

## Noise management plan – Cwm Dog Retreat

This accompanies the planning application which proposes to amend the use of the existing dog creche to accommodate a small number of boarding dogs overnight in 3 purpose built sleeping areas.

- The three dog sleeping areas will consist of extra insulation on the walls, ceiling and floors to not only aid temperature control, but to also allow for sound insulation. This is primarily to avoid dogs being disturbed by external noise which may result in dogs barking. The only noise likely in such a rural area is wildlife such as foxes, badgers, stoats and owls.
- All dogs will be kept separate from each other so will not be able to cause barking amongst each other at night. Where dogs come from the same household, they can share a room, but only where there are no existing issues where barking may be a feature.
- As is currently the case, all dogs are screened before hand to ensure suitability for daycare/boarding. Any dogs with known separation related problems or noise aversion will be boarded in the house rather than the new sleeping areas in the creche, so that problems can be avoided. New dogs also attend trial sessions to acclimate to the environment, and owners are interviewed to discuss potential problems.
- As is the case in the house, all dogs will be monitored overnight using cameras that can be viewed using mobile phones. This allows for pre-emptive action should a dog appear restless, before any barking takes place.
- Should dogs appear restless, or begin to bark, they can be immediately moved into the house where we are able to settle them straight away (as it the current situation). Those dogs who do not appear settled in the new sleeping areas will not be boarded in the creche in future to ensure there is no repeat of the situation. Any dogs who also present a problem overnight in the home, are also not permitted to board again.
- Dogs are provided with a variety of activities each day (walks, swimming, training, socialisation, agility, and toy playing), ensuring they are tired at bedtime which also helps them to settle overnight. We will also use the time

during the day to acclimate them to the new sleeping areas, by feeding them in these rooms, giving them their own bedding and toys, and creating a positive association so they are comfortable and content. Television screens will also be used at a volume that cannot be heard outside of the creche which also helps to keep dogs calm.

- Other enrichment strategies include food dispensing toys, Lickimats, stuffed Kongs, snuffle mats, and other brain training games, which help to alleviate stress and provide an outlet for nervousness.
- Dogs are never left, and our home is on site, so management is constant and problems dealt with immediately.
- The only window available in the sleeping areas looks out into woodland, so no passing people/traffic etc can be seen which may trigger alert barking. Blinds will also be drawn at night in case of disturbance from passing wildlife.