

PET SHOPS

THE PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

1. Licences are given for a period of 12 months.
2. All licences expire on 31st December each year by law. Renewal of the licence for a further 12 months will be offered by the Council unless there are good reasons not to do so. Such reasons could include previous failure to comply with licence conditions.
3. Renewal applications are sent out two months prior to the expiry date of the existing licence.
4. Council officers will endeavour to provide assistance and advice to enquiries in relation to licensing issues.
5. It is normal practice for Officers to ask for improvements, should there be any required. Where there are several items in need of attention and they are considered to be of significant importance then a re-inspection may be carried out. Should there be repeated failures to carry out required improvements then licences may be refused or revoked.
6. Applicants are advised that the licence process can take up to 3 months due to the potential involvement of Veterinarians.
7. "Animal" is deemed, for the purpose of the Act, to include any description of vertebrate.

Specific conditions relating to pet shops

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation in which the animals are kept must be of adequate size and construction and the amenities must be suitable. Specific requirements are listed as follows:

1. Animals should not be exposed to excessive light, heat or lack adequate warmth.
2. Animals should not be placed in cages which are exposed to draught from doors or opened windows.
3. Cages must be positioned in such a way so that the floor of the cage is visible.
4. Cages or boxes which are likely to be contaminated should be constructed of impervious materials.
5. Cages should be stacked appropriately in order to avoid water, food or other droppings falling onto or contaminating the animal's food or surroundings.
6. Cages and boxes must be cleaned on a regular basis.
7. Animal excreta and soiled bedding should be removed and stored in suitable impervious containers until suitably disposed of.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Animals require to be supplied with suitable food and drink and should be visited at regular intervals. In particular, the following guidelines should be followed:

1. Animals should be visited at intervals not exceeding 24 hours.
2. Feeding containers must be designed so as to reduce the risk of faecal contamination.
3. When animals are caged together, adequate feeding space should be provided, e.g. small caged birds should have a feeding space of around 1/2".
4. Where animals are not provided with a constant supply of food and drink, they must be supplied with food and drink at least every twelve hours.
5. Licence holders should be aware of any special delivery requirements of particular species.
6. Food shall be stored in suitable covered, impervious containers so as to allow easy cleaning.

SALE OF YOUNG ANIMALS

In general, no mammal should be sold un-weaned or, if weaned, at an age which it should not have been weaned.

DISPLAY OF ANIMALS

1. Animals should not be displayed in cages or containers where there is a potential that they can be disrupted by other animals or unauthorised persons.
2. Animals shall not be handed to customers in unsuitable containers.
3. The licensee should at all times ensure animals are not positioned whereby they can be handled and touched by members of the public or children.
4. Carnivorous animals or omnivorous species should not be placed close to animals which may normally form part of their natural prey in the wild.
5. Animals must not be displayed outside the premises in conditions which are likely to affect the animal.
6. Animals should not be placed in such a position as to obstruct the entrance or exit to the premises.

PEST CONTROL

All reasonable precautions should be implemented in order to prevent the introduction and harbourage of rodents, insects and other pests.

EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

1. The licensee must ensure a responsible person is in or close to the premises at all times in the event of a fire or emergency situations.
2. The name, address and telephone number of the licensee requires to be displayed in the window or front door of the premises and should be notified to the local police and the fire brigade.
3. Fire fighting equipment requires to be provided and should be accessible and maintained in good condition, with fire extinguishers being serviced annually by a competent person and suitably marked to indicate the date of service.

CONTROL OF DISEASE

1. Any animal which is suspected of suffering from, or had contact with, animals suffering from any contagious disease, or is infested with parasites, shall not be brought into the premises, or kept on the premises unless effectively isolated.
2. In the case of imported animals, each new batch of arrivals should be kept separate from all other animals.
3. Puppies and kittens should be kept as isolated litters.
4. Facilities for the examination and treatment of animals should be adequate. This can be either done on site or suitable alternative arrangements can be put in place.
5. Imported fish should be quarantined for at least five days during which time any diseases must be treated.

LICENCE

The licence requires to be displayed in a prominent location in the shop so that members of the public can be aware of it.

DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS LICENCE

DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS ACT 1976

1. While any animal is being kept under the authority of the Licence:-
 - (i) the animals shall be kept by no person other than the person or persons specified on the Licence.
 - (ii) the animal shall be normally be held at such premises as are specified on the Licence.
 - (iii) the animal shall not be moved from those premises.
 - (iv) the person to whom the Licence is granted shall hold a current insurance policy which insures him and any other person entitled to keep the animal under the authority of the Licence against liability for any damage which may be caused by the animal, the terms of such policy being satisfactory in the opinion of the Authority.
2. The species and number of animals of each species that may be kept under the authority of the Licence shall be restricted to those specified in the Schedule relating to the Licence.
3. The person to whom the Licence is granted shall at all reasonable times make available a copy of the Licence to any person entitled to keep any animal under the authority of the Licence.
 - A. No alterations may be made in respect of the quarters in which the animal is accommodated.
 - B. Any animal kept under authority of the Licence shall be accommodated in quarters that are:-
 - Sufficiently secure to prevent the animal's escape;
 - Suitable as regards: construction, size, ventilation, lighting, temperature, drainage and cleanliness
 - Sufficient for the animal to take adequate exercise;
 - So constructed as to prevent interference with the animal by unauthorised persons.
 - C. The animal(s) shall be provided with adequate and suitable food and drink and, where necessary, visited at suitable intervals.
 - D. The quarters shall be cleaned out as often as may be necessary.
 - E. The animal shall be kept so as not to give rise to a nuisance or to be prejudicial to health.

- F. Reasonable precautions shall be taken at all times to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases.
- G. There shall be displayed in a conspicuous position (to the satisfaction of the Licensing authority) the name, address and telephone number of a reasonable person who can be contacted in an emergency (in the event of the absence of the keeper). The person should hold a set of keys for the premises.
- H. Suitable precautions shall be taken, to the satisfaction of the Licensing authority, to secure the animal's safety in the event of a fire.
- I. Any excreta, soiled bedding or other waste shall be disposed of to the satisfaction of the Council.
- J. Any authorised officer of the Council may at any reasonable time enter the premises named on the Licence for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not a Licence should be granted or varied, or whether an offence has been or is being committed against the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.