ODA Minimum Space Requirements for Dogs

Commercial Dog Breeders rules require that primary enclosures for adult dogs without nursing puppies or weaned puppies must have adequate space to allow the dogs to turn about freely, to stand, sit, and lie in a comfortable, normal position and to walk in a normal manner (OAC 901:1-6-02 D-2). Additionally, the interior height of the primary enclosure must be at least six (6) inches higher than the head of the tallest dog in the enclosure, measured when the dog is standing in a normal comfortable standing position (OAC 901:1-6-02 D-4).

Note: OAC 901:1-6-01 E Existing Facility OAC 901:1-6-02 G Existing Facilities Primary Enclosures

Measuring the Length of a Dog

With the dog in a normal standing position, or with the dog held lying flat on its side, measure the dog along a straight line from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail. Do not follow the contours of the dog's body when measuring the length of the dog.

There must be a minimum space of 6 inches from the top of dog’s head to the top of cage

Calculating Minimum Space Requirements For First/Largest Dog OAC 901:1-6-02

The following is an example of how to calculate minimum space requirements.

Jess is a female Cocker Spaniel. She is 24 inches long from the tip of her nose to the base of the tail.

Step 1: Measure the length of the dog from tip of nose to base of tail (inches). Add 6 inches to this number.

24 inches + 6 inches = 30 Inches

Step 2: Calculate minimum floor space in square inches.

30 inches X 30 inches = 900 square inches

Step 3: Now we are going to double this number to get the space we need.
900 square inches X 2 = 1800 square inches = Minimum required amount of floor space in square inches

Step 4: Calculate minimum floor space in square feet.
1800 square inches = 12.5 square feet = minimum floor space in square feet

(*144 = 1 square foot in inches)

The total floor space for dogs in “group housing” must meet or exceed the dog’s minimum space requirement. OAC 901: 1-6-02 D1 Measure each additional dog for space requirement.

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Special Requirements for Dams with Nursing Puppies

The additional space required for dams with nursing puppies is determined by the dog’s breed and behavioral characteristics, the veterinarian’s approval and the minimum space requirement calculation OAC 901: 1-6-02 D1. Each puppy requires a minimum of 5% of the dam’s minimum space requirement OAC 901: 1-6-02 Q6.

Example: Jess has a litter of 5 puppies. Jess is 24” from the tip of her nose to the base of her tail. Calculate the minimum amount of space they require.

Step 1: Calculate dam’s minimum space requirement in square inches.
24 inches + 6 inches = 30

(30 inches X 30 inches) = 900 square inches

Step 2: Calculate additional minimum floor space per puppy
900 square inches x 0.05* = 45 square inches

Jess’s puppies each need 45 square inches of space.

(*0.05=5%)

Step 3: Multiply additional floor space per puppy by number of puppies.

45 square inches x 5 puppies = 225 square inches minimum amount of additional floor space for all 5 puppies

Step 4: Calculate minimum space requirement in square inches. Add Jess’s space requirements to the space requirement for the puppies.

900 square inches + 225 square inches = 1125 total minimum space requirement in square inches: Jess and her pups need 1125 square inches of space.

Step 5: Calculate space required in square feet

1125 square inches = 7.81 square feet minimum floor space in square feet

*144= 1 square foot in inches

Jess and her puppies need 7.81 square feet of space.