



Recommended stocking densities for dogs kept in a pet retail environment

Background:

In line with a decision made by PIJAC Canada's National Board of Directors, the association was asked to prepare a set of recommend stocking densities for pets kept in a pet retail environment, This document represents the first segment of the exercise and refers to dogs.

Direction in this area had become necessary in light of the increasing number of requests made to the association on this specific issue by municipal and provincial regulators, as well as numerous consumer and stakeholder groups. Lack of pet industry-accepted standards gave regulators no choice but to recognize other published stocking density standards, these standards not having been designed to address the needs of animals kept in a pet retail environment. As result of this, retailers have been harassed to meet standards originally designed for research establishments and breeding kennels, in the case of dogs for example.

The following document was achieved through extensive consultation. Expertise was taken from PIJAC Canada's involvement with government regulators and Canadian animal care agencies. Through our involvement with the **International Pet Advisory Council** we were able to review pertinent documents from other pet industry associations around the world.

PIJAC Canada also consulted leading cage manufacturers and contacted our entire membership for their comments and suggestions.

Assumptions

The following assumptions have been taken into account to come up with the recommendations appearing in this document.

1. The minimum needs for socialization and exercise are already being met;
2. "Dog" means a male or female puppy, aged eight (8) weeks or more;
3. "Housing unit" means any cage or other enclosure used to house a cat or a dog but does not include housing in a cage while transporting a dog or a cat outside the pet retail environment;
4. "Shoulder height" means the height of a dog at the withers (measured from a flat surface on which the dog is standing to the highest part of the back at the base of the neck of the dog);
5. Notwithstanding other assumptions, each dog should be kept in a housing unit with dimensions that will accommodate the height, weight and length of the dog comfortably,

with enough room to stand, sit, lie down and turn around without restrictions or overcrowding;

6. Notwithstanding the other assumptions, it is understood that while this document specifically refers to stocking densities, it does assume that all other pertinent animal welfare considerations, as outlined in other PIJAC Canada publications, are being met.
7. Other related activities (grooming, adoption, etc.) must also comply with the previous assumptions. However, housing dimensions will take into consideration the size of the animals concerned.

In light of the assumptions made, PIJAC Canada recommends the following as a suggested cage stocking density for dogs kept in a pet retail environment.

Recommended stocking densities:

<u>Dog</u>	<u>*Minimum floor area</u>	<u>Minimum height</u>	<u>Maximum number of dogs per housing unit</u>
< 3kg: (<i><6.6 lbs</i>)	- 5000 square cm (<i>775 square inches</i>)	50 cm (<i>20 inches</i>)	3
> 3kg < 10kg: (<i>>6.6<22lbs.</i>)	- 5000 square cm (<i>775 square inches</i>)	60 cm (<i>24 inches</i>)	2
> 10kg: (<i>>22 lbs</i>)	-6000 square cm (<i>930 square inches</i>)	60cm (<i>24 inches</i>)	1

* In accordance with hypothesis number 5.

Approved by PIJAC Canada, June 2004