



The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

The above regulations will come into force on 1st October 2018 and will have an impact on establishments licensed under the previous animal health legislation. This includes those previously licensed as pet shops, catteries, kennels, home boarders, dog crèche, riding establishments, dog breeders and performing animals.

The regulations can be viewed at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/486/contents/made>

The following guidance and FAQs will provide more details of the new system of regulation.

1. What licensing activities require a licence?

A licence is required when any of the licensable activities outlined in Schedule 1 of the regulations are undertaken. These are:

- a) selling animals as pets (Part 2);
- b) providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs (including the provision of boarding for cats; kennels for dogs; home boarding for dogs; or day care for dogs (Part 3);
- c) hiring out horses (Part 4);
- d) breeding dogs (Part 5);
- e) keeping or training animals for exhibition (Part 6).

2. Who can apply for a licence?

Any individual, who will be designated as the operator of the business, can apply for a licence providing they

- a) can demonstrate that they are a fit and proper person to carry out the licensable activity and meet the licence conditions; and
- b) are not disqualified from holding a licence in accordance with Regulation 11 and Schedule 8.

3. How do I apply for a licence?

Licence applications must be submitted in writing along with any supportive information and the appropriate fee.

The Council will notify licence holders when their existing licence will expire (3 months prior to expiry) and licence holders must make a new application at least 10 weeks before the licence expires to continue the activity without a break.

8. How much does a licence cost?

The current level of licence fee will be displayed on the Council's webpage.

All fees will be calculated taking into account the statutory guidance stipulated in Regulation 13. Although it is our intention to only recover the actual cost of enforcing the licencing legislation, the changes made by the new legislation are likely to lead to increases in fees and charges from April 2019.

4. What standards/conditions will I be expected to meet to obtain a licence?

DEFRA has produced mandatory conditions and associated guidance for each licensable activity. These are divided into two categories namely General Conditions (stipulated in Schedule 2) and Specific Conditions from the associated Schedule of the Regulations

You will need to meet the requirements of all the minimum standards, although minor failings may be noted/recorded providing they do not compromise the welfare of the animals (these should be predominantly administrative in nature).

In addition each licensable activity (with the exception of the keeping or training animals for exhibition) also stipulates further optional conditions for "Higher Standards".

Specific details will be stipulated on the inspection report.

5. How is the Risk Rating assessed?

Existing operators will be risk rated against a standard 14 point criteria checklist which considers a number of factors relating to compliance history, complaints, welfare standards and management standards. This scoring system will determine if the level of risk.

All new businesses which do not have compliance history with a Local Authority or UKAS accredited scheme will be assessed as higher risk.

Licences for the keeping or training animals for exhibition are not risk rated

6. What are the "Higher Standards"?

For each activity (except keeping or training animals for exhibition) a number of "higher standards" have been agreed. Meeting the higher standards is optional but is the only way to gain the highest star rating. The higher standards are classified into two categories – required (mandatory) and optional. These will usually be colour coded into blue and red respectively. To qualify as meeting the higher standards the business must achieve all the required (mandatory) standards as well as a minimum of 50% of the optional higher standards.

7. How long will my licence last?

Licences can be issued for a period of either one, two or three years depending on the risk rating and level of compliance. This also corresponds with the Star Rating for the establishment. See scoring matrix

Scoring Matrix	Welfare Standards		
	Minor Failings (existing business that are failing to meet minimum standards)	Minimum Standards (as laid down in the schedules and guidance)	Higher Standards (as laid down in the guidance)
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

Licences for the keeping or training animals for exhibition are issued for three years

9. How is the licence application assessed?

All licence applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- a) an assessment of the operator (applicant) as to whether they are a fit and proper person to carry out the licensable activity, their knowledge, experience, compliance history, ability to meet their licence conditions and whether they are currently disqualified from making an application;
- b) an inspection of the site of the licensable activity by a suitably qualified inspector (and where applicable accompanied by a registered veterinarian);
- c) the submission of the inspectors report which will contain information about the operator, details of the premises, records, conditions of the animals, the risk rating score, compliance details and a statement on whether licence conditions will be met;
- d) the payment of the appropriate licence fee.

10. What information is provided with the licence?

Where a licence is issued the Council will provide the following details:

- a) the Licence with the Star Rating;
- b) details of how the business has been rated including a list of the higher standards the business currently fails to meet or a list of the minimum standards the business is failing to meet and resulting in a “minor failing” category;
- c) a copy of the risk management assessment table;
- d) details of the appeals process and timescales.

11. What if my application is refused?

The Council will consider the report from the inspector and any comments made by the applicant when deciding whether to issue a licence.

The Council must refuse to issue a licence if it considers that the applicant cannot meet the licence conditions, the granting of a licence will have a negative impact on animal welfare or if the level of accommodation, staffing or management is inadequate for the well-being of animals. A licence cannot be issued to an operator who is disqualified.

The applicant will have the right of appeal to a First-tier Tribunal within 28 days of the decision notice.

12. What can I do if I am unhappy/disagree with the star rating awarded to me?

To ensure fairness to the business, the Council must have an appeals procedure in place for the operator to dispute the star rating given.

The business will be provided with supportive information (the inspection reports) which will highlight the inspecting officer's decision on how the star rating has been determined.

If you need to speak to us in relation to a proposed application please email us in the first instance at Animalhealth@Barnsley.gov.uk