



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Animal Activities Licensing

An update on the new Regulations

Charlotte Carne, Defra

# Regulation of Animal Welfare

- Strong public expectation for enforcement of animal welfare standards
- Licensing system enforces primary legislation on a number of animal activities:
  - Dog breeding
  - Pet shops
  - Riding establishments
  - Animal boarding establishments
- Registration for performing animals



# Challenges

- Current challenges
  - Legislative requirements are outdated
  - Complex and cumbersome process
  - Enforcement and consistency
  - Hidden activity



# Consultation responses

- 1700 responses, largely very supportive
- Some areas with differing views:
  - Role of the UKAS exemption
  - How to regulate mobile animal exhibits
  - Allowing licences to be transferred to new owners of premises
  - Competency and training of inspectors
  - How to tackle online trading



# Our Proposals


## 1. Single licence for animal welfare activities reflecting up to date welfare requirements

- Each individual activity will have specific standards but the level of protection will remain the same
- Will include online and home-based businesses, and mobile animal exhibits





# Our Proposals

## 2. Model Conditions to be given more prominence




Model Conditions for  
Pet Vending Licensing 2013

September 2013



CIEH Model Licence Conditions  
and Guidance for Dog Breeding  
Establishments

January 2014



# Our Proposals

3. To prohibit the sale of puppies below eight weeks in all cases
4. To amend the statutory licensing threshold for dog breeding to:
  - (a) breeding 3 or more litters in any 12 month period
  - (b) anyone breeding and advertising a business of selling dogs
5. To require pet sellers to provide written information when selling animals



# Our Proposals

6. To streamline the current licensing process:
  - Remove the calendar year restriction
  - Greater risk-based assessment and an increase in the maximum licence length (up to 3 years)
  - Certain people debarred from having a licence
  - Require licence holders to notify local authorities of any major changes
  - Powers to vary, suspend and revoke licences





# Underpinned by Statutory Guidance

## Guidance will cover

- Application forms
- Fee setting powers – including powers for enforcement in light of Westminster case
- The Statutory Conditions
- The scope – using the business test
- The risk based model
- “Suitably qualified” – level 3 certificate in inspecting & licensing

# Potential Improvements

- Benefits for animal welfare
  - Modernisation of standards
    - Clarity on Statutory Conditions
    - Risk-based approach
  - Clarity on who is covered – online sales, mobile animal exhibits
- A simpler process for applicants:
  - Single licence
  - Less burdensome for many – the compliant and those with high animal welfare standards



# Benefits

- Dealing with one uniform licensing system
- Risk-based approach – more flexibility
  - Longer licences, fewer inspections
- More emphasis and clarity on up-to-date standards and conditions
- Maintains principle of cost recovery & for enforcement
- Up to date powers



# Next steps

- Draft regulations completed and expected to be laid this month; coming into force October 2018.
- Associated guidance near completion.
  - Animal welfare standards
  - Risk model guidance
  - Standard application form
  - Guidance on fees
  - Procedural guidance
  - Information on training of inspectors



# Contact details

## **Charlotte Carne**

Companion Animal Welfare Team

Defra

Nobel House

17 Smith Square

London

[charlotte.carne@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:charlotte.carne@defra.gsi.gov.uk)