Animal Activities Licensing
An update on the new Regulations

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Regulation of Animal Welfare

• Strong public expectation for enforcement of animal welfare standards

• Licensing system enforces primary legislation on a number of animal activities:
  • Dog breeding
  • Pet shops
  • Riding establishments
  • Animal boarding establishments

• Registration for performing animals
Challenges

• Current challenges

  • Legislative requirements are outdated
  • Complex and cumbersome process
  • Enforcement and consistency
  • Hidden activity
Consultation responses

• 1700 responses, largely very supportive
• Some areas with differing views:
  • Role of the UKAS exemption
  • How to regulate mobile animal exhibits
  • Allowing licences to be transferred to new owners of premises
  • Competency and training of inspectors
  • How to tackle online trading
Our Proposals

1. Single licence for animal welfare activities reflecting up to date welfare requirements
   • Each individual activity will have specific standards but the level of protection will remain the same
   • Will include online and home-based businesses, and mobile animal exhibits
Our Proposals

2. Model Conditions to be given more prominence
Our Proposals

3. To prohibit the sale of puppies below eight weeks in all cases

4. To amend the statutory licensing threshold for dog breeding to:
   (a) breeding 3 or more litters in any 12 month period
   (b) anyone breeding and advertising a business of selling dogs

5. To require pet sellers to provide written information when selling animals
Our Proposals

6. To streamline the current licensing process:
   • Remove the calendar year restriction
   • Greater risk-based assessment and an increase in the maximum licence length (up to 3 years)
   • Certain people debarred from having a licence
   • Require licence holders to notify local authorities of any major changes
   • Powers to vary, suspend and revoke licences
Underpinned by Statutory Guidance

Guidance will cover

• Application forms
• Fee setting powers – including powers for enforcement in light of Westminster case
• The Statutory Conditions
• The scope – using the business test
• The risk based model
• “Suitably qualified” – level 3 certificate in inspecting & licensing
Potential Improvements

• Benefits for animal welfare
  • Modernisation of standards
    • Clarity on Statutory Conditions
    • Risk-based approach
  • Clarity on who is covered – online sales, mobile animal exhibits

• A simpler process for applicants:
  • Single licence
  • Less burdensome for many – the compliant and those with high animal welfare standards
Benefits

• Dealing with one uniform licensing system
• Risk-based approach – more flexibility
  • Longer licences, fewer inspections
• More emphasis and clarity on up-to-date standards and conditions
• Maintains principle of cost recovery & for enforcement
• Up to date powers
Next steps

• Draft regulations completed and expected to be laid this month; coming into force October 2018.

• Associated guidance near completion.
  • Animal welfare standards
  • Risk model guidance
  • Standard application form
  • Guidance on fees
  • Procedural guidance
  • Information on training of inspectors
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