



Northumberland County Council

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

DATE: 20th June 2018

TITLE OF REPORT **New Regulations for Animal Licensing**
Report of the Interim Director of Place: Mr Paul Johnston

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of report

To inform Member of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.

Recommendations

Members should note the content of the report.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the thriving priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021

Key issues

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 were published on 1st February 2018 and are expected to come into force on 1st October 2018

The Regulations are to harmonise a number of existing Acts under one licensing regime.

Government guidance and further regulations are expected prior to the implementation date.

Background

Northumberland County Council currently issue licences under the following Acts of Parliament.

- Pet Animal Act 1951 as amended in 1983
- Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963
- The Performing Animals (regulation) Act 1925
- Breeding and Sales of Dogs (welfare) Act 1999, Breeding of Dogs Act 1991 And Breeding of Dogs Act 1973



- Riding Establishment Act 1964

Licence Type	Number of Premises
Boarding Establishments	Total 115. 45 Boarding establishments 69 Home Boarding establishments 1 Dog day creche.
Breeding establishment licences.	9
Pet shops	16
Horse riding establishments.	21
Performing Animals	56

It should be noted that the number of performing animal licences is artificially high, as it is each individual trainer who requires a licence. One premises may have a number of licensed trainers.

Once an animal is licensed under the The Performing Animals (regulation) Act 1925 there is currently no provision to carry out annual inspections; therefore a premises becomes self regulating. The new regulations contain an annual fee and inspection regime.

The increase of Home Boarding has overtaken the more historical provision of boarding establishments; however the current Act did not properly legislate for this modern method of dog care. This new regulation specifically includes home boarding and dog creches and provides appropriate guidance and conditions.

The new regulations will encompass more dog breeders due to a change in the definitions of what a constitutes a dog breeder. Previously dog breeders only required licensing if they had five breeding bitches, each individual bitch had a litter of puppies and they sold for profit. Under the new regulations a licence will be required where they breed three or more litters of puppies in any 12-month period or where they are breeding dogs and advertising a business of selling dogs.

Under the new regulations there will be clearer, joint approach to dealing with issue covered by both the new legislation and the Animal Welfare Act 2016

Implications

Policy	Awaiting government guidance before formulation of policy.
Finance and value for money	The changes to the regulations will impact upon the income and expenditure incurred for the licensing of these matters. However, it is expected that the licensing system will be cost recovery.
Legal	Awaiting further information before can be fully assessed.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	A requirement of the new regulations is that all inspecting and enforcing officers will require specific training.
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment	Awaiting further information before can be fully assessed.
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Once further information is known it is intended that meeting can be held with affected premises.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	All

Background papers:

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

Report sign off.

	initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

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