



**GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA**

MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES AND ANIMAL RIGHTS
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT
FOR FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE
AND ANIMAL RIGHTS



Guidelines for a person operating a pet grooming establishment to render a pet grooming service

S.L. 439.25 Reg8 (1)

16th July 2024

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Guidelines on the detailed obligatory specification of animal equipment and other specifications, in order for a person operating a pet grooming establishment to render a pet grooming service in terms of Regulation 8 (1) of Subsidiary Legislation 439.25 Standards for Operating Pet Grooming Establishments Regulations

In exercise of the powers conferred by regulation 8 (1) of Subsidiary Legislation 439.25 Standards for Operating Pet Grooming Establishments Regulations, the Director (Animal Welfare) prescribes the following guidelines on specifications, for a person operating a pet grooming establishment to render a pet grooming service.

Regulation 3 - Registration of establishment

1. General Provisions on Registration of the Establishment

1. Operators of pet grooming establishment shall at least 30 days before operation apply on the prescribed form for registration of the establishment.
2. Any applications by persons under the age of 18 years will not be considered.
3. The operator of a pet grooming establishment shall ensure that any change in the registration details laid down in sub regulation 3(4) are communicated to the Animal Welfare Directorate at the earliest opportunity and by not later than 7 calendar days from the effect in change.
4. Should the operator of a pet Grooming establishment decide to suspend or shut down its operations any such plans are to be notified to the Directorate at the earliest convenience.
5. Renewal of registration thereof shall be affected at least 30 days from the expiry of any registration to allow sufficient time for processing.
6. The application shall be submitted and /or renewed online through the portal <https://www.servizz.gov.mt/mt/Pages/default.aspx>
7. A pet grooming establishment shall have an appropriate animal health control programme designed and implemented under the responsibility of a professional registered with the Veterinary Surgeons' Council and the said programme shall be designed and implemented in accordance with the law as in force from time to time.

2. Animal Health Programme

The purpose of the Animal Health Program is to establish and maintain optimal health, hygiene, and well-being of animals in the grooming establishment. The general is an outline of recommended inclusions.

2.1 Disease Control Measures

1. The establishment shall operate on an appointment only basis to minimise overcrowding and stress.

2. Animals exhibiting signs of illness (coughing, sneezing, discharges, skin lesions, parasites, etc.) shall not be admitted unless cleared by a veterinarian.
3. Owners must provide a health declaration, including existing health conditions.
4. Signed owner consent is advisable for all grooming sessions.
5. Monitor animal health throughout their stay and have a protocol for any health concerns.
6. Animals from different households shall be separated to prevent disease transmission and reduce stress.
7. Co-housing in the same crate shall only occur with written consent from the pet owner.
8. Health records shall be monitored and maintained for every animal that visits the facility, including vaccination records, any noted symptoms, and health incidents.
9. Staff should be trained to recognise signs of common diseases (e.g., upper respiratory infections in cats or kennel cough in dogs).
10. Contact between animals, should be limited particularly if they are not from the same household.
11. Grooming tools and equipment shall be kept separate to minimise transmission risks.

2.2 Pre-grooming Checks, Disease Control and Minimisation

1. **Animal Health Declaration:** It is recommended that pet owners sign a declaration disclosing any known health conditions and behavioural traits of their pet prior to each grooming session.
2. **Vaccination Verification:** Require proof of vaccination for all animals before grooming, especially for contagious diseases such as:
 - a. Dogs: Distemper, Parvovirus, Rabies, Bordetella, and Canine Influenza;
 - b. Cats: Feline Distemper, Calicivirus, Herpesvirus, and Rabies
3. **Other Mammals:** For applicable vaccines, depending on species (e.g., ferrets should be vaccinated for Distemper and Rabies or any other vaccination recommended by the veterinarian drawing the animal health plan).
4. **Routine Health Inspections:** Perform visual health checks on animals before starting grooming.
5. Look for signs of infection, parasites, wounds, or unusual behaviour.
6. **Quarantine Protocols:** The Animal Health programme shall designate a separate area for animals that show signs of illness. Isolate these animals immediately and recommend that owners seek veterinary care without delay.
7. **Pest Control:** Establish monthly pest control treatments to prevent fleas, ticks, vermin and other parasites from infesting the facility.

2.3 General Health and Safety Guidelines

1. Ensure that all grooming areas, tools, and equipment are cleaned and disinfected between every animal.
2. The method of cleaning and disinfection shall be clearly delineated within the animal health programme.

3. When disinfectants are used, they should be certified as animal safe, and where applicable such disinfectants should be thoroughly rinsed to minimise the residues. Such disinfectants are to be utilised as per manufacturer's instructions at the stipulated concentration/dilution rate at the recommended contact times.
4. The operator shall maintain regular deep-cleaning schedules for the entire facility as per section 2.4.2 hereunder.
5. Records shall be kept of the cleaning dates and times and nature of cleaning.
6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Staff shall during all times of operations wear gloves, aprons, and face masks when handling animals to reduce cross-contamination.

2.4 Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols

2.4.1 Daily Cleaning

1. Grooming establishments shall sweep and mop all floors with animal safe disinfectant.
2. Use veterinarian-approved disinfectants that are effective against common pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi.
3. The operator shall ensure that the cleaning protocol involves disinfection to all surfaces of the pen, including the floors, walls, doors, and any fixtures (feeding stations, bedding areas)
4. The disinfectant used shall be effective against the following common animal diseases:

For Dogs:

- a. Parvovirus;
- b. Canine Distemper
- c. Kennel Cough (*Bordetella bronchiseptica* and Canine Parainfluenza);
- d. Canine Coronavirus;
- e. Leptospirosis;
- f. Giardia

For Cats:

- a. Feline Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper);
 - b. Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV);
 - c. Feline Calicivirus;
 - d. Feline Herpesvirus (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis);
 - e. Feline Coronavirus (FCoV);
 - f. Giardia
5. The disinfection protocol shall also apply to all grooming tools (scissors, clippers, brushes other equipment) and grooming stations after each use.
 6. Records shall be kept for every cleaning.

2.4.2 Deep Cleaning of the Grooming Establishment

1. Grooming establishments shall thoroughly clean walls, floors, and grooming equipment on a regular basis.
2. The storage areas, laundry facilities, and ventilation systems shall be thoroughly disinfected on a regular basis.
3. Use of Disinfectants: Groomers shall only utilise veterinarian-approved disinfectants that are effective against common pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi and this is a mandatory requirement.
4. Groomers shall ensure that the cleaning protocol to put the disinfectant to all surfaces of the pen, including the floors, walls, doors, and any fixtures (feeding stations, bedding areas) and the disinfectant used shall be effective against the following common animal diseases:

For Dogs:

- a. Parvovirus;
- b. Canine Distemper;
- c. Kennel Cough (*Bordetella bronchiseptica* and Canine Parainfluenza);
- d. Canine Coronavirus;
- e. Leptospirosis;
- f. Giardia

For Cats:

- a. Feline Panleukopenia (Feline Distemper);
- b. Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV);
- c. Feline Calicivirus;
- d. Feline Herpesvirus (Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis);
- e. Feline Coronavirus (FCoV);
- f. Giardia

5. Records shall be kept for every cleaning session.

2.5 Personal Hygiene Protocol

1. Staff shall wear clean uniforms and wash hands between sessions.
2. Personal hygiene protocol shall enforce clean clothing policy, wash towels and overalls between sessions.
3. Grooming overalls must not be worn outside the establishment.
4. All towels and instruments shall be cleaned and disinfected between sessions. Where possible, multiple sets of pre-disinfected grooming instruments should be available to ensure that disinfection is observed at all times.

2.6 Health and Safety Education for Pet Owners

1. Educate Pet Owners: Provide pet owners with information on the importance of regular grooming, vaccination, regular health check-ups, and parasite prevention.

2. Appointment Reminders: Send reminders to pet owners about the upcoming grooming sessions, required vaccinations and any routine health checks before appointments.

2.7 Record Keeping and Monitoring

1. Grooming Session Info: The records shall also include full details per animal including date, service, microchip ID, breed, age, gender, and owner info.
2. Maintain Accurate Records: Keep comprehensive records for each pet, including grooming history, observed health conditions, treatments administered, and any incidents.
3. Regular Review of Procedures: Review and update health and safety protocols at least biannually, ensuring they are up to date with best practices and veterinary recommendations.

2.8 Staff Training and Ongoing Education

1. Staff Training: Conduct initial and periodic refresher training on disease control, first aid, and handling techniques.
2. Continuing Education: Encourage staff to stay informed on animal health trends, new diseases, and updated grooming practices through workshops or courses.
3. The animal health program should focus on the training. As a minimum one person which should be available should be trained in first aid. Where the person trained in first aid is not available at the premises another competent person with the necessary first aid training should be available at the premises. It is therefore highly advisable that multiple personnel are trained in animal first aid.
4. As a minimum the first aid course shall cover the topics described hereunder.

2.8.1 Assessing an animal's condition

1. Checking vital signs: The ABCs of First Aid (Airway, Breathing, Circulation) breathing, heart rate, temperature, and hydration.
2. Checking Vital Signs: Measuring temperature, pulse, and respiration.
3. Recognising Shock: Signs and immediate response to shock in animals.

2.8.2 Common Emergencies and First Aid Techniques

1. Choking and Airway Obstructions: Techniques for clearing blockages in the airways.
2. CPR for Animals: Step-by-step Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation procedures for dogs, cats, and small mammals as applicable.
3. Control of Bleeding: How to identify and manage different types of bleeding, including direct pressure, bandaging, and tourniquet application.
4. Fractures and Broken Bones: Immobilisation and safe handling of animals with suspected fractures.
5. Wound Care: Cleaning, disinfecting, and dressing minor and major wounds.
6. Burns and Scalds: Recognising and treating thermal burns, chemical burns, and scalds.
7. Poisoning and Toxins: Identifying signs of poisoning, administering first aid, and contacting the veterinarian.

8. Seizures and Neurological Events: How to keep the animal safe during a seizure, and steps to take afterward.
9. Hypothermia and Heatstroke: Recognising and treating temperature-related emergencies.
10. Eye Injuries: Cleaning and stabilising eye injuries.

2.8.3 Recognising Illness and Disease

Staff shall be trained to identify and provide basic care to animals as follows:

1. Common Signs of Illness: Identifying symptoms that require immediate care, such as vomiting, diarrhoea, difficulty breathing, and changes in behaviour.
2. Dehydration and Hydration Techniques: Recognising dehydration and administering oral fluids if appropriate.
3. Ear and Skin Conditions: Basic care for ear infections, abscesses, and skin irritations.

2.8.4 First Aid for Small Mammals (Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters) - only if applicable

Staff shall be trained to identify and provide basic care to small animals as follows:

1. Handling and Restraint Specific to Small Mammals: Special techniques for handling fragile animals.
2. Unique Emergencies in Small Mammals: First aid responses for conditions specific to these animals, such as bloat, dental issues, and respiratory infections.
3. Small Mammal Nutrition Needs: How dietary emergencies differ from those of dogs and cats.
4. Th above is only applicable for those grooming establishments which offer grooming services on small animals.

2.9 Creating a Pet First Aid Kit

1. Essential Supplies: Grooming establishments shall train staff to keep in stock a minimum of items that should be included in a pet first aid kit for dogs, cats, and small mammals. The essential supplies to be included in a pet first aid kit are found under these guidelines under Regulation 9: Emergency and restraining equipment - Section 1.1.
2. Medication and Dosages: Understanding the safe use of over-the-counter medications and correct dosages for various species (with veterinarian guidance) with regards to any veterinary medicinal product included in the first aid kit.
3. Storage and Maintenance of Supplies: Personnel shall be trained to keep the first aid kit up-to-date and accessible. Any expired products are to be removed and replaced and any utilised products replenished without delay.

3. Communication and Emergency Protocols

The following communication and emergency protocols shall be put in place:

1. How to Contact a veterinarian or Emergency Animal Hospital: Preparing to provide relevant information to professionals.
2. Pet Owner Communication: How to keep pet owners informed and calm during an emergency.
3. Documentation: Recording the details of incidents and the care provided for continuity in professional veterinary treatment.

4. Practical Skills and Scenario-Based Training

The following practical skills and scenario Based training are recommended:

1. Hands-On Practice: Practicing CPR, bandaging, splinting, and other essential skills.
2. Scenario Simulations: Interactive simulations of real-life emergency situations to build confidence and readiness.
3. Feedback and Assessment: Receiving guidance and constructive feedback from instructors on technique and approach.

5. Certification and Continuing Education

1. Assessment and Certification: Completion of a practical and theoretical assessment to earn certification in pet first aid.
2. Ongoing Education: Importance of refreshing skills periodically, staying updated with best practices, and renewing certification.
3. All staff are to be trained in animal handling and infection control.
4. Recognising Health Issues: Train staff to identify signs of illness, stress, or discomfort in animals.
5. Continuous Learning: In so far as possible grooming establishment personnel are encouraged to attend regular workshops on updates in animal care, new grooming techniques, and emerging health issues.

Regulation 4 – Personnel

1. The operator of the pet grooming establishment shall on a yearly basis demand an updated Police Conduct in respect of all employees within the grooming establishment.
2. Should any employee have any record of conviction related to cruelty to animals such employee shall not be involved within any operation within the grooming establishment.
3. The records pertaining to the qualifications and Police conduct of all employees shall be kept on site within the establishment and be available for inspection by Animal Welfare Officers.
4. The records pertaining to personnel shall also cover the duties in writing of every person working within the establishment including any students or other trainees. These duties shall be mutually signed by the employee and the employer.
5. The records of employees who no longer work within the grooming establishment shall be kept for a period of 12 months following termination of employment.

Regulation 5 – Animal Records

1. Records of any pet animals groomed within the establishments shall be kept in a relevant file.
2. Keeping of records on an electronic system is acceptable provided that such electronic systems are securely backed up and all records are certified to be tamper proof.
3. Any records must be kept on site to enable inspection by Animal Welfare Officers.
4. Records shall be kept for 1 year.

Regulation 6 - Pet grooming establishment

1. Facility Structure and State of Repair

1.1 General Maintenance

1. The premises shall be always kept in a good state of repair.
2. Without prejudice to legislation on permitting any alterations which may affect operations shall be communicated to the competent authority especially if these affect the layout and/or flow of operations including any changes which may affect the dimensions of enclosures.

1.2 Walls and Flooring

1. Operators of pet grooming establishment shall use non-porous, easy-to-clean materials, such as tiles or sealed concrete, vinyl or other type of laminated flooring, to prevent the buildup of bacteria.
2. Operators shall ensure that walls and flooring are intact, with no cracks or holes, as these could harbour pests or debris.

1.3 Lighting

1. Operators of the grooming establishment shall ensure that all premises are equipped with adequate lighting to prevent strain on staff and facilitate accurate grooming work. Natural lighting is beneficial, but it should be supplemented with quality artificial lighting.
2. Where applicable and where animals are kept of groomed that, artificial lighting shall be provided for a period at least equivalent to the period of natural light normally available between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

1.4 Ventilation

1. Air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations are to be kept within limits which are not harmful to dogs and cats and other species to be groomed.
2. The ventilation shall be sufficient to avoid overheating and, where necessary, in combination with heating systems, to remove excessive moisture.
3. Good airflow is essential to manage odours, prevent respiratory issues, and maintain a comfortable temperature. This requirement shall be safeguarded at all times.
4. Air quality must be maintained through adequate ventilation or use of air purifiers if necessary. High-Efficiency Particulate (HEPA) filters are recommended where possible.

2. Safety and Security Measures

2.1 Equipment Safety

1. Groomers should regularly inspect grooming tools for wear and tear, and replace damaged items promptly.
2. Equipment used within the grooming establishment shall where possible be equipped with safety features, such as blade guards, to reduce the risk of injury.
3. Electrical Safety: Ensure that outlets are Ground Fault Circuit Interrupted (GFCI-protected) to prevent electrical shock, especially in areas near water.
4. All cords and wires shall be secured to avoid tripping hazards.

2.2 Emergency Procedures

1. Grooming establishments shall have fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, and emergency exits marked and accessible.
2. Staff shall be trained on emergency evacuation procedures in addition to the aforementioned basic pet first aid.

3. Durability and Stability of Structures

3.1 Durable Fixtures

1. Grooming tables, tubs, and kennels shall be installed in a way to ensure that they are stable and sturdy, able to support the weight and movement of animals.
2. Wall mounts and shelving units shall be reinforced to prevent accidental falls.

3.2 Secure Kennels/Crates and Holding Areas

1. Use high-quality kennels/crates with secure locks, ensuring they are large enough for the animal's comfort but also escape-resistant.
2. Ensure kennels/crates are spaced out to reduce stress and cross-contamination risk.
3. Use safety equipment like harnesses and loops to ensure animal comfort and security.

4. Enclosure should be suitable to their species in accordance with the Keeping of Dogs Regulations SL 439.21 with respect to construction, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness except for when they are being groomed by the person operating a pet grooming establishment.
5. The use of crates is only permissible when animals are confined for brief periods of time not exceeding 30 minutes.
6. Operators are encouraged to define their policy for providing food/water on-site, including provision of treatment-specific food brought by owners.
7. Veterinary consent must be provided in writing for any sedation procedures.

4. Comfort for Pets

4.1 Temperature Control

1. The operators of grooming establishments shall ensure that the following guidelines are adhered to:
 - a. Maintain a consistent, comfortable temperature, adjusting for seasonal changes. Heating or cooling units should be used as necessary to avoid pets becoming too hot or cold.
 - b. Operators shall ensure that temperature is maintained within a range of:
 - (a) 10 to 26°C in the indoor areas where adult dogs are kept;
 - (b) 15 to 26°C in the indoor areas where adult cats are kept;
 - c. It is highly advisable that grooming establishment keep accurate logs of temperature during all the times of operation most notably those where animals are accepted and held within the establishment.
 - d. Temperature ranges shall be adapted accordingly for animals of brachycephalic breed/type and for animals with extreme coat types (hairless or heavy-coated breeds).
2. All grooming waste and expired and deteriorated products are to be segregated from any stock and placed in a designated quarantine area.
3. The safe disposal of grooming and non-grooming waste is to be made in compliance with national legislation in force and in accordance with good hygiene practices.
4. Biohazard waste should be clearly marked, segregated and disposed of as per national legislation in force.

4.2 Noise Reduction

1. Where possible noise should be minimised by using soundproofing materials, especially in holding areas.
2. Noise from dryers or other pets can cause stress, pet groomers are therefore enjoined to consider installing doors, partitions or adopting any type of noise limiting spatial configuration to reduce sound levels.

3. Prolonged period with sound exposure to exceeding 80 db (decibels) should be avoided for cats and dogs and more than 70db for rabbit and other small mammals.

4.3 Resting Areas

1. Resting areas shall be provided with non-slip mats in grooming areas and soft bedding in kennels.
2. Fresh potable water shall be offered to pets in holding areas, especially during longer appointments.

5. Escape-Controlled Environment

5.1 Entry and Exit Points

1. The operators shall use double doors or other forms of secure barriers at all main exits to prevent pets from escaping.
2. Where and if possible, operators shall install “airlock” type systems, if possible, where only one door opens at a time.

5.2 Secured Outdoor Areas

1. If there is an outdoor area, groomers are to ensure it has high fencing and a secured entry point to prevent animals from escaping.

5.3 Pet Identification

1. For larger facilities, consider a tracking system (such as color-coded collars or tags) to prevent mix-ups and ensure each pet remains in the right area.

6. Hygiene and Health Protocols

6.1 Sanitisation

1. Clean grooming tables, kennels, and tools between each use to prevent the spread of germs and parasites (please refer to above detailed guide under section 2.4).
2. Use pet-safe disinfectants (please refer to above detailed guide under section 2.4).

6.2 Pest Control

1. Schedule regular pest control inspections and keep food stored securely to avoid attracting pests.
2. Waste Disposal: Provide adequate waste disposal options for hair, water, and other waste, following national disposal regulations in order not to attract vermin.
3. Pet waste should be separate and identified from general waste as needed and removed on a daily basis.

4. Pets Control records should be kept for any pest treatment carried out and for any recorded observance of pets.

7. Instructions for Monitoring Pet Grooming Activities

1. Groomers shall install a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system in the pet grooming establishment to monitor and record each grooming activity and session.
2. CCTV cameras should be positioned to directly capture the grooming tables where activities and sessions take place.
3. The audiovisual recordings should be retained for a period of ten (10) days.
4. Groomers are to ensure that recordings are accessible and made available to the Director or animal welfare officers upon request.
5. Operators are to follow this regulation only if the pet owner or their authorised representative is not present and does not have full visual access to the grooming session at all times.

Regulation 7: Animal enclosures

1. Animal enclosures for dogs shall be in line with subsidiary legislation 439.21. Other enclosures must conform to the following:
 - a. Enclosures must be adaptable to different sized animals, which offer the facility for the animal to move around, lie down, sit and stand.
 - b. Material in animal enclosures should be non-porous, clean and disinfected after each use and made of stainless steel.

Regulation 8: Establishment Equipment for rendering a pet grooming service

Establishing a pet grooming service requires careful selection of equipment to ensure efficiency, safety, and customer satisfaction. Below are the essential equipment and guidelines for setting up a professional pet grooming service:

1. Grooming Area Setup

The following is recommended list of equipment for the grooming area station:

1. Grooming Tables: Hydraulic or electric adjustable tables with non-slip surfaces.

2. Bathing Station: Stainless steel or plastic tubs with ramps for easy pet access.
3. Drying Equipment: High-velocity dryers, stand dryers, and cage dryers.

2. Grooming Tools

1. Clippers and Blades: Professional-grade clippers with interchangeable blades for different coat types.
2. Scissors and Shears: Straight, curved, and thinning shears for precision cutting.
3. Brushes and Combs: Slicker brushes, undercoat rakes, de-matting tools, and flea combs.

3. Bathing and Cleaning Supplies

1. Shampoos and Conditioners: Hypoallergenic, flea and tick, whitening, and medicated shampoos (only under veterinary direction).
2. Towels and Absorbent Mats: Quick-drying microfiber towels or other lint free absorbent materials are recommended.
3. Ear and Eye Cleaning Products: Safe solutions for cleaning ears and tear stains.

4. Safety and Restraints

1. Grooming Loops and Harnesses: To keep pets secure on grooming tables.
2. Muzzles and Protective Gear: For handling aggressive pets safely.
3. Non-slip Flooring: Prevents accidents and enhances safety.

5. Storage and Organisation

1. Trolleys and Storage Cabinets: For keeping grooming tools and products organised.
2. Sanitisation Equipment: UV sterilizers, disinfectants, and cleaning supplies.

6. Additional Considerations

1. Comfortable Waiting Area: Seating for pet owners and crates for pets awaiting service.
2. Point of Sale (POS) System: For scheduling, and client management.

Regulation 9: Emergency and restraining equipment.

1. Emergency Equipment

These items help manage accidents, injuries, or unforeseen situations:

1.1 First Aid Kit for Pets

The following is a minimal list of first aid items to be included in the First Aid Kit:

1. Antiseptic wipes and solutions (e.g., chlorhexidine, hydrogen peroxide);
2. Sterile gauze pads and bandages (non-stick and self-adhesive);
3. Band aid suitable for various species being groomed;
4. Sterile saline solution for irrigation;
5. Styptic powder or alternative agent (to stop minor bleeding from nails);
6. Digital thermometer;
7. Tweezers and tick removers;
8. Eye wash solution;
9. Disposable gloves;
10. Other items as recommended by the veterinarian responsible for drawing the animal health plan.
11. Emergency contact list (veterinarian, licensed veterinary clinical establishments, other veterinary emergency services).

1.2 Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness

The following is a list of equipment and required for Fire Safety and Disaster Preparedness:

1. Fire extinguishers suitable for electrical and chemical fires (obligatory);
2. Emergency exit signs and evacuation plans (obligatory);
3. The establishment shall maintain a written evacuation plan in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act (Chapter 646 of the Laws of Malta), outlining procedures for fire, animal health emergencies, and natural disasters (obligatory);
4. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors (recommended);
5. Backup generator for power outages (recommended)

1.3 Animal Handling and Escape Prevention

The following list of minimum equipment is recommended for the safe handling and to prevent the escape of animal:

1. Slip leads for emergency control;
2. Collapsible pet carriers for transport;
3. Secure gates and enclosures to prevent escapes.

2. Restraining Equipment

Proper restraint ensures safety for both the pet and the groomer during grooming sessions. Hereunder is a list of recommended retaining equipment segregated by category.

2.1 Grooming Restraints

The below is a recommended list of restraining equipment:

1. Grooming Loops and Nooses – Adjustable nylon or padded loops to secure pets safely on grooming tables.
2. Grooming Hammocks – Supports anxious or fidgety pets during nail trimming and face grooming.
3. Grooming Slings – Helps immobilise pets for safe handling.

2.2 Handling and Protective Gear

The below is a recommended list of protective gear:

1. Muzzles (Soft, basket, or adjustable) – Used for aggressive or temperamental pets.
2. Anti-bite gloves – Thick, puncture-resistant gloves for handling aggressive animals.
3. Ear protection – Reduces noise sensitivity for pets during drying.

2.3 Restraints for Bathing and Drying

The below is a recommended list of safety restraints for animal protection during bathing and drying:

1. Tub tethers and suction cup restraints – Keep pets secure during bathing.
2. Drying cage with safety features – Prevents overheating with proper ventilation.

Regulation 10: Administration of medicine /Animal Health Programme

1. Medication and Treatment Administration

1. Administration of Medications: Medications shall only be administered as prescribed by a veterinarian.
2. The Animal Health Programme shall establish clear guidelines and require owner consent for all treatments.
3. Veterinary consent and guidance must be provided in writing for any sedation procedures.
4. Records shall be maintained of all medications administered, including dosage, frequency, and administration method. f
5. Medications records should be kept for a minimum of 1 year.

2. Topical Treatments

1. The animal health programme shall delineate the use and application of flea and tick prevention treatments, ear cleaners, or medicated shampoos as needed.
2. Written consent shall be obtained from pet owners for topical applications even for the application of Over-the-Counter Products (OTC) which are legally exempted from a prescription requirement.