



Report for:	Licensing, Health & Safety and Enforcement Committee
Date of meeting:	10th September 2024
PART:	I
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Review of Animal Activity Licensing Policy
Contact:	Sally Mcdonald – Licensing Manager, Legal and Democratic Services
Purpose of report:	To present draft revisions to the Animal Activity Licensing Policy.
Recommendations	That officers commence consultation with licence holders, other interested parties, and via the Dacorum Borough Council website and report the results to a future meeting of the Committee.
Corporate objectives:	A clean, safe and enjoyable 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
Implications:	<u>Financial / Value for Money / Risk / Health & Safety</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.

Consultees:	This is a pre-consultation report. If the recommendation is approved, the results of public consultation will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.
Background papers:	N/A
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The Licensing of Activities involving animals (England) (2018) regulations came into force on 1st October 2018, with the commencement of the new licences from 1st January 2019. Prior to that animal licensing was regulated under a number of different pieces of legislation.

1.2. Dacorum Borough Council currently licence 59 Animal establishments as follows:

Home Boarding: 34
Home Boarding franchise: 3
Catteries: 3
Commercial Dog Day Care: 4
Dog Boarding kennels: 1
Pet Shops: 4
Riding Establishments: 4
Exhibiting animals: 6
Dog Breeding: 0

1.3. The new regime is much more involved, and it is a requirement of the legislation that all inspectors that carry out inspections on licensed premises have obtained a Level 3 qualification to do so. Inspectors must be well versed in respect of Home Boarding and Commercial Day Care, Dog breeding, Licensing of Kennels and Catteries, Riding Establishments, Pet Shops and the activity of showing animals, either on film, or in a hands on environment. Dacorum currently have two qualified Inspectors, both in the Licensing Team, and another Licensing Officer currently working through the qualification.

1.4. The Animal Welfare Licensing Policy was created in 2019 after the first year of dealing with these applications – although not a legal requirement, it is a useful tool in setting out what is required in respect of these applications, as the licensing process can be complex. The policy takes into account statutory DEFRA guidance in relation to the process and conditions that the licence holders must meet.

1.5. Although there haven't been any significant changes to the legislation or guidance, officers have established that some minor amendments are required to refresh the Policy, and these are set out in the Draft at Annex A.

1.6. The Committee are asked to approve consultation on the revised policy for a period of six weeks with the outcome and final amendments to be presented to a future meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1. That officers commence consultation with Licence holders, other interested parties, and other persons, with any responses to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.