

# Pennsylvania Kennel Assurance Program

## Preferred Puppies



*Our puppies are in good hands!*

A Premium Comprehensive Kennel  
Management Program

Visit us online at [www.kennelassuranceprogram.com](http://www.kennelassuranceprogram.com).

# Introduction

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The Pennsylvania Kennel Assurance Program (KAP) is a premium comprehensive kennel management program organized by Pennsylvania breeders to promote industry standards that exceed the current minimum requirements of local, state and federal laws.

This inclusive *program* encourages all dog breeders to operate their facilities in accordance with the program, thereby earning PA KAP certification.

Support from current members of the program is available to assist kennel owners in completing program requirements. The proposed KAP facility will be guided through the entire process from start to finish, resulting in satisfactory completion of the program and KAP certification.

The Kennel Assurance Program (KAP) goals include ensuring the safety and welfare of dogs and puppies through an inspection/certification process, which includes the following areas of compliance:

- ▲ Dog/Puppy Health & Well Being
- ▲ Medical & Nutritional Needs
- ▲ Veterinary Involvement
- ▲ Kennel Management
- ▲ Facility and Structure Quality
- ▲ Record Keeping
- ▲ Continuing Education

## About PA Kennel Assurance Program (PA KAP)

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### Mission Statement

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*Our mission is to improve, educate and assist any dog breeder or facility that desires to maintain character and reputation as a responsible dog breeder.*

# Contents

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Introduction .....	1
About PA Kennel Assurance Program (PA KAP) .....	1
Mission Statement .....	1
Contents .....	2
Steps To Membership .....	3
I.    Licensing and Compliance .....	3
II.   Plans .....	3
III.  Veterinary Care .....	3
IV.  Animal Care .....	3
V.    Facility .....	3
Purpose & Goals .....	4
Public Statement: .....	4
Licensing & Compliance .....	4
I.    Current State License .....	4
II.   Current USDA license .....	4
III.  Pennsylvania Puppy Lemon Law .....	5
Plans .....	5
I.    Exercise Plan .....	5
II.   Socialization Plan .....	6
III.  Biosecurity Plan .....	6
IV.  Kennel Cleaning Maintenance Plan .....	7
V.    Continuing Education Plan .....	7
VI.   Re-Homing Plan .....	8
VII.  Emergency Kennel Plan .....	8
Veterinary Care .....	9
I.    Veterinary Care Plan .....	9
II.   Veterinary ‘Log’ .....	9
III.  Rabies Vaccinations .....	9
IV.  Dog Observation & Care Report .....	10
Animal Care .....	10
I.    Identification Plan .....	10
II.   Water .....	10
III.  Food & Nutrition .....	10
IV.  Dog Grooming .....	11
V.    Medical Concerns .....	11
Facility .....	11
Contacts .....	12

# Steps To Membership

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Interested Dog Breeders and Kennel Owners can join PA KAP by completing the program in its entirety. This includes the following steps:

## I. Licensing and Compliance

- Submit a copy of current Pennsylvania state license; and maintain all compliance standards.
- Submit a copy of USDA approval status if applicable; and maintain all compliance standards.
- Display Pennsylvania Puppy Lemon Law Notice and issue with all puppy sales.

## II. Plans

- Submit an Exercise Plan
- Submit a Socialization Plan
- Submit a Bio Security Plan that addresses cleaning and rodent/pest control.
- Comply with the Continuing Education Plan Requirement
- Maintain a Re-Homing Plan
- Submit an 'Emergency' Kennel Plan

## III. Veterinary Care

- Submit an initial Veterinary Kennel Care Inspection Report. Receive a complete.
- Veterinary Log
- Rabies: All rabies vaccination shall be in accordance with state law.
- Dog Observation & Care Reports shall accurately document all vaccinations, worming, parasite control, routine veterinary care, additional illness and/or injuries.

## IV. Animal Care

- Identification: All animals must be capable of being exactly identified.
- Dog Grooming: All animals must be free from overgrown hair that could result in an unhealthy condition. Clean all eyes, ears, bellies and privates. Trim all nails.
- Medical concerns: Have a program to address any medical concerns as needed according to its minimal or serious nature.

## V. Facility

- Receive a "Complete" Facility Report

# Purpose & Goals

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The purpose and goals of the PA KAP program are:

1. To operate our facilities in direct compliance with the law without compromise.
2. To understand all current and proposed laws, regulations and policies.
3. To strengthen and encourage appropriate communication with legislators, the PA Bureau of Dog Law, Dog Breeders and other interested parties.
4. To subject ourselves to a higher standard of operation that includes additional, stricter and more regimented requirements.
5. To include any dog breeder or industry representative that supports the Dog Breeding Industry and chooses to apply this program.
6. To accept and participate in a pro-active approach in our endeavors to protect and improve the industry.

## Public Statement:

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We condemn all substandard kennels which by their actions reflect poorly on the credibility of good, conscientious, law abiding, reputable dog breeders that maintain or exceed all current local, state and federal animal welfare laws and regulations for the health and well being of the dogs.

As Pennsylvania dog breeders...we oblige ourselves to offer any resources possible to improve, educate and assist any dog breeder or facility that desires to maintain character and reputation as a responsible dog breeder.

## Licensing & Compliance

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### I. Current State License

State licensing must be current and in good standing. A copy of your state license must be made available for viewing and confirmation. The kennel operation must be in full compliance of all state and local regulations.

### II. Current USDA license

Federal licensing must be current and in good standing if the kennel practices are subject to USDA requirements. A copy of this licensing must be made available for viewing and confirmation. The kennel operation must be in full compliance of all federal, state and local regulations.

### III. Pennsylvania Puppy Lemon Law

With regards to the Pennsylvania Puppy Lemon Law (PA ST 201-9.3), all kennels shall

- ▲ Be in Full Compliance
- ▲ Provide all Proper Documentation for all Dog Sales
- ▲ Understand Incubating-Congenital-Hereditary-Registration Papers Responsibilities
- ▲ Properly Display the 'Public Notice'
- ▲ Provide Written Notice with Every Sale
- ▲ Maintain and Provide Copies of Health Records with Every Sale
- ▲ Buyer's Veterinarian's Certification
- ▲ Seller's Veterinarian's Health Certificate or Guarantee of Good Health

## Plans

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Each applicant will be required to submit a brief description of the particular kennel plans in place. Assistance and support is available to help an applicant understand and develop a written plan for each kennel.

Continuing education for all of the following plans may be available.

### I. Exercise Plan

An exercise program must be submitted. If state licensing requires it, a veterinarian must approve this plan. The plan may be required to include access or availability to an area for exercise that is in addition to the dog's primary living space. A primary living space and exercise area as one unit together may be acceptable by a veterinarian. The veterinarian is not required to inspect or visit this plan prior to its approval. An attending veterinarian is required to accept or decline this plan if necessary, subsequent to a kennel visit.

The plan may include but is not limited to a brief description of:

- ▲ Primary living area; size, location, construction.
- ▲ Exercise area; size, indoor/outdoor, time per day, protection from elements
- ▲ Access: direct connection, auxiliary yard/area

In addition to the exercise plan, the veterinarian may submit the following:

*Kennel Owner(s), \_\_\_\_\_, have presented to me a proposed exercise plan for their dogs. The plan appears to be in order for the size, age and breed of dogs that are currently housed at the facility. Please see the attached plan that I have reviewed and approved.*

## II. Socialization Plan

Data, studies and experience shows that early socialization in puppies as well as continued socialization in adult dogs promotes and produces more acceptable behavior traits. For these reasons a socialization program must include, but is not limited to a brief description of:

- ▲ Early handling of puppies – tactile stimulation
- ▲ Human interaction with dogs-Employees, Family, Public Accessibility
- ▲ Dog interaction with dogs and/or other animals

## III. Biosecurity Plan

The kennel facility must submit a written and approved biosecurity plan that addresses the methods used to prevent the intrusion of disease and the spread of diseases within the dog and puppy population. The prevention of brucellosis and other incubating adverse health concerns to enter a kennel have to be considered.

The plan may include but is not limited to:

- ▲ Isolation of outside dog coming into the kennel facility ... consider incubation period.
- ▲ Isolation of ill or infirmed dogs/puppies ... consider incubation period.
- ▲ Limitations of visitors, employees, owners within the kennel, i.e., persons entering a whelping area after being present in a housing area.
- ▲ Addressing the highest levels of risk for disease - new dogs or puppies coming to the facility.
  - ✓ Kennels receiving new dogs must have an isolation area. This includes dogs that may leave the facility and then return. Preventative biosecure care should be given while attending to these dogs within the facility. The care giver shall use appropriate disinfecting methods before and after entering an isolation area. All preventive health screening shall be complete before reentering a dog into the general facility.
  - ✓ Dogs within the facility that become ill with an infectious disease shall be placed in an isolation area.
  - ✓ Dogs with chronic adverse health conditions must be reviewed for removal from the facility depending on the nature of the seriousness of the chronic condition.
- ▲ **Kennel Visitors** – all of the following shall include the appropriate measure of sanitizing of hands, foot wear, body clothing, tools, equipment and vehicle.
  - ✓ **Low Risk Visitors** - have no contact with other dogs. Do not rely on simple means of disinfecting a visitor with sprays, lotions or foot baths. These methods have variables that may lessen their effectiveness. Caution to the areas that you allow these visitors to have access.

Request hand sanitizing when visitors depart.

- ✓ **Medium Risk Visitors** – People who visit other kennels but, have little or no contact with the dogs. Utility workers, salesmen, delivery people may fall into this category. The same precautions shall apply to this group with added caution.
- ✓ **High Risk Visitors** – include other kennel owners, inspectors, humane officers, veterinarians and any visitor that has been in direct contact with any other dog, kennel, pet store, or farm facility. Included in this group is ANY individual that has had any contact with an animal that is sick or incubating an illness that can be transmitted; mild or serious in nature, i.e., kennel-cough, Parvo virus.
- ▲ The veterinarian health plan shall include parasite control and a vaccination program.
- ▲ **Maintain a rodent, pest or wildlife control program.** This plan shall include a statement from the owner that visual inspection of the facility confirming the absence of such is a routine process. Additionally, in the event of evidence of rodent, pest or wildlife intrusion into the facility, there must be a plan in place to remove, correct and prevent further adverse conditions. This may be achieved by offering the resources available to attain the proper needs to remedy this condition.

#### IV. Kennel Cleaning Maintenance Plan

Every owner shall understand the methods for sanitizing.

- ▲ Live steam under pressure.
- ▲ Wash with water at least 180° and detergent.
- ▲ Wash with detergent and/or disinfectant to remove all debris, providing sanitization, followed by a clean water rinse.

In addition, every owner will understand the definitions and particular needs for:

- ▲ **Cleaning** – removal of foreign matter and contaminants
- ▲ **Disinfecting** – to destroy or prevent the growth of disease carrying microorganisms – make germ free.
- ▲ **Deodorizing** – to freshen – refresh – make fragrant.

#### V. Continuing Education Plan

Owners must acquire a minimum of four continuing education (CE) credits per calendar year. An event is considered to be one CE credit regardless of the number of hours per event per day. These events may be a trade show, seminar, teleconference or other approved CE.



Only a first year applicant may defer this requirement until their renewal for the following year. All CE's must be achieved the year prior to renewal. This requirement must be met in full for any lapse in membership subsequent to the first year.

## VI. Re-Homing Plan

*"Our dogs are NOT in a situation to be in need of a 'rescue,'  
but sometimes they need a new home."*

Completion for the program requires that every kennel establish a program for re-homing for:

- ▲ Any dog/puppy acquired or raised that is found to be unsuited for breeding purposes.
- ▲ A moral agreement between the seller and retail purchaser.
- ▲ A guarantee to RE-HOME any puppy we sell "for its entire life."
- ▲ A guarantee to RE-HOME any adult dog in our care that needs a HOME.
- ▲ An established network with those who may currently "Re-Home" dogs directly to new homes.
- ▲ A self sustained network to re-home dogs.
- ▲ An agreement to house dogs in a comfortable environment until re-homed.
- ▲ An agreement that dogs will receive a 'priority' level of a new home search.
- ▲ An agreement that dogs will receive proper care and treatment.
- ▲ An agreement that dogs will receive continued socialization and exercise.
- ▲ To encourage all sellers of puppies to adopt this program.

## VII. Emergency Kennel Plan

A primary goal of this program is to be prepared in the event of an actual emergency.

The kennel shall have a program in place in the event of an emergency for the need to evacuate, repair or recondition the kennel for reasons such as:

- ▲ Kennel destruction-This may be due to accident or act of nature.
- ▲ Kennel reconstruction
- ▲ Fire-Flood-or other act of nature regarding weather conditions.
- ▲ Extreme weather conditions.

The kennel shall have a plan in place for the physical movement, mobile transportation and housing of dogs in the event of an emergency situation, depending on the needs.

Probable situations may be as simple as possessing a lead for each dog to be led to temporary alternative housing. More serious extended temporary situations may involve mobile transporting of dogs to be housed in another facility.

# Veterinary Care

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All dogs will receive proper veterinary care.

A relationship with a veterinarian must be maintained to be in compliance with this program, including a veterinary program of routine, emergency, scheduled care and euthanasia.

To establish a relationship with the veterinarian, the kennel owner shall arrange for routine veterinary visits. This relationship will act as a foundation to determine that the needs for the health and well being of the dogs in the facility are met and to assure that in the event of a routine or emergency situation, proper veterinary care will be readily available.

## I. Veterinary Care Plan

The veterinary care plan shall include and document:

- ▲ Routine Veterinary exams
- ▲ Emergency Veterinary procedures
- ▲ Inoculations
- ▲ Parasite prevention, correction & control
- ▲ Illness, Accident, Injury or other Veterinary Needs

In accordance to Act 119, the kennel shall establish a written program of veterinary care which includes a physical examination and vaccination schedule, a protocol for disease control and prevention, pest and parasite control, nutrition and euthanasia.

## II. Veterinary 'Log'

The Veterinary Log will be a one-page quick reference document readily available for any USDA or State Licensed Dog Warden for inspection or otherwise, if needed.

Records shall be kept for all veterinary care at the facility including:

- ▲ Veterinarian Visits
- ▲ Veterinary Certified technician visits
- ▲ Vaccination purchases
- ▲ Rabies inoculation purchases
- ▲ Preventative and curative parasite and disease control purchases

## III. Rabies Vaccinations

Documentation and administering of rabies vaccinations shall be accordance with state law.

## IV. Dog Observation & Care Report

It is understood that minor ailments may be treatable by the kennel owner prior to the need for veterinary involvement. The Dog Observation & Care Report is used to maintain a written record for a potential medical concern in the kennel.

This report will provide a documented record for the medical needs and maintenance for each dog that requires medical attention. Such records will also show good faith regarding a higher level of awareness to the medical needs of every dog.

Each Dog Observation & Care Report shall include:

- ▲ Dogs description and identification
- ▲ Date of any veterinary examination and findings
- ▲ Any past visible healed injuries
- ▲ Any current possible medical concerns that may be premature for potential veterinary needs.
- ▲ Continued documentation of ongoing treatments

**NOTE:** A Dog Observation & Care Report does NOT claim to be a 'veterinary' medical report.

## Animal Care

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### I. Identification Plan

There are many methods of identifying a dog or puppy, therefore, the program does not dictate which method is mandatory.

Such acceptable methods of identification are:

- ▲ Microchipping
- ▲ Tattooing
- ▲ Identification Tags

### II. Water

A dog shall never be subjected to adverse health conditions due to lack of availability of water. Water containers shall be kept clean and free of debris.

### III. Food & Nutrition

A dog shall never be subjected to adverse health conditions due to lack of availability of proper food or nutrition. Food bowls and feeders shall be kept clean and free of debris.

## IV. Dog Grooming

All dogs will be kept free from overgrown hair that would be considered an unhealthy condition. Clean all eyes, ears, bellies and privates. There shall be no matting on any dog to create an unhealthy condition. All 'nails' will be kept at a healthy length. All kennels will maintain needed grooming equipment on hand and stored properly.

## V. Medical Concerns

Kennels shall have a program to address any non-scheduled medical concerns as needed according to the nature of the concern. The facility shall have the means, proper understanding, and/or access to assistance in the event of a needed medical concern, including prior to the need for veterinary assistance. Any such concern that persists and requires veterinary support will be attended to.

# Facility

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**Physical Appearance:** The premise must be neat and free of clutter inside and out. The grounds must be kept free of waste, unused and discarded materials. All buildings must be in good repair. The premise should reflect a positive image.

**Animal Security:** The facility must be designed and constructed for proper housing of dogs. All animal containment areas, primary enclosures, exercise areas and building are secure from animal escape and prevent predator intrusion.

**Waste Disposal:** The building must be maintained with minimal odors, drafts, ammonia levels and condensation. Waste and water must be readily eliminated from the animal area as needed to minimize contamination and disease risks. Old excreta must be removed.

**Surfaces and Cleaning:** The facility must be free of rust and chewed surfaces. All surfaces must contribute to a sanitary environment. All components of construction must be structurally intact and/or replaceable when necessary.

**Primary Enclosures:** Must be in good repair and free from excrete and excess accumulation of hair or fur.

**Utilities:** The facility has wiring and plumbing in good working order, not subject to any dangerous situation for persons or animals, and in compliance with all building codes.

**Storage:** All storage is to be kept orderly, clean and non-expired.

- ✓ Dog Food is stored in a manner that prevents contamination and spoilage.
- ✓ Medication, Pharmaceuticals and First Aid are stored in a healthy manor.
- ✓ Cleaning Supplies are stored separate from food, medical supplies and dogs.

**Maintenance Plan:** Maintain a plan for repairs that cannot be readily attended to.

**Temperature & Ventilation:** Housing facilities must be maintained such that these factors do not cause adverse conditions or health risks to the dogs. This includes sick, infirm, quarantined, young, prenatal or geriatric dogs.

**Lighting:** Lighting shall allow for a seasonal diurnal cycle in geographic region of the kennel. This may be achieved through natural or artificial cycle. If artificial, the minimal and maximum diurnal light cycles on earth to which a dog may naturally survive may be accepted.

**Thermometers:** Shall be displayed in every facility room housing dogs.

**Shelter from the elements:** Protection from adverse environmental conditions will be readily available at all times, i.e., outside runs, play yards, etc.

**Transportation:** All aspects of the United States Animal Welfare Act and PA ACT 119 apply.

## Contacts

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Please submit your application to one of the following:

James Burkholder  
Whispering Spring Kennel  
316 Good Road  
East Earl, PA 17519

Phone: 717-445-0020  
Email: [whisperingspring@pcfreesmail.com](mailto:whisperingspring@pcfreesmail.com)

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