# PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONAL FORM – Animal Hoarding Context

**Operational Version for Public Veterinarians and Staff from Other Agencies**

**Estimated completion time:** 10–15 minutes

**Date: _____ Operator: _____Agency: _____**
**Inspection address: _____**

**1. Type of Premises and Housing Conditions**

☐ Private home ☐ Apartment ☐ Farm structure ☐ Other: _____
**Housing accessibility:**
☐ Easily accessible ☐ Difficult access ☐ Unsafe / hazardous

**2. Resident's name** (if available) _____

**Approximate age** _____

**Access allowed?** ☐ Yes ☐ Partial ☐ No

**Cooperation level** ☐ Friendly ☐ Neutral ☐ Evasive ☐ Hostile

**3.Animals Present** ***(visual estimate or as declared)***

**Please fill in even in case of approximate estimates.**

| **Species** | **Estimated No.** | **Puppies/Kittens?** | **Active reproduction?** | **Visible signs of distress?** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dogs** | | **☐ Yes ☐ No** | **☐ Yes ☐ No** | **☐ Yes ☐ No** |
| **Cats** | | **☐ Yes ☐ No** | **☐ Yes ☐ No** | **☐ Yes ☐ No** |
| **Other (specify):** | | **☐ Yes ☐ No** | **☐ Yes ☐ No** | **☐ Yes ☐ No** |

**Notes: ……**

**4. Fragile Individuals in the Household**

☐ None
☐ Minors → Age: _____ Number: _____ Involvement: □ direct □ indirect
☐ Elderly individuals (>75 years) → Number: _____
☐ Persons with disabilities or mental fragility → Specify: _____

**5. Human–Animal Relationship**

☐ Affective (*talks to animals, pets them, shows emotional bonding*)
☐ Neglectful (*lacks care, does not provide food or hygiene*)
☐ Ambivalent (*alternating affection and neglect; emotional disorganization*)
☐ Instrumental (*uses animals for external purposes: begging, control, imposed companionship*)
☐ Other: _____

**6. Environmental Conditions *(direct observation)***

**Guidance for completion:**

- *Good = clean environment, no strong odours or visible accumulation.*
- *Fair = localized dirt, noticeable smell, animals mobile, environment accessible.*
- *Severe = heavy presence of feces, stagnant urine, organic decay, infestations, or clear biological risk.*

| **Indicator** | **Observed level** | **Notes** |
|---|---|---|
| Strong odour of feces/urine | ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not assessable | |
| Visible presence of feces | ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not assessable | |
| Object accumulation / clutter | ☐ None ☐ Moderate ☐ Severe | |
| Fire/fall hazard | ☐ Present ☐ Absent | |
| Ventilation / natural light | ☐ Adequate ☐ Inadequate | |
| Signs of infestation (insects/rodents) | ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not assessable | |

**7. Additional Observations (Optional)**

☐ Hoarding of objects or waste
☐ Unsafe structures or electrical systems

☐ Presence of carcasses or animal remains
☐ Rodents or pests
☐ Other: _____

**8. Subject's Behavioral Indications *(observation + brief dialogue)***

**Behavioral cues from the subject**
*(gathered through direct observation and a short conversation)*

**Brief open-ended questions** *(if feasible)*
*(Record short, colloquial responses. Use the person's exact words if meaningful)*

- "How do you feel about your current situation with the animals?"
  ……
- "What is the hardest thing to manage right now?"
  ……
- "If you could change something, what would it be?"
  ……
- "Have you ever received help for this situation?"
  ……

**Problem awareness**
☐ Aware
☐ Minimizes
☐ Denies
☐ Not assessable

**Collaboration during the interview**
☐ Friendly
☐ Formal
☐ Avoidant
☐ Hostile

**Operator's behavioral notes** *(tone, emotional expression, contradictions)*:
……

**9. Preliminary Risk Assessment**

| **Overall Risk Level** | **Brief Description** |
|---|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| ☐ 1 – No risk | Normal management, clean environment, animals in good condition |
| ☐ 2 – Mild risk | Some issues, but overall manageable situation |
| ☐ 3 – Moderate risk | Hoarding behavior ongoing, borderline environmental conditions |
| ☐ 4 – High risk | Severe disorder, questionable animal conditions, evasive attitude |
| ☐ 5 – Critical risk | Serious unsanitary conditions, maltreatment, current health hazard |

**Justification for the assigned score (brief):**

……

**10. Recommendations and Referrals**

**Suggested actions (check all applicable):**

☐ Periodic follow-up (within 30 days)
☐ Multidisciplinary team activation
☐ Psychosocial evaluation (social/mental health services)
☐ Comprehensive veterinary assessment (→ Veterinary Health Form)
☐ Emergency action / Judicial authority notification

**Additional notes:**

……
……

*Note: Proposed actions should be evaluated considering the severity of the risk, the presence of vulnerable individuals, and the resident's cooperation.*

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**Operator's Full Name: _____**
**Affiliated Service/Agency: _____**
**Date: _____ Signature: _____**