

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, 4 July 2017 at 7pm

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Fleet

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Butler (Chairman)

Blewett, Collett, Forster, Gray, Harward, Morris, Radley (Jenny), Wheale, Woods

Officers

Nick Steevens	Head of Regulatory Services
Nicola Ramsey	Senior Environmental Health Technical Officer
Wendi Batteson	Shared Legal Services
Alison Cottrell	Committee Services

1 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Harward was appointed Vice Chairman.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gorys.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that Linda Cannon, the Licensing Manager, was retiring and that her last day at work would be the 11 July 2017.

6 ANIMAL LICENCE ESTABLISHMENTS

Members were advised that the appendices were not in their final format and that further work regarding their presentation and grammar was to be carried out. They were advised that Licences run for a calendar year so there was sufficient time for the appendices to be reformatted.

Members considered the report together with the officer's recommendation and discussed the following:

- Appendix 1 Point 1.1 - that the number of dogs permitted to be kept at any time would be decided by an Officer due to the differences between establishments.
- Appendix 1 Point 2.2 - that wooden finishes in existing premises should be phased out over the period of a licence, not exceeding one calendar year.
- That all references to temperatures within all appendices need to be checked as they have been incorrectly represented by the document formatting of the degree symbol.
- That in relation to pet care, there was a shift towards home boarding.
- Appendix 2, Point 2 – whether Hart District Council's website or licence application should contain advice regarding amendments made in the 2014 Dangerous Dog Act, and in particular to a dogs behaviour in the curtilage of a garden.
- That the behaviour of all dogs being considered for home boarding have their behaviour assessed as each dog will have a different character.
- That many people walk dogs as a side-line and that the walking of dogs is not an activity that requires them to be licensed.
- With Hart having 61 animal establishments, whether this creates a peak of work for Officers at licence renewal time and how this is managed.
- That in relation to cats being considered for home boarding, that this would mean domestic cats as detailed in Appendix 3. Large cats such as Cheetah's would fall under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 as detailed in Appendix 7 and as such the two appendices need not be linked.
- That any dog can be covered by the Dangerous Dogs Act but that the dog warden covers this area.
- Whether or not there should be specific conditions relating to dangerous dog breeds and muzzles when they are being considered for home boarding.
- That the muzzling of home boarded dogs depends on individual dogs and that this would be part of the assessment.
- That Hart is fortunate as most of the people running home boarding establishments in the area are dog trainers.
- That potential barking and noise disturbance for neighbours is considered by those taking dogs for home boarding.
- That if complaints are received by the Council, a licence can be removed.
- Removal or amendment of a licence for home boarding may also be considered, if a person does not pick up after the dogs they are caring for.
- Whether or not the Legal Department could look at adding points that relate to revocation or amendment of a licence.
- Appendix 2 Section 16 – whether or not Hart District Council should continue to offer free dog poo bags.
- That the current policy is to offer a week's supply of dog poo bags (14 bags) and that those who use this service are not questioned on whether they are a commercial dog walker or not.
- That dog poo bags have always been offered by the Council and that the Dog Wardens also hand out bags at it is a useful way of starting conversation with dog owners whilst on patrol.
- That dog poo bags are also provided to the Parish Councils.

- That if members wanted to stop the provision of free poo bags, it would need to be considered by the Regulatory Services Service Board.
- Appendix 1, Point 1.5 – it was confirmed that the Council has one kennel that it uses for the boarding of stray dogs and that they have the necessary written permission to house them.
- That the bullet point contained in Appendix 2, Point 2 regarding '*comprehensive and adequate insurance cover must be in place and cover all boarding activities*' should be inserted into Appendix 1 at point 1.6.
- Appendix 2, Point 4 – that the last bullet point concerning direct access to a suitable outside area should have wording added to incorporate the cleaning of that area between each use.
- Whether piped music may help get the right balance to create a quiet and calm environment for those dogs that have that need.
- Appendix 2, Point 13 – Diet and Nutrition – that the second point concerning 'wholesome water' be removed as the point reading 'fresh drinking water must be available at all times and the drinking vessel cleaned daily' adequately covers this.
- In relation to Appendix 2, Point 2, members were advised that a child under 10 can reside at a home boarding property provided that a suitable risk assessment has been carried out.
- Appendix 2, Point 16 – that the bullet point referencing rear gates should read 'Any gates should be lockable to prevent accidental opening'.
- Appendix 2, Point 22, bullet point 3 should read 'in the event of a dog escaping or being lost from a licensed boarder or crèche premises, licensees must notify the Licensing Authority at Hart District Council'.
- Appendix 2, Point 26 – to add in that records should be kept for 24 months.
- Members considered the home boarding of cats, and the potential stress caused to cats when they are home boarded especially if they can hear or may come into contact with other cats.
- That model licences for catteries were agreed 3 years ago.
- That the selling of cats that are born in a cattery comes under the Pet Shops Act legislation.
- Whether or not there is a demand for home boarding of cats and whether people will board cats in homes that are not registered.
- Appendix 4, Point 31 – that the suggestion of using reward based training to encourage puppies to stay calm when travelling in a crate was a new model condition from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.
- Appendix 5 – whether suitable insurance can be factored in to Pet Shop Conditions.
- Whether reference to psittacines (birds) can be made clearer.
- Whether reference to zoonotic transmission can be made clearer.
- That kittens on their own can suffer and whether they should be treated in a similar manner to dogs such that if there were a single kitten, they should be given extra attention.
- That rats and mice may be sold.
- That the tables contained in Appendix 5, Section E and G needed further clarification.
- That exotic animals such as tarantula spiders are referenced under reptiles and amphibians.

- That the stocking density advice is guidance offered to Hart District Council and that the only other Act that touches on this area is the Animal Welfare Act that discusses the freedoms of animals.
- That pet shop records are inspected and should detail where an animal has come from and in relation to some species, where their new home is.
- Appendix 6, Point 1 - the number of horses permitted to be accommodated at any one time would be decided by an Officer due to the differences in establishments.
- Appendix 6, Point 5 – it was confirmed that this point is covered in the Veterinary Surgeons Inspection Report to a standard that the Council checks under the Health and Safety at Work Act.
- Appendix 6, Point 23 – whether this can be reworded to make it more easily understood.
- Members were informed that a person who takes out a rider under supervision must have sufficient experience and be a competent handler of horses, and must either hold an appropriate qualification or have substantial practical experience, and be aged 16 or over.
- Appendix 7, Point 2 - that all animals kept under the Act and under the authority of the licence must be listed on a Schedule.
- Appendix 7 – that in relation to insurance, whether or not the insurance is enhanced to cover dangerous wild animals will depend upon each individual insurance company.

DECISION

1. That the proposed licensing conditions for animal welfare licences issued on behalf of Hart District Council be adopted.
2. That the home boarding of cats not be permitted within the District.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.