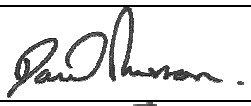
MONITORING OF THE WORKING ENVIRONMENT
WITHIN THE GROOM ROOM (DOG GROOMING SALON) AREA

AT

PETS AT HOME
UNIT 6
TRAFFORD RETAIL PARK
NEARY WAY
MANCHESTER
M41 7FN

SEPTEMBER 2015

Report prepared for:	**Mr Ian Dakin** **Pets at Home** **Epsom Avenue** **Stanley Green Trading Estate** **Handforth** **Cheshire** **SK9 3RN**
Report reference:	**J036069**
Issue date:	**September 2015**
Prepared by: **Mr D. Russon M.Sc. LFOH** **Senior Occupational Hygienist**	
Approved by: **Darren Evans GradIOSH, dipNEBOSH, AFOH** **Technical Director**	

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the request of Mr Ian Dakin, acting on behalf of Pets at Home Ltd, Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd have undertaken a program of exposure monitoring for total inhalable dust within the 'Groom Room' dog grooming salon area located within the Pets at Home store, Unit 6 Trafford Retail Park, Manchester. The monitoring was undertaken in order to assess the working environment present while staff carryout typical activities within the area.

A total of four fixed point samples were collected for the presence of total inhalable dust with two samples placed within the main salon area and two within the rear room where dog washing and drying activities take place.

The results of the monitoring survey are summarised in Section 5.0.

The monitoring took place whilst staff carried out typical activities, with five dogs undergoing washing, drying and grooming treatments during the monitoring period, and was carried out by Mr D. Russon, on the 11th September 2015.

2.0 MONITORING AND ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGY

Total inhalable dust

The procedure used during the undertaking of total inhalable dust monitoring follows the procedural requirements of Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Method, MDHS 14/4 "General methods for sampling and gravimetric analysis of respirable, thoracic and inhalable aerosols".

Fixed point sampling involves placing a 'sample train' in strategic locations within the work area. The 'train' consists of a battery operated sampling pump, connected to a sampling head, containing a pre weighed GFA filter. A measured volume of air is then drawn through the sampling head by the pump during normal working conditions. At the end of a representative sampling period the filter is capped and transported back to the laboratory where the filters are analysed using gravimetric analysis techniques. Using this information an airborne concentration of dust can then be calculated using the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{mass of contaminant collected (expressed in milligrams)}}{\text{volume of air sampled (expressed in cubic metres).}} = \text{Concentration Value (mg/m}^3\text{)}$$

The concentration value can then be calculated and compared to the exposure limits specified by the Health and Safety Executive under the COSHH Regulations in Guidance Note EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits.

The concentration value observed on fixed point samples cannot be compared directly to the occupational exposure limits specified by the Health and Safety Executive under the COSHH Regulations in Guidance Note EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits, however they do give a useful indication of the levels of airborne contaminants present within the environment.

3.0 KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

mg/m^3 - milligrams of substance(s) per cubic metre of air

WEL - Workplace Exposure Limits

Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs)

Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs) are concentrations of hazardous substances in the air, averaged over a specified period of time, referred to as a time weighted average (TWA). WELs are intended to prevent excessive exposure to specified hazardous substances by containing exposure below a set limit. A WEL is the maximum concentration of an airborne substance averaged over a reference period, to which employees may be exposed by inhalation.

The WEL values are set at a level at which no adverse effects on human health would be expected to occur based on the known and / or predicted effects of the substance. However, if such a level cannot be identified with reasonable confidence then the WEL value is based at a level corresponding to what is considered to represent good control, taking into account severity of the likely health hazards and the costs and efficiency of control solutions. Wherever possible WELs are not set at levels which there is evidence of adverse effects on human health.

The absence of a substance from the list of WELs does not indicate that it is safe. For these substances, exposure should be controlled to a level to which nearly all the working population could be exposed, day after day at work, without adverse effects on health.

It should be noted that the concentration value observed on static samples can not be compared directly to the workplace exposure limits specified by the Health and Safety Executive within Guidance Note EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits, however they do give a useful indication of the levels of airborne dust present within the environment.

4.0 SUMMARY OF EXPOSURE LIMITS

Exposure limits can be found in the HSE document EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits which contains a list of workplace exposure limits for use with the COSHH Regulations 2002 (as amended).

The current exposure limit for total inhalable dust is 10 mg/m^3 (when calculated as an 8-hr time-weighted average).

Any monitoring exposures within the content of this report that exceed, or come close to exceeding the limits detailed in the above document will be highlighted and discussed in further detail.

5.0 MONITORING RESULTS

Total inhalable dust

Sample No.	Operative / Location	Duration (mins)	Total inhalable Dust 8hr TWA* (mg/m^3)
1	Rear room where washing and drying activities take place – on worktop above washing machines	183	<0.11
2	Rear room where washing and drying activities take place – on cage to LHS of drying table	183	<0.11
3	Main salon area where grooming activities take place – on shelf to rear of main reception counter	183	<0.11
4	Main salon area where grooming activities take place – on table at rear of area between two grooming tables	183	<0.11
	Workplace Exposure Limit**		**10**

Note: *TWA - Time Weighted Average.

** Workplace exposure limit as outlined in EH40/2005 (as amended) and calculated as an 8-hr TWA.

All results are calculated over an 8 hour exposure period, based on a worst case scenario of a full 8 hour shift.

Limit of detection for methodology utilised on this occasion was $0.11mg/m^3$.

6.0 OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION OF TEST RESULTS

The Groom Room (dog grooming salon) area within the Pets at Home Ltd stores are tasked with the general washing, drying and grooming of pet dogs of all types, with the number of dogs being groomed during any one period dependent on the number of appointments being made. Discussions indicated that the area is typically busier during a Saturday than during weekdays, with an average of ten dogs being groomed on weekdays and up to fifteen on a weekend day.

At the time of the monitoring visit two members of staff were present in the area and both carried out the washing, drying and grooming of dogs. The dogs are washed within the rear room of the salon using a standard shower spray and then dried using a towel and warm air blower. Once dry the dog is then transferred to the main salon area where it is groomed by the member of staff using various brushes etc. Depending on the service required the dogs coat is also trimmed / shaved. On the day of the monitoring visit a total of five dogs being seen during the period, with all dogs undergoing washing, drying and their coat either trimmed or shaved. The two members of staff present were wearing standard work clothes comprising of a company branded smock / short sleeved top and trousers.

The rear room of the salon was approximately 3m x 5m in size with wipe clean walls, heavy duty linoleum flooring and a suspended ceiling. Within the area were dog / animal washing facilities, a warm air dryer, a workbench, washing machine, tumble dryer, and a number of animal cages. The main salon area was approximately 5m x 5m in size with a large glass frontage, plastered walls, wood effect linoleum flooring and a suspended ceiling. Located on the front wall of the salon, above the window was a heating / air conditioning unit that was operated as required by the staff members. A second heating / air conditioning unit was also present within the rear washing / drying room.

From the results seen in section 5.0 it can be seen that there is very little cause for concern with regards to the levels of total inhalable dust on this occasion, with the levels detected within both areas being below the limit of detection for the methodology utilised on this occasion, i.e. less than 0.11mg/m^3 and therefore well below the workplace exposure limit of 10mg/ m^3 for total inhalable dust.

The amount of potential dust that may be present will on the whole be determined by the individual animal being groomed, with dust most likely being made up of dead skin, dander and hair of the animal and therefore will vary from animal to animal. The process of washing the animal prior to grooming will aid in the removal of any dead skin, loose hair etc. and thus reduce the amount of possible dust present in the working environment. In addition the level to which any member of staff may be affected by the small amounts of dust within the air will vary greatly depending on the individual, and their susceptibility to such material.

It was noted that housekeeping within the area was good and that the main salon area was regularly swept and vacuumed following each dog having their coat trimmed / shaved, and that there was no obvious build-up of dust / hair within the area that would not be considered unreasonable for the type of working environment.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It can be seen from the results presented in section 5.0 of this report and the subsequent observations and discussion presented in section 6.0 that, with regards to the levels of exposures experienced, there is no cause for concern regarding total inhalable dust on this occasion; however the following recommendations can be made:

- It is recommended that current good practices and housekeeping observed within the area should be continued.

- It is recommended that if staff working within this type of area show signs of allergy / allergic symptoms to the small amounts of dust present then suitable medical advice should be sought and further investigations be undertaken.

- It is recommended that if any major changes to the working methods take place or if the number of animals being groomed increase significantly then the area / activities should undergo further investigation in order to assess any possible risk in the workplace.