



Report for:	Licensing and Health & Safety Enforcement Committee
Date of meeting:	10 September 2019
PART:	I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Presentation of Dacorum Borough Council's draft Animal Licensing Policy
Contact:	Sally Mcdonald, Lead Officer, Licensing, Corporate and Contracted Services
Purpose of report:	To present the Council's draft Animal Licensing Policy, for consideration and to seek approval to submit the policy for public consultation
Recommendations	To commence public consultation on the draft, and to report results to a future meeting of the Committee.
Corporate objectives:	<p>Safe and Clean Environment This policy sets out the principles for licensing activities involving animals, in line with current legislation, which will ensure the legal and safe operation of licensed businesses</p> <p>Dacorum Delivers The policy refers to how the Council will administer recent legislative changes in respect of animal licensing</p>
Implications:	<p><u>Financial and Value for Money</u> Having a policy is not a requirement for this area of licensing, and maintaining a policy requires occasional officer resources. However, the purpose of the policy is to ensure that the Council's approach to this licensing regime is clear and transparent, which should reduce unnecessary customer contact, by signposting to the policy which will be available on the Council's website.</p> <p><u>Risk Implications</u> None</p> <p><u>Community Impact</u> None</p> <p><u>Health And Safety Implications</u> None</p>

Consultees:	This report proposes public consultation on the policy revisions with the results to be reported to a future Committee meeting for consideration.
Background papers:	Animal Licensing Policy 2019 – version 1
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	DWA – Dangerous Wild Animals.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. As reported at the meeting of the Licensing Health and Safety and Enforcement Committee on 31 July 2018, the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018 were due to come into force on 1 October 2018. The new Regulations encompass the following licensable activities:

- Selling animals as pets (or with a view to their being later resold as pets) in the course of a business including keeping animals in the course of a business with a view to their being so sold or resold.
- Providing or arranging for the provision of accommodation for other people's cats or dogs in the course of a business on any premises where the provision of that accommodation is a purpose of the business.
- Hiring out horses in the course of a business for either riding, instruction in riding, or both.
- Breeding three or more litters of puppies in any 12-month period; or breeding dogs and advertising a business of selling dogs.
- Keeping or training animals for exhibition in the course of a business for educational or entertainment purposes, either to any audience attending in person, or by the recording of visual images of them by any form of technology, or both.

1.2. All the transitional licences have now been issued under the new regulations, and although a number of previous holders did not re-apply, a number of new businesses have submitted applications. The list of licence holders at the time of writing this report breaks down as follows:

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|---|-------------------|
| a) Selling animals as pets: | 5 |
| b) The provision of accommodation for other people's cats and dogs: | 43 |
| c) Hiring out horses: | 5 |
| d) Breeding of dogs: | 2 (1 in progress) |
| e) Keeping or training animals for exhibition: | 3 |

1.3. In addition to licences issued under the above regulations, the Licensing Team also administer applications and, where appropriate, inspections, in relation to keepers of Dangerous Wild Animals, and Zoo licences, which are both dealt with under other legislation, but will be covered in this policy.

2. PROPOSED DRAFT POLICY

- 2.1. Now the new licensing regime has been implemented an animal licensing policy has been drafted, incorporating the requirements of the new Animal Activity regulations, and guidance for applicants based on the experience gained by officers throughout the process.
- 2.2. In addition to licences covered by the new regulations above, the policy also includes information in relation to the licensing of Dangerous Wild Animals and Zoos.
- 2.3. The draft of the proposed Animal Licensing Policy is attached as Annex A to this report.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1. The following timeline is proposed:

Date	Activity
13 September 2019	Start of consultation
25 October 2019	Last date for consultation responses
12 November 2019	Licensing HSE Committee meeting Consultation results reported back Decision on whether to adopt policy

- 3.2. A six week consultation is considered suitable for this policy as our approach is strongly guided by legislation, with minimal local consideration, so this policy is predominantly to provide guidance as to how the Council will carry out its licensing functions.
- 3.3. Consultation will be carried out by publishing the draft policy on the Council's website inviting responses, and by direct notification to current licence holders, Defra, the RSPCA, Herts Constabulary, Herts Fire Authority, relevant internal departments and our neighbouring local authorities.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee note the content of the draft 'Animal Licensing Policy' document and instruct officers to commence consultation on the proposals in accordance with the above timeline, and report the results back to the Committee at its meeting on 12 November 2019.