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Dr Susan F. Moreland

Our ref: TO2020/07626/JA

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Dear Dr Moreland,

Thank you for your email of 26 March about essential workers. I have been asked to reply.

To reduce the spread of coronavirus, the Government advice to people is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives. To reduce social contact, the Government has ordered certain businesses and venues to close. People can travel for work purposes, but only where they cannot work from home. With the exception of those businesses and venues required to close, the Government has not required any other businesses to close – indeed it is important for business to carry on, not least to ensure the economy keeps working and in the case of pet businesses to help safeguard the welfare of the nation's pets. Pet businesses play a key role in this and should operate within the strict advice on social distancing and hygiene.

Link to Gov.UK advice about staying at home:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>

Link to Gov.UK advice about businesses that need to close and exemptions:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close/further-businesses-and-premises-to-close-guidance#businesses-and-premises-that-must-remain-closed>

In summary, in accordance with this guidance stables, kennels and catteries can remain open. Continuation of trade should comply with social distancing precautions and hand washing guidance that have been set out as part of coronavirus guidance available for employers and businesses.

In addition, the Canine and Feline Sector Group has issued its own guidance to pet businesses on how they can continue to operate under the restrictions in place to limit the spread of coronavirus. See:

<http://www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus/SiteAssets/SitePages/Home/CFSG%20Animal%20Business%20Guidance%2007.04.20.pdf>.

Yours sincerely,

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