



West Lothian  
Council

# Advice to Applicants On Licence Conditions

## Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

Dangerous Wild Animal Licences are administered by The Environmental Health Service.

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## **Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976**

In determining whether a licence should be granted, the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 requires Local Authorities to have regard to the following:

- No person shall keep any dangerous wild animal except under the authority of a licence granted in accordance with the provisions of this Act by a local authority.
- It is not contrary to the public interest on the grounds of safety, nuisance or otherwise to grant the licence
- The applicant for the licence is a suitable person to hold a licence under this Act;
- The applicant applying for a licence under the Act is 18 or over.
- The applicant applying for a licence under the Act is not disqualified under the Act from keeping any dangerous wild animal.
- The applicant both owns and possesses, or proposes both to own and to possess, any animal concerned, except where the circumstances are in the authority's opinion exceptional.

### **1.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS**

- 1.1 Adequate insurance indemnity should be arranged by the operator of the premises.
- 1.2 Access shall be permitted to any authorised officer of the Licensing Authority at any time and all reasonable directions and requirements of such officer or the Licensing Authority shall be complied with. Any person who wilfully obstructs or delays any person in the exercise of his power of entry or inspection under this section shall be guilty of an offence.
- 1.3 A local authority to which an application has been made for a licence under this Act, or which has granted such a licence, may authorise in writing any veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner or such other person as it may deem competent, to inspect any premises where any animal is proposed to be held in pursuance of a licence for which an application has been made under this Act, or where any animal is or may be held in pursuance of a licence which has been granted under this Act, and any persons authorised under this section may, on producing their authority if so required, enter any such premises at all reasonable times and inspect them and any animal or other thing found there, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not a licence should be granted or varied or whether an offence has been or is being committed against this Act.
- 1.4 The Licence holder must surrender the licence if and when called upon to do so by the Licensing Authority.
- 1.5 The local authority may require the person who has applied for a licence under this Act to pay the local authority the reasonable costs for any inspection carried out under this Act.
- 1.6 In the event of the death of anyone to whom a licence has been granted, the licence shall continue in force for a period of 28 days as if it had been granted to the personal representatives of the deceased and if application is made for a new licence within the said period the said licence shall be deemed to be still in force pending the grant or refusal of that application.
- 1.7 A local authority which grants a licence under this Act may at any time vary the licence by specifying any new condition of the licence or varying or revoking any condition of it (including any condition specified, or previously varied, under this subsection) Variations shall not take effect until the licence holder has become aware of the variation and had a reasonable time to

comply with it. If the licence variation was requested by the licence holder, the variation shall take effect immediately after it is made.

## 2.0 **GENERAL CONDITIONS IN RELATION TO THE ANIMAL**

- 2.1 The animal shall be kept by no person other than the person(s) specified in the licence
- 2.2 The animal shall normally be held at such premises as are specified in the licence
- 2.3 The animal shall not be moved from those premises (except in the following circumstances, namely: veterinary treatment transported in purpose built transportation vehicle/crate)
- 2.4 Where a local authority proposes to insert in a licence under this Act a provision permitting any animal to be, for any continuous period exceeding 72 hours, at premises outside the area of the authority, the authority shall consult the local authority in which those premises are situated.

## 3.0 **ACCOMMODATION**

- 3.1 The animal(s) to which the licence refers must at all times be kept in accommodation and environment suitable to their species with respect to situation, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness and not exposed to draughts. All accommodation must be kept in good repair.
- 3.2 Caging shall be of heavy gauge mesh
- 3.3 A concrete foundation of 25cm depth and 20 cm width as minimum is required in external enclosures.
- 3.4 An impervious liner (eg metal sheeting) to minimise cross infection between the two species sleeping area
- 3.5 Common double gate entrance to both pens to be padlocked at all times when attendant not working in the pens
- 3.6 Entry shall be by two independently locking doors

## 4.0 **EXERCISE FACILITIES**

- 4.1 The animal(s) accommodation is such that it can take adequate exercise.

## 5.0 **BEDDING**

- 5.1 Bedding should be suitable to provide adequate comfort to the animal and sited away from draughts. Bedding should be regularly cleaned, sanitized or replaced as necessary.

## 6.0 **DRAINAGE**

- 6.1 The premises must be connected to main drainage or an approved sewerage system.

## 7.0 **LIGHTING**

7.1 Adequate source / duration of lighting must be provided for species of animal

## 8.0 **VENTILATION**

8.1 Ventilation must be provided to all interior areas without the creation of excessive, localised draughts. Heat can be removed by ventilation and a balance is necessary between adequate ventilation and the unnecessary removal of warm air.

Ventilation is important as an aid to disease control, a protection against smell accumulation, and prevents excessive humidity of the atmosphere. Positioning of the bedding is an important consideration.

## 9.0 **HEATING / TEMPERATURE MONITORING**

9.1 Heating facilities must be provided in accordance with the type of species kept. Temperature monitoring should take place to maintain the correct temperature.

## 10.0 **MAINTENANCE**

10.1 Maintenance and repair of the premises must be carried out regularly

## 11.0 **FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES**

11.1 All animals must be adequately supplied with suitable food. Clean water must be available at all times and changed daily.

Eating and drinking vessels must be capable of being easily cleansed and disinfected to prevent cross-contamination.

Eating and drinking vessels must be maintained in good condition and replaced as necessary

## 12.0 **KITCHEN FACILITIES**

12.1 The kitchen area should be separate to the remainder of the building

12.2 Food storage and preparation area shall have cleansable surfaces, be hygienic and vermin proof.

12.3 Where necessary refrigeration facilities must be provided and food contamination must be avoided. A temperature gauge should be placed in the fridge and monitored on daily basis.

12.4 Containers for storing foods should be provided and should be constructed and maintained to guard against insects and other pests.

12.5 Waste food to be stored in vermin proof building/areas

## 13.0 **CLEANLINESS**

13.1 All excreta and soiled material must be removed from all areas at least daily and more often if necessary.

13.2 The premises must be kept clean and free from accumulations of dirt at all times.

13.3 Facilities must be provided for the proper storage and disposal of all waste.

14.0 **SUPERVISION**

14.1 Animals must be checked at regular intervals as necessary for their health safety and welfare.

15.0 **DISEASE CONTROL**

15.1 All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent infestation by vermin or other pests.

15.2 All reasonable precautions will be taken at such times to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases.

15.3 The services of a qualified veterinary officer must be obtained to treat cases of infectious or contagious disease.

16.0 **ISOLATION FACILITIES**

16.1 Separate accommodation must be provided for isolation of animals suffering from infectious / contagious disease.

16.2 Hands must be washed after leaving the isolation facilities before handling other animals.

16.3 Protective clothing and equipment for use only in the isolation facility must be used to reduce the spread of infection.

16.4 A management regime should be followed where an isolation case is being handled. Records of the isolation cases and the management regime to be followed should be kept.

16.5 Complete disinfection of the isolation facilities and equipment must be carried out once vacated

17.0 **FIRE PRECAUTIONS**

17.1 All appropriate steps will be taken for the protection of the animals in case of fire or other emergencies.

17.2 A suitable emergency evacuation plan and fire warning procedure must be drawn up and posted in the premises. This procedure should include:

- How people will be warned if there is a fire
- What staff should do if they discover a fire
- What staff should do in the event of a fire
- The arrangements for calling the Fire and Rescue Service
- The specific action to be taken by the person in charge when the fire alarm activates or a fire is discovered
- The procedure to be followed to evacuate the premises, taking into account any personal emergency egress plans
- Where persons / animals will be taken after they have left the premises and procedures for checking whether the premises have been evacuated.

17.3 Fire fighting equipment must be provided in accordance with advice given by the Fire Prevention Officer.

It is advisable to fit smoke detectors with regular checks being undertaken to ensure their effectiveness.

All staff on the premises should be trained in the safe use of fire extinguishers.

17.4 There must be adequate means of raising an alarm in the event of a fire or other emergency.

17.5 Advice must be sought from the Fire Prevention Officer to ensure compliance with fire safety requirements.

17.6 Precautions must be taken to prevent any accumulation which may present a risk of fire.

17.7 All electrical installations and appliances must be maintained in a safe condition with no loose trailing cables.

17.8 All heating appliances must be free of risk of fire as is reasonable practicable.

Heating appliances should not be sited in a location or manner where they may present a risk of fire, or risk to the animals.

17.9 Where gas heating is provided the Licence holder shall ensure that the appliances are serviced on an annual basis by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

18.0 **TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS**

18.1 All vehicles used for the transportation of the animals must be regularly serviced and kept clean. They must be fitted with cages of adequate size for the species concerned. All vehicles must be secure and should not be left unattended when transporting the animals.

19.0 **POWER TO SEIZE AND DISPOSE OF ANIMAL**

19.1 Where an animal is being kept contrary to section 1 (1.1), or any condition of a licence under this Act is contravened or not complied with, the local authority in whose area any animal is concerned is for the time being may seize the animal, and either retain it in the authority's possession or destroy or otherwise dispose of it, and shall not be liable to pay compensation to any person in respect of the exercise of its powers under this subsection.

19.2 A local authority which incurs any expenditure in exercising these powers shall be entitled to recover the amount of the expenditure summarily as a civil debt from any person who was at the time of the seizure a keeper of the animal concerned or to whom the licence concerned was granted.