

Environmental Services



ASHFORD
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environmental Health – Commercial Division Animal Welfare Advice Note – Aw5 Dangerous Wild Animals

This advice note is one of a series designed to promote a greater understanding of animal welfare licensing.

1. Licence

The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 forbids the keeping of many of the mammals listed in the appendix except under licence from the local authority. Anyone keeping an animal listed in the appendix to this informative will require such a licence unless they are already licensed as a pet shop, zoological garden or a circus. No person may hold a licence if they have been convicted under this or any other animal welfare act.

An Order, made under section 1 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 (c. 51) modified provisions of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (c. 38) which relate to the grant of licences to keep wild animals. The Order came into force with effect from 17 March 2010 and made two changes:

(a) it extended the period of validity of a licence from a maximum of one year to two years; and

(b) it provided that licences will come into force immediately upon their being granted (rather than, as was the case previously, from either the date of grant or the beginning of the next following year), except for renewals of a licence applied for before the expiry of the licence they are to replace, in which case the subsequent licence will come into force from the date of expiry of the licence it replaces.

The fee for the licence is in addition to the veterinary inspection fees. Also be aware that in the event that your application is refused you will not be refunded the application fee or any part thereof under any circumstances. Fees are also not refunded in the event of the application being withdrawn.

The person applying for the licence must both own and possess or propose to own and possess the animal(s) concerned. The number of animals and species and the conditions under which they are kept will be stipulated by the licence. During the veterinary inspection, account will be taken not only of the animals present but of the possibilities of breeding (intentional or accidental) increasing these numbers.

All new licensees and those proposing major alterations to an existing establishment must contact the Directorate of Development Services to ensure

that any necessary planning permissions are obtained prior to licensing. The licensee must also ensure that the siting of the establishment is not contrary to public interest on the grounds of safety or nuisance. The licensee must also be insured against liability for any damage which may be caused by the animal.

2. Animal Welfare

All animals must be kept in accommodation which secures that the animal will not escape, which is suitable as regards construction, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation, drainage and cleanliness, and which is suitable for the number of animals to be held in the accommodation. All animals must be supplied with adequate and suitable food, drink and bedding materials and be visited at suitable intervals.

Suitable accommodation, feeding and bedding will of course vary with the number and species involved. For specific guidance as regards a particular species you should contact your own veterinary surgeon or the Environmental Health Services of the Local Authority. If more than one animal of a species is kept, there must be provision for separation of the animals if necessary. If animals of different species are kept in common accommodation, then these species must be compatible with one another and separation must be possible.

Adequate facilities for exercise must be available and consideration must be given to the possibilities of escape of the animal(s) and appropriate facilities provided for recapture, temporary housing and carriage should an escape occur. The licence holder should be competent to use such equipment and facilities as are necessary for this purpose.

Secondary or isolation facilities may also be necessary to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease.

3. Fire Precautions

The Fire Safety Officer will be asked to visit all proposed new licensees to establish the suitability of the fire precautions. In any case, some thought will need to be given to the provision of alternative accommodation should an emergency occur, particularly if this involves a breakdown of heating systems necessary for the wellbeing of tropical or semi tropical species.

4. Further Information

- For further reading please see 'A guide to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976' published for the British Veterinary Association by T G Scott. Telephone on 01732 884023.
- For further information on these or any other matters relating to the keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals contact the Environmental Health Services, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, TN23 1PL, telephone 01233 330508, or contact your own veterinary practitioner.

Appendix 1

Dangerous Wild Animals

1. **Marsupials**
 - The Tasmanian devil
 - Grey Kangaroos, the euro, the wallaroo and the red kangaroo

2. **Primates**
 - Tamarins
 - New-world monkeys (including capuchin, howler, saki, spider, squirrel, titi, uakari and woolly monkeys and the night monkey (otherwise known as the douroucouli)
 - Old-world monkeys (including baboons, the drill, colobus monkeys, the gelada, guenons, langurs, leaf monkeys, macaques, the mandrill, mangabeys, the patas and proboscis monkeys and the talapoin)
 - Leaping lemurs (including the indri, sifakas and the woolly lemur)
 - Large lemurs (the broad-nosed gentle lemur and the grey gentle lemur are excepted)
 - Anthropoid apes (including chimpanzees, gibbons, the gorilla and the orang-utan)

3. **Edentates**
 - Sloths
 - The giant armadillo
 - The giant anteater

4. **Rodents**
 - The North American porcupine
 - The capybara
 - Crested porcupines

5. **Carnivores**
 - The giant panda and the red panda
 - Jackals, wild dogs, wolves and the coyote (foxes, the raccoon-dog and the domestic dog are excepted)
 - The bobcat, caracal, cheetah, jaguar, lion, lynx, ocelot, puma, serval, tiger and all other cats (the domestic cat is excepted)

Hyaenas (except the aardwolf)

Badgers (except the Eurasian badger), otters (except the European otter), and the tayra, wolverine, fisher and ratel (otherwise known as the honey badger)

Cacomistles, raccoons, coatis, olingos, the little coatimundi and the kinkajou.

Bears

The African, large-spotted, Malay and large Indian civets, the binturong and the fossa

6. **Pinnipedes**

The walrus, eared seals, sealions and earless seals (the common and grey seals are excepted)

7. **Elephants**

Elephants

8. **Odd-toed Ungulates**

Asses, horses and zebras (the donkey, domestic horse and domestic hybrids are excepted)

Rhinoceroses

Tapirs

9. **Hyraxes**

Tree and rock hyraxes (otherwise known as dassies)

10. **Aardvarks**

The Aardvark

11. **Even-toed Ungulates**

The Pronghorn

Antelopes, bison, buffalo, cattle, gazelles, goats and sheep (domestic cattle, goats and sheep are excepted)

Camels, the guanaco and the vicugna (the domestic llama and alpaca are excepted)

The moose or elk and the caribou or reindeer (the domestic reindeer is excepted)

The giraffe and the okapi

The hippopotamus and the pygmy hippopotamus

Old-world pigs (including the wild boar and the wart hog) (the domestic pig is excepted)

New-world pigs (otherwise known as peccaries)

Mammalian hybrids with a parent (or parents) of a specified kind

12. **Birds**

Cassowaries and Emu

Cassowaries

The Emu

Ostrich

The ostrich

13. **Reptiles**

Crocodilians

Alligators and caimans

Crocodiles and the false gharial

The gharial (otherwise known as the gavial)

Lizards and snakes

Mole vipers and certain rear-fanged venomous snakes (including the moila and montpellier snakes, sand snakes, twig snakes, the mangrove (otherwise known as the yellow-ringed catsnake), the boomslang, the red-necked keelback and the yamakagashi (otherwise known as the Japanese tiger-snake)

Certain front-fanged venomous snakes (including cobras, coral snakes, the desert black snake, kraits, mambas, sea snakes and all Australian poisonous snakes (including the death adders)

The gila monster and the (Mexican) beaded lizard

Certain front-fanged venomous snakes (including adders, the barba amarilla, the bushmaster, the copperhead, the fe-de-lance, moccasins, rattlesnakes and vipers)

14. **Invertebrates**

Spiders

Wandering spiders

The Sydney funnel-web spider and its close relatives

The Brazilian wolf spider

Brown recluse spiders (otherwise known as violin spiders)

The black widow spider (otherwise known as redback spider) and its close relatives

Scorpions

Buthid scorpions