

Large-scale Dog Breeding Kennel Requirements

This handout is a summary of requirements for Large-scale Dog Breeding Kennels (LDBK) depending on the scope of operations. It is the responsibility of the kennel owner(s), and manager(s) to be knowledgeable of all applicable laws and regulations. This handout points out where certain items are referenced and can be found in a law or regulation. However, this handout is not a substitute for reading and understanding a law or regulation. Large Scale Dog Breeding Kennels (LDBK) have requirements for animal housing, animal care, and animal documentation. The following list contains the main elements required of an LDBK. The listing follows the 4 main categories found in Act 287 and Regulation 151: Facilities & Operations, Primary Enclosures, Animal Health & Husbandry, and Recordkeeping.

Each requirement is classified as either **Core**, **Priority**, or **Critical**. The designation is based on that requirement's relationship to, and possible impact on, animal health and safety. When inspected by MDARD, each requirement applicable to a LDBK's activities will be scored as either **SAT = Satisfactory**, **NSAT = Not Satisfactory**, **MSAT = Mitigated Satisfactory**, or **NI = Not Inspected**. If a requirement doesn't apply to the LDBK's activities the item will be scored as **NA**. At the end of each requirement, you will find the legal cite for the specific rule so that you may more easily find the full legal language in the appropriate law or regulation, many of which are found on our webpage: www.michigan.gov/MDARD-BreedingKennels. Upon request, we can provide you the law or regulation via email or mail.

In summary, the requirements stem from rules and regulations pointing to protecting animals from injury and facilitating their care. This is true for both indoor and outdoor areas where the animals may be. The LDBK facility should include sufficient, safe, space for the many aspects of working with and housing animals such as intake for new arrivals, examinations, sales transactions, isolation or treatment, food storage, laundry, and exercise. While there are a number of ways these requirements are accomplished, the end the goal is to provide an environment conducive to maintaining animal health and safety. As a reminder, all animal housing areas must pass MDARD inspection *prior* to occupancy.

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS		
Item	Risk	Requirement and legal cite(s)
1	Priority	All buildings and grounds included in the premises are kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in these rules. The premises shall remain free of an accumulation of debris. [R285.151.33(2)]
2	Priority	A suitable method is provided to eliminate excess water from the indoor housing facility. Drains are properly constructed and kept in good repair to avoid foul odors. Closed drainage systems are equipped with traps and so installed to prevent any backup on the floor of the room. [R285.151.22(5)]
3	Critical	The housing facilities (rooms/buildings/areas containing primary enclosures) for animals are structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury, to contain the animals, and to restrict the entrance of other animals. [R285.151.21(1)]
4	Priority	The interior building surfaces of the indoor housing facilities are constructed of non-absorbent materials that may be readily sanitized. [R285.151.22(4)] NOTE: <i>A community room is evaluated as both an indoor housing facility and a primary enclosure.</i>
5	Priority	The indoor housing facilities for animals are sufficiently heated to protect the dogs from cold and to provide for their health and comfort; ambient temperature shall not be allowed to fall below 50° F for dogs. R285.151.23(1) NOTE: <i>May be dependent on the specific animals (Examples: young versus old; Chihuahua versus Husky).</i>
6	Critical	Indoor housing facilities for animals are adequately ventilated to provide for the health & comfort of the animals at all times. The facility provides fresh air, either by means of windows, doors, vents, or air conditioning and is ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation. [R285.151.23(2)] NOTE: <i>A community room is evaluated as both an indoor housing facility and a primary enclosure. Ventilation is a key part of air quality, as it affects the temperature and moisture content of the room, kennel, and cage. The facility must be provided with fresh air either by windows, doors, vents, or air conditioning. The facility must be ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors and moisture condensation. Fresh air which needs to reach in the cages, kennels and rooms is essential for maintenance of good health and well-being as well as limiting the spread of infectious diseases, odors, and gases.</i>
7	Priority	The number of animals in primary enclosures do not exceed a number which prevents proper ventilation and sanitation. [R285.151.25(6)] NOTE: <i>A community room is evaluated as both a primary enclosure and an indoor housing facility. A housing facility may require a higher ventilation rate when it is at full capacity compared to when it is relatively empty, as the animals are a major source of heat, humidity, and ammonia from their urine.</i>

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Item	Risk	Requirement and legal cite(s)
8	Core	The indoor housing facilities for animals have ample light of good quality by natural or artificial means or both. The lighting provides uniform distribution and illumination of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection and cleaning during the entire working period. Primary enclosures are placed as to protect the animals from excessive illumination. [R285.151.23(3)] <i>NOTE: A community room is evaluated as both an indoor housing facility and a primary enclosure. The housing facility must have quality natural and/or artificial light that permits routine monitoring of the dogs, their housing, and aids in cleaning. Facilities should use as much natural light as possible. When artificial light is used, it should be a similar duration and intensity as natural light. Light fixtures in animal-occupied areas must be safe even if a bulb shatters.</i>
9	Priority	An effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests is established & maintained. [R285.151.33(3)] <i>NOTE: Rodents may burrow under fences. Dog feces not readily picked up may be an attractant (food source) for rats.</i>
10	Priority	In outdoor facilities; 1. When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort, sufficient shade is provided to allow animals to protect themselves from the direct rays of the sun [R285.151.24(1)], 2. Access to shelter is provided for animals to allow them to remain dry during rain and snow [R285.151.24(2)], 3. Outside shelters are located in an area with suitable drainage. [R285.151.24(3)]
11	Priority	In outdoor facilities; if dog houses with chains are used as primary enclosures for dogs kept out of doors; 1. Chains are placed or attached so they cannot become entangled with chains of other dogs or any other objects. The chain is of a type commonly used for the size of dog involved and is attached by a well-fitted collar. The chain is of such length to allow exercise and convenient access to the dog house [R285.151.26(1)], 2. The outdoor facilities are fenced around the perimeter so that animals cannot escape or other animals gain entrance. [R285.151.26(2)]

Primary enclosures are rooms, kennels, stalls, pens, runs, cages, or compartments (for example) where the animal eats, sleeps, and may spend the majority of its time until it's sold or re-homed. The layout of the enclosure plays a key role in maintaining animal health, safety, and well-being. Pop-up cages, travel crates or carriers are intended for *short-term*, temporary confinement. As they are designed to *restrict* mobility during a defined period, they are *not* acceptable for use as primary enclosures, unless the animal is being housed in one temporarily for its own safety or part of its veterinary care.

PRIMARY ENCLOSURES		
Item	Risk	Requirement and legal cite(s)
12	Critical	Primary enclosures are structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect animals from injury, to contain them, to keep predators out and enables animals to remain dry and clean. [R285.151.25(1)] <i>NOTE: A community room is evaluated as both a primary enclosure and an indoor housing facility.</i>
13	Critical	The floors of primary enclosures are constructed to protect the feet and legs of animals from injury. [R285.151.25(4)] <i>NOTE: A community room is evaluated as both a primary enclosure and an indoor housing facility.</i>
14	Priority	When a hosing or flushing method is used for cleaning a primary enclosure, any dog contained therein is removed during the cleaning process and adequate measures are taken to protect the animals in other enclosures from being contaminated with water and other wastes. [R285.151.32]
15	Priority	Excreta is removed from primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals kept therein and to reduce disease hazards and odor. [R285.151.32]
16	Critical	Primary enclosures provide sufficient space to allow each animal to turn about freely, to easily stand, sit, and lie in a comfortable, normal position. [R285.151.25(2)]
17	Core	Puppies are not housed in the same primary enclosure with adult dogs other than their dams. [R285.151.34(3)]
18	Priority	Animals housed in the same primary enclosure are maintained in compatible groups [R285.151.34(1)] and animals exhibiting a vicious disposition are housed individually in a primary enclosure. [R285.151.34(2)]
19	Critical	Animals exhibiting symptoms of communicable disease are separated from all other susceptible species of animals in such a manner to prevent the spread of such disease. [R285.151.34(5)]

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Regulation 151 addresses standards of care & husbandry to ensure animal health in LDBKs. The care called for in this regulation meets or exceeds the expectations for *adequate care* of animals as provided for in Michigan’s Penal Code, Chapter IX Animals [MCL 750.50] <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-750-50>. Components of adequate care include provision of sufficient food, suitable potable water, adequate protection and shelter from the elements, space free from health hazards including crowding, waste & insanitary conditions, exercise, and veterinary attention in order to maintain freedom from disease & illness. This is required by anyone that owns, possesses, has custody of animals including LDBKs. Animals are to have convenient access to *clean* food and water. They are to be fed a nutritious, palatable food that is appropriate for their species, age, health concerns, lactation needs, and size.

ANIMAL HEALTH & HUSBANDRY		
Item	Risk	Requirement and legal cite(s)
20	Critical	Primary enclosures are constructed and maintained so that animals kept therein have convenient access to clean water. [R285.151.25(3)] If potable water is not accessible to animals at all times, potable liquids are offered to them at least twice daily for periods of not less than 1 hour, except as otherwise required. Watering receptacles are kept clean [R285.151.31(3)] and adequate potable water is available. [R285.151.21(2)] <i>NOTE: Access to water is part of the “adequate care” definition in Michigan’s Penal Code: http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-750-50</i>
21	Critical	Primary enclosures for animals are sanitized often enough to prevent accumulation of debris or excreta or a disease hazard. [R285.151.33(1)] <i>NOTE: Sanitation is part of the definition for “adequate care” in Michigan Penal Code.</i>
22	Critical	Primary enclosures are constructed and maintained so that animals kept therein have convenient access to clean food. [R285.151.25(3)] Feeding: 1. Food receptacles are accessible to all animals and are located to minimize contamination by excreta, 2. Feeding pans are durable and kept clean. If disposable food receptacles are used, they are discarded after each feeding, 3. If self-feeders are used for feeding dry food, they are sanitized regularly to prevent molding, deterioration, or caking of food. [R285.151.31(2)] <i>NOTE: Sufficient food is a requirement of adequate care in the Penal Code. Animals are fed at least once each day except as otherwise required. The food is free from contamination and is wholesome, palatable, and of sufficient quality and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for condition and size of the animals. [R285.151.31(1)] refrigeration is provided for supplies of perishable food. [R285.151.22(1)].</i>
23	Priority	Supplies of food and bedding are stored in facilities which adequately protect them against infestation or contamination by vermin. [R285.151.22(1)]
24	Priority	A sufficient number of employees are used to maintain the prescribed level of husbandry practices set forth in the rules. [R285.151.35]
25	Critical	The services of a licensed veterinarian are available, and the registrant seeks the services of this veterinarian whenever a health hazard arises. [R285.151.36(1)&(2)] <i>NOTE: It is a violation for a LDBK to not have their current primary veterinarian on file with MDARD or to fail to promptly update MDARD in any change in veterinary services.</i>
26	Priority	Washrooms, basins, or sinks are provided to maintain cleanliness of the animal caretakers. [R285.151.22(3)]
27	Core	Provisions are made for the removal and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, dead animals, and debris. Disposal facilities are so provided and operated as to minimize vermin infestation, odors, and disease hazards. [R285.151.22(2)]
28	Priority	Vehicles used to transport animals are mechanically sound and equipped to provide fresh air to all animals being transported without injurious drafts or undue exposure to the elements. [R285.151.41(1)] <i>NOTE: Ventilation and primary enclosure regulations may also be applicable.</i>
29	Priority	Interior of animal cargo spaces (of vehicles) are kept clean [R285.151.41(2)] and if applicable, these primary enclosures are structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury, to contain and enable them to remain dry and clean. [R285.151.25(1)] <i>NOTE: Animal cargo spaces in vehicles may also need to conform to appropriate primary enclosure requirements.</i>

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Recordkeeping is not only required but is an integral part of kennel operations and animal health. Records can identify needed adjustments, resources, procedures and protocols. LDBKs are required to keep records of where dogs come from whether they were purchased or natural additions. Additional record requirements involve each dog's/puppy's description, breeding histories, and daily inventories of dogs on site.

LDBKs are also required to provide all purchasers/adopters of dogs/puppies with a valid Pet Health Certificate. These certificates are intended to inform buyers/adopters of the health status of, and medical treatments given to, the animal they receive. If a LDBK imports dogs/puppies they must also comply with import requirements for vaccinations, treatments for internal/external parasites, and all imports must be accompanied by a valid Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) or Interstate Health Certificate (IHC) issued in the State of origin.

RECORDKEEPING: ACQUISITION, DISPOSITION, INVENTORY, & BREEDING		
Item	Risk	Requirement and legal cite(s)
31	Core	A large-scale dog breeding kennel shall maintain current verifiable records for a period of at least 2 years [§287.339c(1)], and a large-scale dog breeding kennel shall make the records required under subsection (1) available to the director or his or her representative on request [R287.339c(2)]
32	Priority	LDBK maintains a record of the following information for every dog acquired; 1. The verified name and address of the person from whom the dog was acquired, 2. where the dog was acquired, and 3. the date that the dog was acquired. [R287.339c(1)(a)].
33	Priority	Records include a description of the dog including the dog's identification information, color, breed, sex, alteration status, and approximate weight and age. [R287.339c(1)(b)]
34	Priority	Imports: Dogs/puppies are accompanied by an interstate health certificate or certificate of veterinary inspection signed by an accredited veterinarian licensed to practice veterinary medicine in the dog's state of origin, including records of the dog's medications and immunizations. [§287.335a Sec. 5a(3c)], [§287.335 Sec. 5a(4c)]
35	Core	Imports: Dogs imported to LDBK are at least 6 weeks of age or older, and if 6-8 weeks of age are accompanied by their dam. [§287.335a Sec.5a(1)]; clarified by AID policy effective September 18, 2017.
36	Critical	Imports: If indicated, imported dogs/puppies have been treated for external and internal parasites so that they are not capable of spreading the external or internal parasites to another animal at the time it is imported into the state. [§287.335a Sec. 5a(3)(b)], [§287.335a Sec. 5a(4)(b)]
37	Priority	Imports: All vaccinations required for legal importation into Michigan have been given and are noted on the ICVI: Dogs: distemper, parvovirus, canine adenovirus-2 (CAV-2), and if 12 weeks of age or older vaccinated against leptospirosis, and rabies. [§287.335a Sec. 5a(3)(a)]
38	Priority	Dispositions: LDBK maintains a record of the following information for every dog disposed of: 1. the date and method of disposition of the dog, and 2. If the dog is adopted, transferred, or sold, the records shall also include the verified name and address of the person to whom the dog is adopted, transferred, or sold [§287.339c(1)(c)]
39	Critical	A person who operates a large-scale dog breeding kennel shall not sell, exchange, transfer, or deliver a dog without providing to the purchaser a valid pet health certificate (PHC). A pet health certificate is only valid for 30 days after the date the animal was examined by the veterinarian who signed the certificate [§287.335a(5)]. <i>It is recommended that LDBKs keep a copy of each dog's/puppy's PHC in that animal's record as verification of compliance with this requirement.</i>
40	Core	MDARD has been promptly notified of any change in veterinary service. [R285.151.36] See 29. <i>LDBKs are required to have 1 veterinarian on file with MDARD as a requisite for registration; registration lapses if named veterinarian on file with MDARD no longer provides services</i>
41	Core	The records include the number of dogs on site daily at each physical location [§287.339c(1)(d)]. This count includes all intact males, intact females, and puppies.
42	Core	The records include number of intact breeding adult female dogs on site daily at the physical location [§287.339c(1)(e)]
43	Core	The records include breeding records for each female intact dog that include 1. the approximate date the dog was bred and 2. the birth date and size of each litter during the time that the dog was at the physical location [§287.339c(1)(f)]