

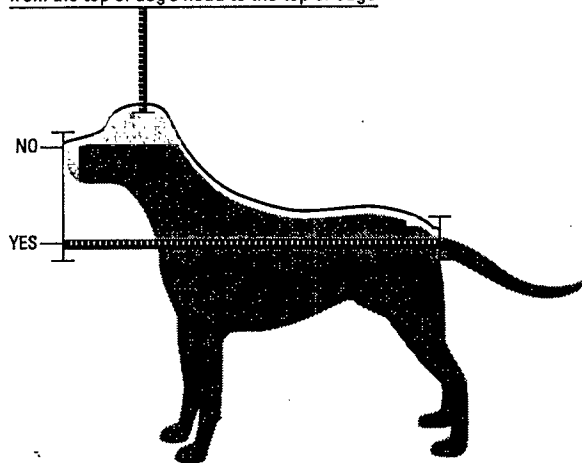
# Minimum Space Requirements for Dogs

The Animal Welfare Act Regulations 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. 9 CFR 3.6(a)(2)(xi) Additionally, the interior height of the primary enclosure must be at least 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. 9 CFR 3.6(c)(1)(iii)

## 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



This table below provides a guide to the minimum space needed for dogs based on body length

Dog Length (in)	Sq Ft Needed	Dog Length (in)	Sq Ft Needed	Dog Length (in)	Sq Ft Needed
7	1.17	19	4.34	31	9.51
8	1.36	20	4.69	32	10.03
9	1.56	21	5.06	33	10.56
10	1.78	22	5.44	34	11.11
11	2.01	23	5.84	36	12.25
12	2.25	24	6.25	38	13.44
13	2.51	25	6.67	40	14.69
14	2.78	26	7.11	42	16.00
15	3.06	27	7.56	44	17.36
16	3.36	28	8.03	46	18.78
17	3.67	29	8.51	48	20.25
18	4.00	30	9.00		

## Calculating Minimum Space Requirements 9 CFR 3.6(c)(1)(i)

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

Scout is a female Dalmatian. She is 31 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.**

$$31 \text{ inches} + 6 \text{ inches} = 37 \text{ inches}$$

**Step 2: Calculate minimum floor space in square inches.**

$$37 \text{ inches} \times 37 \text{ inches} = 1369 \text{ square inches} \text{ minimum required amount of floor space in square inches}$$

**Step 3: Calculate minimum floor space in square feet.**

$$\frac{1369 \text{ square inches}}{144} = 9.51 \text{ square feet} \text{ minimum floor space in square feet}$$

\*\* The total floor space for animals in group housing must meet or exceed each dog's individual minimum space requirement.

## 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. 9 CFR 3.6(c)(1)(ii) Each puppy requires a minimum of 5% of the dam's minimum space requirement.

Example: Scout has a litter of 9 puppies. Scout is 31" 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.**

$$(31 \text{ inches} + 6) \times (31 \text{ inches} + 6) = 1369 \text{ inches}$$

**Step 2: Calculate additional minimum floor space per puppy.**

$$1369 \text{ square inches} \times 0.05 = 68.45 \text{ square inches}$$

Scout's puppies each need 68.45 square inches of space

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

$$68.45 \text{ square inches} \times 9 \text{ puppies} = 616.05 \text{ square inches}$$

minimum amount of additional floor space for all 9 puppies

**Step 4: Calculate minimum space requirement in square inches. Add Scout's space requirements to the space requirement for the puppies**

$$1369 \text{ square inches} + 616.05 \text{ square inches} = 1985.05 \text{ square inches}$$

total minimum space requirement in square inches:  
Scout and her puppies need 1985.05 square inches of space

**Step 5: Calculate space required in square feet.**

$$\frac{1985.05 \text{ square inches}}{144} = 13.79 \text{ square feet}$$

total minimum space in square feet: Scout and her puppies need 13.79 square feet of space

If the available floor space does not meet the minimum amount calculated, then the housing must be approved by the APHIS administrator. 9 CFR 3.6(c)(1)(ii)

### Note: The Exercise Requirement for dogs (9CFR 3.8) includes some floor space requirements.

If the enclosure meets the floor space requirements for group housed dogs, the enclosure is in compliance with the exercise requirement of Section 3.8

Singly housed dogs must be provided with twice the floor space required by Section 3.6 (c)(1), unless other opportunities for exercise are planned and documented in a written exercise plan as described in Section 3.8.

Exercise requirements do not apply to dams with nursing puppies or to dogs under 12 weeks of age.

