

O'Reilly, Arlene

From: Slight, Lynn
Sent: 20 August 2025 09:05
To: Licensing
Cc: Rafferty, Alison (Licensing); IDOX EH
Subject: AB066.25 - Animal boarding Licence Dogs by Leigh report

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Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Licensing,

I refer to the email trail below concerning Dogs by Leigh, operating from Blackberry Farm, Thorntonloch, Dunbar. This application for an animal boarding establishment licence was heard at Licensing Sub Committee, 12 June 2025 where members deferred the decision on the application and requested Environmental Health make a further inspection of the premises and provide a written report.

I can advise that an inspection was carried out on 19th August 2025 in the presence of the business operator Leigh Bissett. The inspection was pre-arranged and no dogs were on site. The business operates from a 2 acre field, bounded by hedgerow and fencing with two gated access points.

Since Environmental Health's initial inspection in February 2025 the operator has altered the business model to a maximum of 8-10 dogs on site from 0800 to 1330 with a further 10/ 12 dogs in the morning and afternoon sessions for dog walking. The site is closed at approximately 1400h each day. The site operates Monday to Friday.

A generator and dog cages have been provided and fitted into a new caravan unit on site. The caravan has a fitted sink with a water supply and provides shelter. Mains water is provided in an IBC (international bulk container) and refilled as necessary. The operator has the required information on each dog (owners' details, veterinary contact, microchip number, vaccination record etc)

Additional secure crated accommodation is available via the two business vans (total of 21 separate crates). A dog first aid kit is available in both vans.

The applicant has been advised to check and reinforce the boundary fence as required and if deemed appropriate contact Network Rail to repair / replace the fence which forms a boundary to the main rail line. No complaints of noise or the general conduct of the premises have been received by Environmental Health, and no complaints or concerns have been notified from clients.

The operator has been running the business from this site since 2020. They wish to improve the facilities on site particularly the shelter accommodation and provision of additional power via solar panels.

With the improvements already secured and consideration for further improvements in due course Environmental Health have no objections to the issuing of the licence subject to the standard conditions and subsequent re applications will be dealt with as required.

Kind regards

Lynn Slight
Senior EHO
East Lothian Council

