

Pet Shop Licence Guidance

Issuing a Licence

A licence for pet shops may be issued provided the applicant is not disqualified under any of the following Acts:-

- The Pet Animals Act 1951 (opens in a new window) – viewed on the Office of Public Sector Information website.
- The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 (opens in a new window) – viewed on the Office of Public Sector Information website.

Before being granted a licence the applicant must be able to demonstrate to the Council's Licensing Inspector:

1. That the property has the appropriate planning consent to operate a pet shop establishment.
2. That they are suitably qualified to keep animals with regard to the type and number proposed to be kept.
3. That the animals will be kept in accommodation that is suitable in respect of construction, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.
4. That animals will be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding materials and (so far as is necessary) visited at suitable intervals.
5. That mammals will not be sold at too early an age.
6. That all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease amongst the animals.
7. That appropriate steps will be taken to protect the animals in the case of fire or other emergency, including the provision of suitable fire fighting equipment.
8. That a register containing a description of any animal received on the premises, the animal's age and sex, the date of acquisition and departure and the source from which the animals are received, will be available for inspection at all times by a Licensing Inspector or by a Veterinary Surgeon or Veterinary Practitioner authorised by the Council.
9. No animal will be sold to a child under the age of 16 years.

A licence may be refused or withheld on other grounds if those grounds are such that conditions are not suitable for the keeping of animals.

Each licence is subject to standard conditions that are imposed on all pet shops licensed by the Council.

In addition to the standard conditions a licence may also contain special conditions that are only applicable to your premises.

Your right to appeal

Any person aggrieved by a refusal to be granted a licence or by any conditions to which a licence is subject may appeal to the Magistrates Court and they may give such directions regarding the licence or its conditions as they think proper.

Offences and penalties

The following offences and penalties apply to the pet shops:

- Any person found guilty of keeping a pet shop without a licence may be subject to a fine not exceeding £500 or to three months imprisonment or both.
- Any person found guilty of failing to comply with their licence conditions may be subject to a fine not exceeding £500 or to three months imprisonment or both.
- Any person found guilty of obstructing or delaying an Inspector, or authorised Veterinary Surgeon or Veterinary Practitioner in the exercising of their powers of entry may be fined up to a maximum of £500.

If found guilty under this Act, the defendant's licence may be cancelled and they may be disqualified from keeping a pet shop for such length of time as the Court thinks fit.

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