must consider all of the following to determine the animal's ability to adapt to weather conditions:
- (a) the animal's age;
 - (b) the animal's health;
 - (c) the animal's breed;
 - (d) the animal's ability to adapt to the heat or cold;
 - (e) the animal's coat;
 - (f) the outdoor temperature;
 - (g) the inclement weather that the animal could be exposed to.
- (3)** An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that a shelter required by this Section meets all of the following requirements:
- (a) it must not present a risk to the health or safety of the animal;
 - (b) it must be accessible to the animal;
 - (c) it must provide protection from inclement weather;

- (d) it must be sufficiently ventilated to prevent the accumulation of moisture and odours;
- (e) it must have flooring and bedding that is clean and dry and sufficient to provide adequate insulation from inclement weather;
- (f) if it is a dog shelter, its ceiling height must be at least 5 cm greater than the height of the dog in a sitting position measured from the top of the dog's head to the ground;
- (g) its sleeping area must allow for the animal to easily turn around and lie down.

Standards of care for pens

- 7 (1)** An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that a pen used for the animal meets all of the following requirements:
- (a) it must be designed and located to prevent injury or distress to the animal;
 - (b) it must have a clean, dry place, free from excessive excrement, where the animal can lie down;
 - (c) it must be kept in good repair.
- (2)** If more than 1 animal is kept in a pen, the animals' owner or caretaker must ensure that the pen has an area large enough to provide the animals with adequate space for all of the following:
- (a) feeding, resting, urinating and defecating;
 - (b) engaging in species-typical behaviours and maintaining adequate social distances.
- (3)** An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that the animal is not left in a pen unsupervised for more than 12 consecutive hours.
- (4)** If an animal is kept in a pen for longer than 12 consecutive hours in any 24-hour period, the animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that the animal has time out of the pen during that same 24-hour period to allow for exercise, socialization and protection from inclement weather.

Standards of care for tethering

- 8 (1)** An animal's owner or caretaker may tether the animal for only up to 12 hours in any 24-hour period.
- (2)** If an animal has been tethered for 12 consecutive hours, the owner or caretaker of the animal must untether the animal for 12 consecutive hours before tethering the animal again.

- (3) An animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that the minimum length of a tether used on the animal is the greater of
 - (a) 5 m; and
 - (b) 5 times the length of the animal, as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail.
- (4) In addition to the length requirement of subsection (3), an animal's owner or caretaker must ensure that a tether used on the animal meets all of the following requirements:
 - (a) it must allow the animal to reach its food and water and a clean, dry, place to lie down in a shaded area or shelter, if required by these regulations;
 - (b) it must allow the animal to move in a manner that is safe and, except by the length of the tether, is unrestricted;
 - (c) it must be configured to prevent the animal from doing any of the following:
 - (i) becoming entangled with other objects or animals,
 - (ii) moving over an edge, such as the edge of a wall or stairway, in a manner that could result in strangulation or injury of the animal;
 - (d) it must not cause discomfort for the animal because of its type or weight.

Standards of care for transporting animals

- 9 (1) A person must not transport an animal in the trunk of a motor vehicle.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a motor vehicle, such as a station wagon, passenger van, sport-utility vehicle or hatchback model, that does not have a closed area as its main storage compartment.
- (3) A person must not transport an animal in a motor vehicle outside the passenger compartment unless the animal is confined or secured
 - (a) in a container that meets the requirements of subsection (4); and
 - (b) in a manner that prevents the animal from experiencing injury or distress, falling off the vehicle or otherwise injuring itself or causing a hazard to other vehicles.
- (4) A container that is used to transport an animal in a motor vehicle outside the passenger compartment must meet all of the following requirements:
 - (a) it must be constructed to prevent an animal from escaping;

- (b) it must be constructed to allow the animal to have good footing, protection from inclement weather and adequate ventilation;
 - (c) it must be durable and kept in good repair;
 - (d) it must be large enough to enable the animal to turn around normally, to stand and sit erect and to lie in a natural position;
 - (e) it must be secured to the motor vehicle.
- (5) A person must not leave or confine an animal in any unattended motor vehicle or enclosed container under any conditions that could endanger the health or well-being of the animal or any circumstances that could reasonably be expected to cause distress or death to the animal, including any of the following:
- (a) heat;
 - (b) cold;
 - (c) lack of adequate ventilation;
 - (d) lack of food or water.
- (6) An inspector or peace officer may remove an animal from a motor vehicle or other enclosed container if the animal's safety appears to be in immediate danger from any of the conditions or circumstances referred to in subsection (5).
- (7) An inspector or peace officer who removes an animal from a motor vehicle must take it to an animal shelter or other place of safekeeping or, if the inspector or peace officer considers it necessary, to a veterinary hospital for treatment.
- (8) An inspector or peace officer is authorized to take all steps that are reasonably necessary to remove an animal from a motor vehicle or other enclosed container, including breaking into the motor vehicle, after a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other person responsible has been made.
- (9) An inspector or peace officer who removes an animal from a motor vehicle must leave a written notice bearing his or her name and title, and the address of the location where the animal can be claimed, in a secure and conspicuous location on or within the motor vehicle.
- (10) Subject to the Act, an animal that has been removed from a motor vehicle or enclosed container by an inspector or peace officer may be claimed by the owner only after payment of any charges that have accrued for the maintenance, care, medical treatment or impoundment of the animal.

- (11) This Section does not affect in any way existing liabilities or immunities under the Act, or create any new immunities or liabilities.

Certificate of health on sale of animal

- 10** (1) In this Section, “certificate of health” means the veterinarian’s certificate of good health required by subsection 21(6) of the Act on the sale of an animal.
- (2) A certificate of health must be in Form A.
- (3) A certificate of health is valid for only 1 animal.
- (4) A certificate of health is valid for 6 months from the date it is issued and is valid for only 1 sale.

Form A: Veterinary Certificate of Health for Cats and Dogs

**Province of Nova Scotia
Veterinary Certificate of Health for Cats and Dogs**

Veterinarian		Date	
Veterinary clinic		Current owner	
Veterinary clinic address		Current owner address	
Animal name	Species	Sex	
Date of birth	Breed	Colour	
Microchip number (if applicable)	Distinguishing markings		
Reproductive status: Intact Spay/neuter Unknown			

Physical Exam Findings:

Temperature _____ Heart rate _____ Respiratory rate _____ Mucous membranes _____ Capillary refill time _____ Weight _____

	Normal	Abnormal	If abnormal, explain (using back of sheet if necessary)
General appearance			
Oral			
Teeth			
Eyes			
Ears			
Heart			
Respiratory			
Lymph nodes			
Abdominal palpation			
Gastrointestinal			
Skin			
Musculature			
Skeletal			
Other observations/ recommended treatments			

I have examined this animal on (insert date) _____ and noted above my observations based on this physical examination. I have not conducted any tests beyond a physical examination. My examination relied in part on information from the owner, which cannot be warranted as to accuracy. This Veterinary Certificate of Health indicates the health status of this animal on the date of the examination, based on my physical examination. It is not intended to be relied on to predict the future health of this animal, including any conditions that may arise after the date of examination or that were not detectable on physical examination. This Certificate cannot be relied on as a guarantee or warranty, express or implied, respecting this animal's health.

X

Signature of licensed veterinarian