

# Pet Animals Act 1951



**ASHFORD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Conditions Subject to Which Licence to Keep a Pet Shop is Granted

### Accommodation

- 1.1 A copy of the licence must be displayed to the public in a prominent position.
- 1.2 Animals must at all times be kept in accommodation which is suitable with respect to construction, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness. Accommodation must be provided appropriate to size, age and type of species.
- 1.3 Animals must not be exposed to draughts and must be kept in an environment suitable to the species. If animals are displayed outdoors, they must have protection appropriate to their species.
- 1.4 Housing must be constructed of non-porous materials or be appropriately treated.
- 1.5 Animals must not be kept in housing in such a way that they can be interfered with by other animals or the public.
- 1.6 All livestock, for sale, must be readily accessible and easy to inspect.
- 1.7 Accommodation must be cleaned as often as necessary to maintain good hygiene standards, consistent with the rate of stock turnover.
- 1.8 Where accommodation is on a tiered system, water, food or other droppings must not be allowed to enter the lower housing.
- 1.9 All accessories provided in the accommodation must be suitable for the species.
- 1.10 Exhibition animals kept in the shop must be considered as required proper accommodation and any animals not for sale must have a note stating that fact.

### Exercise Facilities

- 2.1 Facilities must be available where appropriate.

N.B. For example, in the case of puppies, if they are kept longer than five days, an exercise pen must be provided.

## **Register of Animals**

- 3.1 A livestock purchase register must be maintained for all livestock. A sales register must be maintained for:
- i.) puppies
  - ii.) kittens
  - iii.) psittacines
  - iv.) species contained in the Schedule to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (as amended)

N.B. This can be by cross reference to an invoice file. The purpose of the register is to ascertain the source of livestock and for emergency contact of purchaser. The name and telephone number of the purchaser is, therefore, sufficient.

## **Stocking Numbers and Densities**

- 4.1 The maximum numbers and types of animals permitted to be kept on the premises to which the licence refers are as set out on the back of the licence and shall not be exceeded.
- 4.2 The number of animals which may be kept on the premises must be displayed on the premises.
- 4.3 The stocking densities must not exceed those listed in the schedules 1 to 2 to these conditions.
- 4.4 The water quality standards listed in schedule 3 to these conditions must be complied with.

## **Health, Disease and Acclimatisation**

- 5.1 All stock sold must be in good health as far as can be reasonably determined without veterinary inspection.
- 5.2 Any sick or injured animal must receive appropriate care and treatment without delay.

N.B. This may include euthanasia.

- 5.3 Veterinary advice must be sought whenever necessary.
- 5.4 Any animal with an obvious, significant abnormality which could materially affect its quality of life, must not be offered for sale. When in doubt, veterinary advice must be sought.
- 5.5 All animals must be allowed a suitable acclimatisation period before sale.
- 5.6 The facility to isolate sick animals must be provided.

- 5.7 All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of disease. No animal which is suffering from or could reasonably be suspected of having come into contact with any other animal suffering from, any infectious or contagious disease, or which is infested with parasites, shall be brought into or kept on the premises unless effectively isolated.
- 5.8 Puppies and kittens must be kept separate from other litters.
- 5.9 All necessary precautions must be taken to prevent the introduction to the premises, and harbourage, of rodents, insects and other pests.

N.B. "Rodent" and "insect" excludes livestock for sale or feeding.

### **Food and Drink**

- 6.1 Animals must be supplied with adequate amounts of food and drink, appropriate to their needs, and at suitable intervals.
- 6.2 All food must be suitable for the species concerned.
- 6.3 Food and drink receptacles must be constructed and positioned to minimise faecal contamination.
- 6.4 A sufficient number of receptacles must be provided and cleaned at regular intervals.

### **Food Storage**

- 7.1 All food, excluding live foods, intended for feeding to livestock on the premises, must be stored in impervious closed containers.
- 7.2 The containers and equipment used for feeding must be kept in a clean condition.

### **Observation**

- 8.1 All livestock must be attended to at regular intervals, appropriate to the species.

N.B. In no circumstances will this be less than daily.

### **Excreta and Soiled Bedding**

- 9.1 All excreta and soiled bedding must be stored in impervious containers with close fitting lids.
- 9.2 Excreta and soiled bedding must be removed from the premises on a regular basis, at least weekly, and disposed of to the satisfaction of the local authority and in accordance with current regulations and good waste management practice.

9.3 All containers must be kept in a clean condition.

### **Transportation**

10.1 When receiving stock, the licensee must make every effort to ensure that it is transported in a suitable manner.

10.2 Any livestock received or consigned shall be transported according to the regulations laid down by the Transit Animals (General) Order 1973 or other relevant legislation or recommendations.

N.B. For air transportation, the IATA guidelines must be followed. For rail transportation, the British Rail guidelines must be followed.

### **Transportation Containers**

11.1 Livestock must be transported or handed to purchasers in suitable containers.

### **Sale of Livestock**

12.1 All stock sold must be in good health as far as can be reasonably determined without veterinary inspection.

12.2 No mammal shall be sold unweaned or, if weaned, at an age at which it should not have been weaned.

12.3 In the case of non-mammals, they must be capable of feeding themselves.

12.4 No animal may be sold as a pet to a person under the age of 12.

### **Dangerous Wild Animals**

13.1 When dangerous animals are kept, the cages must be of secure construction appropriate to the species. A fine wire mesh, glass or plastic safety barrier must be incorporated into the cage system.

13.2 Licensees selling animals on the Schedule to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act must inspect the purchaser's licence to keep such an animal and inform the issuing authority of the details of the purchase.

### **Pet Care Advice**

14.1 Pet care leaflets or other similar written instructions must be made available to customers where appropriate at the time of purchase.

14.2 Purchasers of accessories must, where necessary, be given proper advice as to their maintenance and use.

14.3 Appropriate reference books must always be available for use by staff.

## **Staff Training and Livestock Knowledge**

- 15.1 No animal may be stocked or sold unless the staff (or a member of the staff) is familiar with the care and welfare of that animal.
- 15.2 The licensee must formulate a written training policy for all permanent staff, and will be required to demonstrate that systematic training is carried out.

## **Fire and Other Emergency Precautions**

- 16.1 Suitable emergency precautions and written procedures shall exist and be made known to all staff, including arrangements for evacuation of livestock.
- 16.2 Entrances and exits must be clear of obstructions at all times.
- 16.3 Fire extinguishers must be provided and sited as approved by the local Fire Prevention Officer.
- 16.4 The fire-fighting equipment must be maintained in good working order.
- 16.5 The licensee, or a designated keyholder, must at all times be within reasonable distance of the premises and available to visit the premises in case of emergency.
- 16.6 A list of keyholders must be lodged with the local police.
- 16.7 An emergency telephone number must be displayed at the front of the shop: this may either be the keyholder's number or the emergency telephone number no.999.
- 16.8 When pet shops are sited within other premises, the licensee or keyholders must have access at all times to the premises containing the livestock.

## Schedule 1

### Stocking Densities – Caged Birds

Parrots, Parakeets, Budgerigar, etc.	length (cm)	floor area (sq cm)	
		single	each additional
African Grey		1250	625
Amazon	up to 35	1000	500
	35-40	1250	625
	over 40	2000	750
Budgerigar		650	200
Cockatiel		1000	250
Cockatoo	up to 35	1250	625
	35-40	2000	1000
	over 45	2750	1325
Lovebird		750	200
Macaw	up to 40	1250	625
	40-60	2250	1000
	over 60	3750	1200
Parakeet (incl. Conure, Kakariki, Rosella)	up to 25	1000	250
	25-35	1000	250
	over 35	1400	450
Parrot (incl. Caique, Pronus, Senegal, Meyer's)	up to 30	800	275
	30-35	1250	625
	over 35	1500	750
Parrotlet		400	200
Hanging Parrot		450	250
Lories and Lorikeets	up to 22.5	800	250
	22.5-30	1250	375
	over 30	2000	500

Seed eaters	length (cm)	floor area (sq cm)	
		single	each additional
Canary		650	250
Cardinal		1000	250
Dove and Pigeon	up to 22.5	450	250
	over 22.5	1250	625
Finch (incl. Mannikin, Silverbill, Sparrow, Waxbill)	up to 12.5	650	100
	12.5-17.5	750	150
	over 17.5	1000	200
Crossbeak		1000	200
Quail	up to 15	450	250
	15-20	650	375
	over 20	1000	500
Weaver	up to 15	650	150
	over 15	1000	200
Whydah (male with full tail) - female and male in non- breeding plumage as weaver	up to 40	1000	200
	over 40	2000	275

Softbills	length (cm)	floor area (sq cm)	
		single	each additional
Barbet	up to 20	1250	275
	over 20	1400	450
Bulbil, Fruitsucker		1000	250
Fairy bluebird, Oriole		1250	250
Jay, Jay-thrush (laughing thrush), Magpie	up to 25	1500	250
	25-35	2000	500
	over 35	4000	1000
Mynah hill		1500	250
Pekin robin, Mesia		1000	200
Starling (incl. Small mynahs)	up to 20	1500	375
	over 20	1000	250
Tanager, Sugar bird	up to 15	1000	250
	over 15	1000	250
Thrush (incl. Shama)		1000	375
Toucan		3750	1000
Toucanette, Aracari		2000	625
Flouraco		2000	625
Zosterops		750	100

N.B. All birds must be housed in accommodation which allows the full spreading of wings.

## Schedule 2

### Stocking Densities – Small Mammals

<b>Small mammals</b>	minimum floor area (sq cm) single	each additional	minimum cage height (cm)
mice	200	50	20
hamsters	300	75	20
gerbils	300	75	20
rats	500	125	20
guinea pigs	700	175	20
rabbits	2000	500	50
kittens	2000	500	50
puppies	10000	2500	50

\*Minimum floor areas apply to young stock. For adult stock offered for sale the dimensions must be doubled.

## **Schedule 3**

### **Ornamental Fish**

#### **Water Quality Standards**

(1mg/litre = 1ppm)

##### **Cold Water**

\*Dissolved oxygen – min 6mg/litre

\*Free ammonia – max 0.02mg/litre

Nitrite – max 0.2mg/litre

Nitrite – max 50mg/litre above ambient tap water

##### **Tropical Fish**

\*Dissolved oxygen – min 6mg/litre

\*Free ammonia – max 0.02mg/litre

Nitrite – max 0.2mg/litre

Nitrite – max 50mg/litre above ambient tap water

##### **Tropical Marine Species**

\*Dissolved oxygen – min 5.5mg/litre

\*Free ammonia – max 0.01mg/litre

Nitrite – max 0.125mg/litre

Nitrite – max 40mg/litre. This is an absolute figure; it does not relate to ambient tapwater.

\*pH (tropical marine only) – min 8.1

\*These parameters must be checked first. Only if a problem exists with these tests is it necessary to check nitrite and nitrate levels.