

## **DOG AND CAT BREEDERS**

*Purchasers are not allowed to visit a litter in person to view a puppy or kitten with their mother in its home environment and so some virtual means of allowing potential purchasers to view is necessary. Puppies and kittens that are ready to be rehomed should be delivered to their new owners by the breeder by appointment providing the handover can be performed using the business handover protocol set out by CFSG. Where this may not be possible and exceptionally it is considered reasonably necessary for welfare reasons, they may be collected. In these circumstances the collection should be by appointment only and the handover must take place outside using the protocol and maintaining social distance and in compliance with other safety precautions.*

*When a pet is delivered, handover should take place in an outdoor space large enough for the breeder/transporter and purchaser to maintain their social distance (2m should be adhered to) using the handover protocol. Whilst it is desirable to give an item of bedding with a kitten or puppy care must be taken to ensure there is no potential for transfer of virus.*

*Paperwork and other checks and documentation should be predominantly completed ahead of the meeting. Prior to the acquisition of the puppy or kitten, the purchaser should be given advice on immediate care of them including what food to purchase and allowing them to settle in their new home.*

*Breeders who are considering mating a bitch or queen should ensure that they have the facility to be able to allow potential purchasers to view the litter remotely if necessary because social distance cannot be maintained and whether the offspring will have sufficient socialisation in the current pandemic. They should also consider how the offspring can be safely handed over complying with the guidance above. It may not be possible to vaccinate and microchip puppies or kittens during this time. Breeders and purchasers should contact their veterinary practice by telephone first for advice. Where there is a high risk of infection with severe disease such as Canine Parvovirus the practice may be able to provide suitable arrangements for vaccination if a disease and public health assessment by the vet shows it to be appropriate and social distancing can be maintained. The breeder's veterinary practice should be contacted for advice prior to sale. If, on assessment, the veterinary practice feels vaccination is appropriate, it may be that the risk of a visit by a vet and veterinary nurse is considered less of a public health risk than individual animals being taken to each purchaser's practice. If vaccination is undertaken the pet should be microchipped at the same time if not already implanted.*