

NEW ANIMAL LICENSING REGULATIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why has the Government decided to change the law?

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 new regulations called and where can I read them?

The new regulations are called the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 and the regulations are available [here](#).

What activities require a licence under the new regulations?

Those carrying on the following licensable activities will require a licence under the new 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 1 October 2018?

If you have a licence that is in force on 1 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.

What if my existing licence expires before the 1 October 2018?

If your existing licence is due to expire before 1 October 2018 then you will need to apply to renew it under the existing laws in place. If your renewal application is approved, a licence under the existing laws will be issued and will remain valid until it expires at which point 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 new regulations?

We will be writing to all existing licence holders later this year to invite them to apply for a licence under the new regulations. Ideally your application for a licence under the new regulations, should be made no later than 10 weeks before your licence under the existing laws 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 one of the new licences?

There will be a standard application form that you will need to complete. The application form is going to be designed and published by DEFRA and will be made available on the council's website once it is available.

How much will a licence under the new regulations cost?

The council has yet to set the fees that they will charge for licences under the new regulations. Once the fees are approved, they will be available to view on our website.

How long will a licence under the new regulations last for?

We are still awaiting detailed guidance from DEFRA, but the regulations indicate that 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 new 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 new 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.

Where can I find out more information on the law changes?

DEFRA's website can be found [here](#).