



# NEWS

## Animal Housing



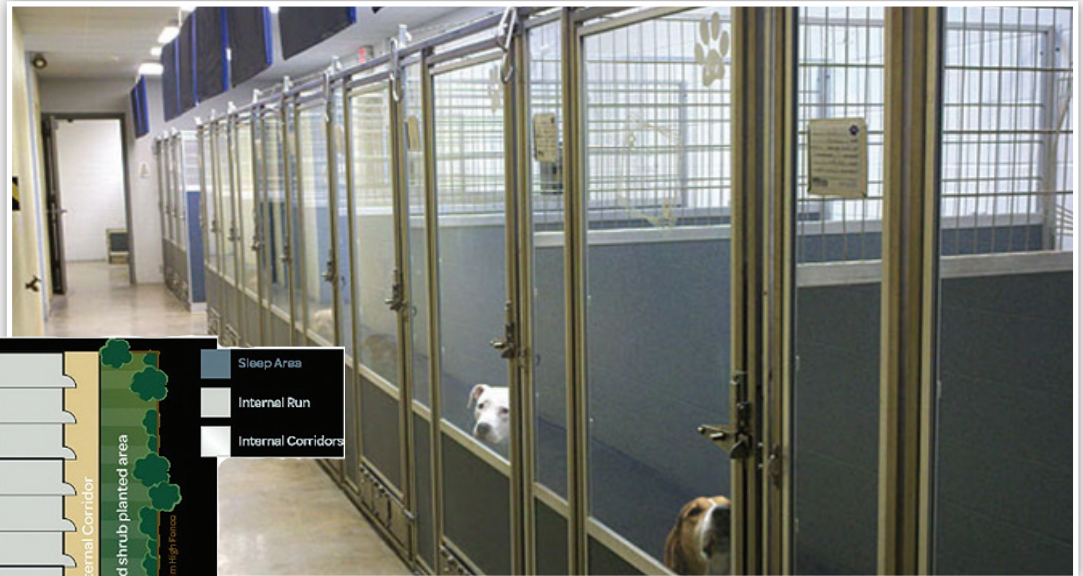
**WORDS Deirdre Crofts  
Animal Welfare & Community Liaison Officer**

Just two years ago, I wrote an article on animal housing, the focus being not only on providing a safe environment for your dogs, but also ensuring that whatever your setup is, it met with legislated requirements where applicable.

In the past six plus years, I have seen so many different kennel setups that to me it appears that different breeds can have requirements that vary considerably to each other. When out on inspection, some members ask me what they can do to improve their kennelling. The answer is not simple. I don't believe a 'one size fits all' approach is appropriate, as long as the housing provided meets current legislation, as the finer details get down to personal preference and what works best for your chosen breed(s).

Some samples of layouts, pens and housing I have seen are shown below. These are not actual images of premises I have been to, but they do represent the same as some kennels I have visited.

I would like to call upon the experience of the wider membership to share their ideas and experiences.



Regular questions I am asked for kennels housing more than five dogs outside the family home are as follows:



1. What should a kennel building be constructed from, i.e. Brick, Colorbond or other?
2. What is the best flooring i.e. bare concrete, painted concrete, epoxy resin, vinyl, timber or other?
3. Should the kennel be insulated?
4. Should fans and/or air conditioning be installed?
5. Should the pens be cyclone wire, weldmesh or other?

Questions on five or less dogs housed outside the family home:

1. Do the dogs need to be kennelled in pens?
2. What type of kennel/house i.e. wood, plastic, canvas is best for my dogs?
3. Do they need a bed as well?

A lot of breeds are prone to destroying their beds and bedding. Is there something you have found that works for you and your dogs?

Many more questions are asked, however, the above are just some of the more frequent questions.

If any members are willing to share their experience, please contact me with your breed and what your dog housing setup is. I am happy to receive just a brief summary, photos, or both. If through trial and error you have found a great option to improve what you started out with, please share. Anonymous contributions are very welcome. Sharing our experience could prove to be a 'watershed moment' for many others.

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