



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

SUBJECT:

AMENDMENT TO CONDITIONS OF LICENCE FOR ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENTS

PURPOSE OF ATTACHED REPORT:

The purpose of the report is to review the conditions of licence in respect of Animal Establishment Licences, which include Pet Shops, Animal Boarding/ Animal Breeding premises with a view to securing best practice, & promoting public confidence.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director Environmental Services as described below.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

It is recommended that the conditions of licence (as detailed in the attached Report) proposed by the All Wales Animal Health Panel in respect of Animal Establishment Licences be adopted with immediate effect.

D. G. Jones
Chief Officer Signature

GEORGE JONES
Print Name

17/1/2013
Date

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution



CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

17.1.2013

DATE



OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

17/1/2013

DATE

Directorate:	Public Health & Protection, Environmental Services Group
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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/2013 REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF THE GROUP DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**Part 1
(Non-Confidential)**

**AMENDMENT TO CONDITIONS OF
LICENCE:
ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENT
LICENCES (TO INCLUDE PET
SHOPS; ANIMAL BOARDING;
ANIMAL BREEDING**

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to review the conditions of licence in respect of Animal Establishment Licences, which include Pet Shops, Animal Boarding/ Animal Breeding premises with a view to securing best practice, & promoting public confidence.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended Officer decision of the Group Director Environmental Services as described below.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The conditions of licence (as detailed below), proposed by the All Wales Animal Health Panel in respect of Animal Establishment Licences be adopted with immediate effect:

Appendix 1A	Pet Shop Licences
Appendix 1B	Animal Boarding Licences
Appendix 1C	Animal Breeding Licences

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The animal establishment licensing regime is governed by the respective parent legislation which includes Pet Animals Act 1951; Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963; Breeding of Dogs Act 1973.
- 3.2 Whilst Welsh Government have given an undertaking to review the legislation with regard to Wales, (and are currently consulting on dog breeding legislation), it is unlikely that this will be implemented in the immediate future.

- 3.3 The current conditions of licence used to licence animal establishments are derived from model conditions issued by Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) in the 1980's. The conditions are now considered to be outdated and do not take account of matters highlighted by the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
- 3.4 Local Authority Licensing Teams frequently receive criticism from pressure groups and animal welfare organisations that the current scheme of licensing is not sufficiently robust to provide the protection animals require. As a result of the foregoing and in response to public concerns, the All Wales Animal Health Panel was established and in conjunction with Pembrokeshire Animal Health Team, have drafted revised conditions for the licences detailed.
- 3.5 The new conditions were prepared in consultation with various bodies which included licensees, RSPCA, Dogs Trust, Kennel Club, Pet Care Trust, Puppy Alert and Welsh Government. The feedback was positive with a consensus that the revision was the way forward.
- 3.6 The conditions have been endorsed by the WLGA and the support of all Welsh Authorities is requested in adopting the conditions as best practice. This will ensure that there is consistency in the approach to Animal Licensing across Wales and will help to address concerns that have been identified and will encourage good practice.
- 3.7 It has also been identified that the revised conditions will integrate with the new legislation currently under consideration by Welsh Government with respect to dog breeding, in that due regard has been given to incorporate the draft licensing recommendations contained in the proposals.
- 3.8 Copies of the revised conditions are attached for information as follows:-

Appendix 1A	Pet Shop Licences
Appendix 1B	Animal Boarding Licences
Appendix 1C	Animal Breeding Licences
Appendix 1D	Riding Establishment Licences

4.0 ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENT LICENCES IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Rhondda Cynon Taf currently has the following Animal Establishment Licences in force:-

Premises Type	No.
Pet Shop Licences	17
Animal Boarding Licences (Including Home Boarding)	11
Animal Breeding Licences	1

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Having reviewed the revised conditions, together with accompanying inspection programme, it is considered that it will significantly improve the regime currently in place.
- 5.2 It is proposed that the conditions be revised on an annual basis by the Panel, to take account of operational experience and any changes to legislation.
- 5.3 In addition, it is considered that the adoption of an All Wales regime is consistent with the ethos of collaboration and sharing of best practice that Welsh Government is committed to promote.
- 5.4 It is therefore recommended that the conditions as proposed by the All Wales Animal Health Panel be adopted with immediate effect.