

ANIMAL LICENSING REGULATIONS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DEFRA has stated that:

“The Government is committed to improving the effectiveness of existing regulation whilst lifting the regulatory burdens on businesses to support growth, productivity and innovation. These proposals should relieve the administrative burden on local authorities, simplify the application and inspection process for businesses, as well as maintain and improve existing animal welfare standards by modernising the current animal licensing system in England.”

What are the regulations called and where can I read them?

The regulations are called the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 and a link to the regulations is available on the Council's website.

What activities require a licence under the regulations?

Those carrying on the following licensable activities will require a licence under the regulations:

- Selling animals as pets
- Providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs
- Hiring out horses
- Breeding dogs
- Keeping or training animals for exhibition

What happens to my existing licence after 1st October 2018?

If you have a licence in force on 1st October 2018, it will continue to be valid until the expiry date shown on the licence. Prior to the expiry of your current licence you will need to make an application for a licence under the new regulations.

When will I need to apply for a licence under the regulations?

Applications for a licence under the regulations, should be made no later than 10 weeks before your licence is due to expire to allow time for the application to be dealt with.

What form do I need to fill in to apply for a licence?

There is a standard application form, a standard declaration form and, a form for the animal activity you require licensing for. For dog breeders there is an additional business test form. The forms are available on the Council's website.

How much will a licence under the new regulations cost?

The fees are available to view on the Council's website.

How long will a licence last for?

Licences will last for one, two or three years based on an assessment of risk conducted by the inspector who inspects the premises when an application is being considered.

What conditions will be attached to licences issued under the regulations?

The regulations prescribe general licence conditions that will attach to all licences and specific licence conditions that will apply to individual licences depending on the licensable activities that licence authorises. The general licence conditions are contained in Schedule 2 of the regulations and the specific licence conditions are contained in Schedules 3 – 7 of the regulations.

How do the regulations affect licences issued under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and the Zoo Licensing Act 1981?

The regulations do not have any impact on the licensing of those who keep dangerous wild animals or operate zoos. Licences for these activities will continue to be issued under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

DEFRA's website can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs>