

# Monitoring new dogs

To comply with the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities involving Animals) Regulations 2018, we have policies and procedures in place to monitor dogs coming into our care, to ensure they are happy as well as healthy.

Action	Procedure
Pre-attendance assessment	We arrange meet and greets with all potential dog to assess their behaviour in a public setting with their owners.
Initial greeting and pick-up	For the first trial day the owners are present at home for the pick up. The dog is introduced to the staff member, their body language is assessed. If the dog is then comfortable, the dog is taken to the vehicle by the staff member and isolated away from other dogs when travelling. The behaviour and interactions are monitored throughout.
Observe dogs after arrival to identify abnormal behaviour – in particular, dogs that are nervous or fearful of contact	The new dog will be slowly introduced to other dogs on the walk. Continual observation of new dogs and their interactions with other dogs and people.
Where dogs are fearful or nervous, separation where necessary	Staff manage the dogs to ensure the nervous dog gets some space to feel more comfortable. If the dog appears distressed the dog is taken home.
The behaviour of dogs is monitored daily	Behaviour is observed, and records are kept of any signs of stress, fear, anxiety, or aggression.
Dogs showing signs of distress given suitable alternatives	Dogs showing signs of distress – for example, elderly or nervous dogs are allocated a quiet walk. If the dog still appears to be distressed, the owner may be called to collect the dog.
If abnormal behaviour is noted	Any abnormal behaviour is immediately reported to the owner and the appropriate action is taken. For example, taken to the vet or collected by the owner.