



**Application to be an approved quarantine facility in respect of cats, dogs and ferrets**

NB: Please read the information note in Appendix 1 before completing this form

<b>Section 1 – Applicant Details</b>		
Name:		Tel:
Address:		Mobile:
		Email:
Name of company (if applicable)		

<b>Section 2 – Facility Details</b>		
Name:		Tel:
Address:		Mobile:
		Email:

<b>Section 2 – Minimum requirements</b>		
<b>Please indicate that your facility meets certain minimum requirements*:</b>		
• quarantine units separated from other units on the premises	Yes	No
• at least 4 units for dogs and 3 units for cats	Yes	No
• provide the quarantine service to the general public	Yes	No
• accept animals into quarantine outside of office hours	Yes	No
<b>*Note: the requirements listed above are certain, minimum, requirements; they do not represent all requirements an approved quarantine facility must meet.</b>		

<b>Section 3 – Declaration:</b>		
I confirm that the information provided in connection with this application is correct and complete. I agree to an inspection of the proposed quarantine facility by a DAFM official to confirm that it meets the standards set out in the information note.		
<b>Name (print)</b>		<b>Date</b>
<b>Signature</b>		<b>Position</b>



## **Appendix 1: Information Note on applying to be an approved quarantine facility**

### **Apply to be an approved quarantine facility**

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is seeking applications from private operators to be an approved quarantine facility in respect of cats, dogs and ferrets.

### **Introduction**

DAFM carries out checks at points of entry into Ireland on incoming dogs, cats and ferrets (these species are susceptible to rabies), to ensure that they have the correct vaccinations, treatments and documentation under EU pet travel rules. DAFM may also carry out checks on these animals at premises in Ireland.

If an animal is found to be non-compliant with rules of entry, DAFM may have to place it into official isolation (quarantine). This involves transportation of the animal from the point of entry or premises and placement in quarantine for a period of time determined by DAFM, which may vary from a few hours to a number of days or weeks, until such time as the animal becomes compliant with EU legislation. In 2020, 48 dogs and cats were placed into quarantine; in 2019, 52 dogs and cats were placed into quarantine; in 2018, 38 dogs and cats were quarantined; and in 2017 the figure was 24.

DAFM may require an animal to be placed in quarantine outside of normal office hours. Detention of an animal in quarantine is at the expense of the person who has possession or control of the animal at the time of its entry into Ireland. DAFM does not cover the cost of quarantine or any associated costs. The quarantine facility sets the fee for the stay in quarantine, including transport costs to the facility and cost of any treatment or testing administered to the animal while in quarantine.

DAFM is accepting applications to be an approved quarantine facility. DAFM intends to approve a maximum of two quarantine facilities at any one time, but reserves the right to approve just one facility, or more than two, in accordance with the needs of DAFM at the time.

DAFM will conclude a contract with a successful applicant, with a duration of three years, which can be extended if DAFM and the facility agree to this. Thereafter, the term of the contract may be extended for a period of one year, provided that the facility remains in compliance with the legislative requirements. The quarantine facility will be inspected annually by DAFM staff to verify compliance with these legislative requirements.

### **Funding**

Funding of up to a maximum of €15,000 may be provided to an approved quarantine facility that has concluded a contract with DAFM to provide and maintain quarantine facilities. This funding would apply in respect of certain, defined, eligible costs (see below) incurred in the development of the



quarantine facility, and has the aim of ensuring that approved quarantine facilities maintain the highest standards of biosecurity. Expenses incurred in relation to eligible costs will be refunded to the facility on provision of receipts by the facility.

The work for which reimbursement is sought would have to be carried out in the first five (5) months from the date of signature of a contract. Funding may only be provided once to a quarantine facility. Funding is not payable in respect of any works undertaken prior to the approval by DAFM of the facility as a quarantine facility and to the conclusion of contract. Any funding provided is liable to be refunded to DAFM if the quarantine facility breaches the terms of the contract or ceases to provide quarantine services within the first three years in contract with DAFM.

### **Standards and arrangements expected from an approved quarantine facility**

The premises must:

- provide the quarantine service to the general public;
- accept animals into quarantine outside of office hours;
- provide secure transportation, as specified by DAFM, for animals from the point of entry or premises to the quarantine facility;
- secure by contract or by means of another legal instrument the services of a veterinarian who will be responsible for supervising the facility;
- maintain and operate the facility as provided for in the contract between the operator and DAFM.

### **Layout of Quarantine Premises**

- The quarantine facility must be clearly designated as such, with signage indicating “Quarantine”. The DAFM certificate of authorisation must be displayed in a prominent location.
- The premises must have a minimum of 4 units for dogs and 3 units for cats.
- Quarantine units must be maintained and operated as a separate section of the premises, distinct from any other section where non-quarantine animals are kept, and clearly identified as restricted areas. Signage should indicate that unauthorised entry is prohibited. It should be impossible for unauthorised persons to gain access to the animals.
- If non-quarantine animals are kept on the premises, there must be separate equipment, including kitchens, for non-quarantine and quarantine animals.
- No animal should have contact with another animal (unless DAFM has approved sharing of a unit).
- Each quarantine unit must have floor-to-ceiling walls (not mesh).
- Common exercise areas are prohibited. Newly built quarantine units must have impervious floor surfaces that are capable of cleaning and disinfection.
- The units must be designed and fitted so that they are escape-proof. Each block of quarantine units should have an outer lockable door and an inner lockable door to prevent animals escaping or the entry of non-quarantine animals into the quarantine premises. The inner door in recently constructed facilities should have a viewing panel.
- Each unit should be cleaned and disinfected at the end of the quarantine period for each animal.
- Each unit must be bird- and vermin- proof. A documented pest control plan must be in place at each facility.



- Wash hand basins with hot and cold running water must be provided within the quarantine area.
- There must be an area at the disposal of the staff and veterinary personnel, including changing rooms, showers and toilets.
- There must be a room available within the quarantine area used only for treatment of animals in quarantine. When possible, treatment must be carried out in individual units to avoid cross-infection and unnecessary movement of animals.
- The premises must have a drainage system which does not allow contamination of adjoining units or passage ways. Drains must be rodent-proof.

#### **Dog and cat units**

- Interior surfaces of each unit must be faced with a smooth, hard impervious material, to a height no less than 6 foot. Exposed wood may not be used in walls, floors, partitions, door frames or doors.
- There should be no “nose-to-nose” contact between units of animals, or the use of mesh or other material in doors/windows that would allow the transfer of aerosolised droplets or saliva from barking, hissing or spitting.
- Raised sleeping benches or beds must be made of material that is easily cleaned and disinfected. Any bedding material or toys used that are not easily cleaned and disinfected must be disposed of as clinical waste at the end of the quarantine stay.

#### **Site access**

- Only authorised persons are allowed access to the animals under quarantine (e.g. veterinarian, operator and staff of the quarantine establishment, DAFM officials, a person visiting an animal who has the permission of the owner, emergency services).

#### **Arrival into, and release of animals from, quarantine**

- Animals must not be removed from the crate used to transport them until they are within their allotted unit. Where possible, the transit boxes must not be unloaded from the vehicle until they are within a secure area.
- An animal must not be released from quarantine before the release date determined by DAFM. DAFM may extend the quarantine period of an animal as it deems necessary.
- Except in an emergency, an animal must not be moved from its quarantine unit without the veterinarian’s permission.

#### **Security**

- The operator or member of staff must notify the veterinarian and DAFM immediately if an animal escapes or is removed without authorisation by DAFM.
- Provision must be made for the protection and security of animals and personnel in case of fire or similar emergency. A fire contingency plan must be agreed between the fire prevention officer, the veterinarian and the operator.

#### **Transportation of pets**



- The vehicle used to transport the animal must be designed in such a way that the animal is safe during the journey and cannot escape from the vehicle when the vehicle doors are opened.
- The vehicle and equipment used to transport animals must be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected as necessary, between transports of animals.
- The driver of the vehicle must hold a certificate of competence for the transportation of the different type of animals.

### **Visitors**

- Visits must only be allowed at the discretion of the operator and veterinarian.
- Visitors must report on arrival to reception and must not be able to gain access to the quarantine units without permission from the operator.
- Visits must be recorded with details of names, addresses of visitors and dates of visits. Visitors must be accompanied by a staff member during their visit. Depending on the individual facility, there may be the ability for the owner to spend time alone with the animal in the locked unit. If a visitor spends time alone with the animal in the quarantine unit, there must be a means of summoning attention in an emergency. All visitors must sign out and be escorted from the premises when the visit is finished.
- Checks must be made to ensure no animals or objects are smuggled into, or out, of the quarantine area.
- Visitors should not be able to take bags into the premises without the express permission of the operator or staff.

### **Hygiene**

- Protocols must be in place for staff of the facility and visitors to the quarantine area regarding cleaning and disinfection of outer clothing and footwear as appropriate.
- Areas to be disinfected must be thoroughly cleaned before disinfection. The disinfectant to be used is as specified by DAFM ([gov.ie](http://gov.ie) - [Disinfectants \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)) and must be applied using appropriate equipment.
- Once the animal(s) have been unloaded, transport crates in which animals for quarantine have been delivered must immediately be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a disinfectant specified by DAFM, before removal to storage or to the transport vehicle.
- Bedding must be kept in a clean and dry condition. Bedding must be cleaned and disinfected before re-use or incinerated immediately after use. Dogs and cats must not come into contact with any articles, including toys, used by other quarantine animals unless they have been first cleaned and disinfected.
- Animal feed and utensils must be kept in good condition and made of material that can be cleaned and disinfected.
- Uneaten food must not be left in an animal's unit after feeding time.
- Ventilation, humidity level and temperature must be maintained correctly, to prevent excessive humidity or localised draughts.
- Clinical waste and anatomical waste must be collected separately from other waste, stored hygienically and disposed of in an appropriate manner by a registered contractor. All materials which come from or have contact with a quarantined animal, including bedding, faeces, uneaten food, clippings etc., must be considered clinical waste.
- Fodder, litter, faeces and urine must not be collected from the premises unless they have been subject to an appropriate treatment in order to avoid the spread of animal diseases.
- Any meat or meat product present in the crate of an imported animal when it arrives in quarantine must be incinerated and/or disposed of as clinical waste.



**List of eligible expenses included but not limited to for which funding may be provided to a quarantine facility authorised by DAFM**

Repairs, amendments or upgrades to quarantine units necessary to ensure good biosecurity, including:

- Double door system
- Viewing panel in door
- Hand wash/shower facilities
- Drainage facilities
- Fencing/walling of quarantine area
- Retrofit of quarantine units
- Impervious floor surfaces
- Heating/air conditioning
- Access to potable water
- Sleeping areas, cat platform
- Storage facilities within the quarantine area
- Provision of separated exercise runs

**Closing date**

Please note the closing date is 5pm on the 4 August.

Completed application forms should be sent to [livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:livetrade@agriculture.gov.ie)