

Zoo Licence Guidance

Notification to operate a zoo

At least 2 months before making an application for a zoo licence, the applicant must give notice, by way of [an application form](#) to the Harrogate Borough Council. The notice must identify:

- Zoo location
- Types of animals and approximate number of each group kept for exhibition on the premises and the arrangements for their accommodation, maintenance and wellbeing
- The approximate numbers and categories of staff to be employed in the zoo
- The approximate number of visitors and motor vehicles for which accommodation is to be provided
- The approximate number and position of access to be provided to the premises
- How required conservation measures will be implemented at the zoo

A notice then should be placed in one local **and** one national newspaper. The notice must identify the location of the zoo and state that the application notice is available to be inspected at the Harrogate Borough Council offices.

What happens to my application?

When considering an application, the Harrogate Borough Council shall take into account any representations made by or on behalf of:

- The applicant
- The chief officer of police
- The governing body of any national institution concerned with the operation of zoos
- Where part of the zoo is not situated in the area of the local authority with power to grant the licence, a planning authority for the relevant area (other than a county planning authority) or, if the part is situated in Wales, the local planning authority for the area in which it is situated
- Any person alleging that the zoo would affect the health or safety of people living in the neighbourhood
- Anyone stating that the zoo would affect the health or safety of anyone living near it
- Any other person whose representations might show grounds on which the authority has a power or duty to refuse to grant a licence

Before granting or refusing to grant the licence, Harrogate Borough Council will consider any inspectors' reports based on their inspection of the zoo, consult the applicant about any conditions they propose should be attached to the licence and make arrangements for an inspection to be carried out. Harrogate Borough Council shall provide at least 28 days notice of the inspection.

Harrogate Borough Council will not grant the licence if they feel that the zoo would adversely affect the health or safety of people living in near it, or seriously affect the preservation of law and order or if they are not satisfied that appropriate conservation measures would be satisfactorily implemented.

An application may also be refused if:

- Harrogate Borough Council are not satisfied that accommodation, staffing or management standards are suitable for the proper care and wellbeing of the animals or for the proper conduct of the zoo
- The applicant, or if the applicant is an incorporated company, the company or any of the company's directors, managers, secretaries or other similar officers, or a keeper in the zoo, has been convicted of any offence involving the ill-treatment of animals

Renewal of your licence

Applications to renew a licence will be considered no later than six months before the expiry of the existing licence, unless Harrogate Borough Council allows a shorter time period.

Your renewal licence will last 6 years.

Appeals

If the applicant is refused a licence, they may appeal to a magistrates' court within 28 days from the date on which the applicant receives written notification of the refusal.

But, please contact Harrogate Borough Council in the first instance.

A licence holder may appeal to a Magistrates' court against:

- Any condition attached to a licence or any variation or cancellation of a condition
- The refusal to approve the transfer of a licence
- A zoo closure direction
- Enforcement steps relating to any unmet condition

The appeal must be brought within 28 days from the date on which the licence holder receives written notification of the authority's decision as to the relevant matter.

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