



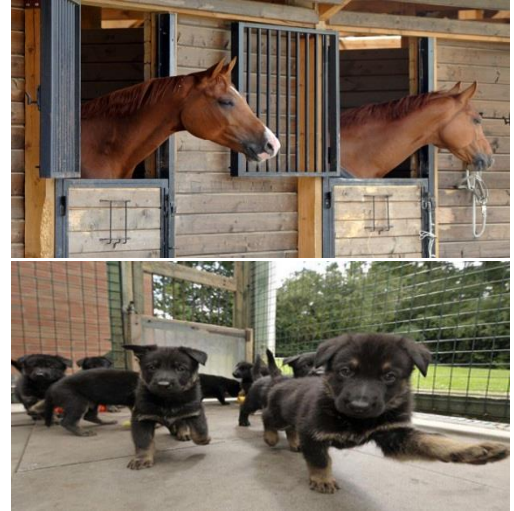
Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Animal Activities Licensing

Phil Alder, Defra

Regulation of Animal Welfare

- Strong public expectation for enforcement of animal welfare standards
- Previous licensing system enforced primary legislation on a number of animal activities:
 - Dog breeding
 - Pet shops
 - Riding establishments
 - Animal boarding establishments
 - Performing animals (registration)
- Animal Welfare Act 2006 provided powers to replace this legislation



Challenges

- Legislative requirements were outdated
- Complex and cumbersome process
- Enforcement and consistency
- Hidden activity
- Other animal establishments – animal sanctuaries, livery stables, mobile animal exhibits – not subject to licensing



How we got here

- Developed proposals in 2015; next after dog microchipping
- Consultation Dec 2015 to Mar 2016
- 1700 responses, largely very supportive
- Some areas with differing views:
 - Role of the UKAS exemption
 - 3 year licences
 - How to regulate mobile animal encounters
 - Dog breeding threshold @ 3 litters
 - Allowing licences to be transferred to new owners of premises
 - Competency and training of inspectors
 - How to tackle on-line trading


Revised system of regulation

- Single licence for animal activities
- Modern and as far as possible, evidence-based welfare requirements
- Includes online and home-based businesses
- Generic licence conditions & specific, activity based licence conditions – set out in the regulations
- Risk-based assessment
- Longer licences for compliant businesses applying higher standards





Licence conditions

Model Conditions given legal force




Model Conditions for
Pet Vending Licensing 2013

September 2013



CIEH Model Licence Conditions
and Guidance for Dog Breeding
Establishments

January 2014



Improved system

Streamlines the current licensing process:

- Removes the calendar year restriction
- Risk-based assessment and licence length up to 3 years
- Clarity on inspections
 - Veterinary inspections for grant and renewal of all riding establishments and then annually
 - Veterinary inspections for all new dog breeding licences
- Certain people barred from having a licence
- LA powers to vary, suspend and revoke licences
- Animal exhibits & training businesses licensed



Tighter controls on pet sales & dog breeding

- Prohibits the sale of puppies, kittens, ferrets & rabbits aged below 8 weeks
- Amends the licensing threshold for dog breeding to:
 - breeding and advertising a business of selling dogs
 - breeding 3 or more litters in any 12 month period
- Requires pet sellers to provide written information on care when selling animals
- All adverts to include detailed info about the licence and the pet
- All licensees to be registered with a vet



Underpinned by statutory guidance

Guidance covers

- Procedure – e.g. risk model
- Scope – using the business test
- Fee setting powers
- On the statutory conditions
- On “suitably qualified” – level 3 certificate in inspecting & licensing
- Training being rolled out via IoL and City & Guilds, National Companion Animal Focus Group

Animals Activity Star Rating System

- In order to calculate the star rating and the associated length of the licence, we need to address:
 - a) Does the business meet the minimum standards?
 - b) Does the business meet the higher standards?
 - c) Is the business low or higher risk?

Star Rating - Higher Welfare Standards?

- For each activity, a number of higher standards have been agreed
- The higher standards are classified into two types – **required** and **optional**
- The business needs to achieve all of the **required** higher standards as well as a set number of the **optional**

Star Rating - Low or Higher Risk?

- **Compliance History:**

Inspections, follow up action, complaints to the LA, complaints to the business

- **Appreciation of welfare standards:**

Attention to detail, enrichment

- **Appreciation of hazards / risks:**

Maintenance, knowledge and experience, dealing with issues

- **Welfare management procedures:**

Procedures, supervision of staff, training, record keeping

Star Rating – Scoring Matrix

Scoring Matrix		Welfare Standards		
		Minor Failings (existing business that is failing to meet minimum standards)	Minimum Standards (as laid down in the schedules and guidance)	Higher Standards (as laid down in the guidance)
Risk	Low Risk	1 Star * 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	3 Star *** 2yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 24 month period	5 Star ***** 3yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 36 month period
	Higher Risk	1 Star * 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	2 Star ** 1yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 12 month period	4 Star **** 2yr licence Min 1 unannounced visit within 24 month period

Improvements

- Benefits for animal welfare:
 - Improving standards & compliance
 - Clarity on statutory conditions & inspections
 - Risk-based approach which incorporates accreditation systems
 - Clarity on who is covered – internet, mobile animal exhibits
- A simpler process for applicants:
 - Single licence
 - Rolling system for inspection and renewal
 - Less burdensome for many – the compliant and lower risk



Benefits

- Dealing with one uniform licensing system
- Risk-based approach – more flexibility
 - Longer licences, fewer inspections
- Greater sharing of functions across cities and regions
 - Enables use of Primary Authority
- More emphasis and clarity on up-to-date standards and conditions
- Maintains principle of cost recovery & for enforcement
 - Clearer powers on charging of fees
- Modern standards, up to date powers – e.g. to vary, revoke, suspend



Next steps

- Regulations came into force 1 October 2018
- Guidance to LAs available on the Gov.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities>

- Roll out of the training course for inspectors
- Announced ban on 3rd party sales of puppies & kittens
- Increase in maximum penalties for animal cruelty
- Regulations subject to 5 year review



[Dog boarding](#)

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