

Hi Atli,

In answer to the dog storage permit issue from Heilbrigðiseftirlit here would be my arguments and some questions

Could you please go over it and give me your thoughts .

Let me know if from that you would want to write them yourself the letter or if this is good enough and I would get it translated to Icelandic to avoid misunderstanding.

We have just arrived with the dogs at Egilsmoi 12 on June 1st

It takes a bit of time for the dogs to get used to the new surroundings and everything which is going around them, we are creating a new routine for them where we can be quick and efficient, to minimize the noise, this learning process takes a bit of time and extend the noise duration at the moment.

For example, loading the dogs: we are teaching them to run from their cage to their spot in the trailer and back, this is the longest noise over the day (9minutes recorded) and will be significantly reduced within the next week as the dogs are learning where to go. The first attempt the dogs ran all over the garden and it took a long time to get them. Now we have closed the garden part when loading so it may take them just a few more tries until they know where to go, from here it is only getting better.

We have also been in the process of finishing moving and setting up the installation, there has been unusual work going around the dogs such as trucks, tractors, moving container... which are causing anxiety and so noise, but they are a one-time things and are now almost over.

I have listened to all the recording sent from the neighbors, from it I can say that recognized 4 sounds: feeding, loading, howling and the puppies with their mother located east of the property.

Feeding is once per day (around noon or before 6pm) and takes about 2-3minutes

Loading is 3 times per week (in the morning after 8am) unloading occur around noon at feeding time.

This are one-time big noise; it is not consistent like this through the day.

The howling is random, it's a low sound that is not aggressive to the ear.

The puppy sound next to Bravellir can be cancelled, I didn't think they were heard – my mistake, with the moving no time as been giving to those guys, we are actively working on it now and have significantly reduced the noise – the puppies will be moved to the kennel in the following week.

Any other noise in the day is caused only by 1 to 2 dogs, most of it comes after feeding where we experience a lot of tension in between the dogs, from our home I can barely hear them, unless there is total silence, open windows and I give it my attention.

The recording of the barking 15/06 was our first-time getting meat for the dogs, cutting and preparing for one month, it was not possible to do it indoor due to the moving being in the process and lack of space. Barking went on/ off for about 2hours this day and shall not be repeated again.

We understand the annoyance of the neighbors and are adapting our work with the dogs to minimize all disturbances.

Week after week the noise is decreasing, and everything is slowly getting into place.

Our situation is that currently due to the moving and the COVID 19 the dogs haven't been able to exercise regularly as they are used to.

We were able to start exercising the dogs for the first time on the 9th of June, we now take the dogs away 3 times per week to exercise them elsewhere.

It is not nearly as much as what they are used to but it helps to get them to relax until the business will start again.

Yes the dogs are attracting attention from the traffic on the road going above Egilsmoi 12 Normal traffic such as cars, people walking, cycling, riding horse and loose dogs has not bothered them nor caused disturbance.

However the cars stopping with people stepping out to take pictures, calling the dogs for attention and the many people walking their dogs loose and yelling at them not to go to see our dogs has caused some disturbance.

It is going a bit better with the time as cars are stopping less frequently but it still happens specially in the evening and on the weekends.

We could prevent the nuisance from the dogs due to this distraction by planting trees nearby the road, to block the view over the property.

Also as a family living on the property there is no privacy and those cars/ people stopping, taking pictures is intrusif in our private life.

This is a future plan that we would like to discuss with Mosfellbaer municipality.

Lately, we have spoke to our next door neighbours at Dalsa she has told us noticing that there was less noise disturbance which we were happy to hear.

We are always aware of the noise of the dogs and taking all measures to reduce it and prevent it.

It is possible to neutralise totally the noise from 19:00 to 8:00 and the loudest noise (feeding/ loading/ unloading) we are seeking permission to build an indoor facility where the dogs would sleep overnight and kept during feeding and preparation time. We already have the building and it would not take too long to set it up, we just need the permission.

In the meantime we are finding solution to every issue, recently we have used muzzles on certain dogs who are more likely to bark and howl during night time, this has workout, in the past 2 weeks we have had one howling at night and experienced a few barking in the morning from 6:30 when the neighbourhood wakes up and the dogs hear noise.

The kennel facility is supposed to be for 56 dogs total, which allows us to have all of our dogs in single cages or by 2 maximum with more space in cages and with extra cages for females in heat or eventually sick dog needing isolation.

However we only have cages set up for 38 dogs at the moment, since the kennel location has not been approved by Mosfellbaer municipality, we are waiting for an approval to the kennel location to finish setting it up.

This concentration of dogs in too small kennels is causing a lot of stress and tension resulting in unnecessary noise.

Having the noise of the dogs being recorded and permit being decided based on it while the kennel situation is under going stress is not relevant and does not reflect the future.

The expressed fear/ danger for children and pet animal/ animal in the neighborhood due to the sled dogs is unfounded and unrelated to our dog.

We have a house dog, cat, chickens and 3 children who all live around the dogs.

The dogs are used to interacting with people of all age and are very friendly to everyone

On our tours our dogs are meeting with up to 50 strangers daily of all ages, races including kids and infant, we can provide countless testimonial of their friendliness and good behaviour, everyone is welcome to visit our kennel.

The dogs are in their kennel and when they run loose, for playing it is within a fenced area where they can't get out nor can other animal come in. And if they were to be loose, they would probably just stick around. In Holmasel (our previous location) we didn't have a fence, the dogs were often let loose and were staying around us, on rare occasion they visited our neighbors, which was not an issue, our only concerned was if the dog would get hit by a car. We have invited kindergarten classes in the past to introduce them to the sled dogs, visiting the kennel and riding with the dogs, we believe that similar thing can be offer to Reykjadalur and the neighborhood to introduce them to something different and fun.

Our family live and work around the dogs and all children are involve in our life.

Our oldest kids bring regularly friends from school and all together they go by themselves to visit the dogs in their kennel, despite the fact that the kids are strangers to our dogs we do not have any concerns about it.

I have attached a few pictures of my kids and dogs from last week which speaks by itself.

Our previous landlord at Holmasel is Karl Aki Sigurdsson 300869-5999 is number is 869 1181 The case of Fellsendi is a different matter and the issue is for building not for keeping the dogs, we are on that land all day all winter, just are not allowed to build a residential home.

Overall the noise from the dogs is not any more than the noise that would be created by 50 cows or 50 sheep

It just need a little bit of acceptance from the people to not be a disturbance,

Our activity is to breed, train, feed animals and live of it which is the definition of farming

We hope that everyone will get a little use to the noise occurred by the dogs as this is a dog friendly neighbourhood and there are many dogs here.

The noise they create is not any louder than an ATV or bike on the road and we are positive on the fact that it is reducing and it will reduce even more in the future.

Kv

Klara