

Can a licence be refused?

Local authorities **must** refuse to grant a licence if they:

- think the applicant is not capable of meeting the licence conditions.
- think that granting a licence might negatively affect the welfare, health or safety of the animals involved in the activity.

Local authorities **can** refuse to grant a licence if:

- the housing, staffing or management are inadequate for the animals' wellbeing or for the activity or facility to be run properly.
- the applicant has been disqualified from holding a licence previously.

Planning Requirements

Your application for a licence will be referred to our planning department for information. However, they are not a consultee on your application. You should contact the Planning Reception to discuss whether permission will be required on 01354 654321.

Your application for a licence will not be delayed or refused due to planning issues.

The Licence

Each licence is subject to standard conditions prescribed by regulations and guidance imposed on all dog breeding establishments. A unique licence number will be granted, and the number of animals included on each licence.

Offences and Penalties

An offence is being committed if you breed dogs without holding an appropriate licence to do so. Upon successful prosecution, anyone found guilty of such an offence may be subject to an unlimited fine and/or up to 51 weeks imprisonment.

A licence holder can also be prosecuted and fined if they breach conditions or regulations. Improvement notices can also be issued, and there is also provision to suspend or revoke licences.

Unlicensed breeders? Tell us who they are.

We welcome any information about unlicensed breeding activity in our area. If you suspect that this activity is taking place by someone without a licence, please report it to us. It may be that the animals are being bred too frequently or not kept in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and associated regulations.

Please email details to licensing@fenland.gov.uk or call us on 01354654321.

Contact Details

For any further information please call our Licensing Team on 013540654321 or email licensing@fenland.gov.uk

Useful Links

Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities>
Animal Welfare Act 2006 – <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents>
Council website - fenland.gov.uk



Do I need a licence to breed dogs?

FAQ's for the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals Regulations 2018.



Regulations

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, launched by the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), came into force on the 1st October 2018.

Some authorities are interpreting the regulations in different ways, therefore this information is designed to inform you how Fenland District Council give advice in terms of the licensing requirements for dog breeding.

Who needs a licence?

You'll need a licence if you:

- breed three or more litters of puppies in a 12 month period and/or
- are breeding dogs and advertising a business of selling dogs

Anyone who deliberately breeds for commercial sale needs to be licensed. Individuals can also be classed as a business depending on the extent of their activities and if they advertise to make a sale of a puppy.

How to Apply

Information can be found on our website www.fenland.gov.uk and you can also download an application form. Alternatively, requests for application forms can be made by email to: licensing@fenland.gov.uk or by calling 01354 654321.

The licence will be issued subject to compliance with licence conditions and payment of the licence fee. The current fee levels can be found on the Fenland website under fees & charges.

Written procedures

To complete an application, we require written procedures from you. These are documents (can be computerised) that provide us with information on how you carry out the activity of the breeding of dogs. These include:

Written training policy for applicant / staff – for yourself or if you have staff employed to assist you;

Feeding regimes – type, weights, timings, treats, whilst pregnant, whelping and weaning, etc;

Cleaning regimes - description of daily/weekly cleaning routines, and disinfectant/liquids used to clean;

Transportation - a description of what transport is used, in what circumstances, how animals are secure and the cleaning of transportation etc;

Prevention of, and control of the spread of, disease - details of how you control the spread of disease such as cleaning liquids used, worming, flea treatment, vaccinations, quarantine, isolation facilities used etc.

Monitoring and ensuring the health and welfare of all the animals - How you monitor the health and behaviour of the animals, records kept and measures that would be taken to act upon unusual behaviour and/or illness in an animal;

Death or escape of an animal (including the storage of carcasses): Procedures on how you would deal with a death or escape of an animal on site;

Emergency procedures - covering the care of the animals following the suspension or revocation of the licence or during and following an emergency;

Additional procedures such as puppy routines, whelping, socialisation and so forth.

A licence may be issued if the applicant is not disqualified under any of the main animal welfare related Acts such as:

- **Animal Welfare Act 2006** Section 34
- **Breeding of Dogs Act 1973** Section 3(3)
- **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991** Section 4(1)
- **Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954** Section1(1) and so forth;

An initial payment is made to process the application which includes the first inspection. A Veterinary Surgeon* along with an authorised officer from the Licensing team will inspect the premises.

*This fee is to be paid also by the applicant

When a premises is inspected it may be granted a star rating based on the standards achieved and any compliance history. This may range from a 2-star 1-year licence to a 5 star & 3 years. A 2nd application fee is then required based on the length of the licence, which includes a midterm inspection. This is duplicated at the bottom of what happens section in the proof.

What happens at inspection?

The Vet and Licensing inspector will consider the health and environment for all dogs present and any puppies, taking into account the appropriate Statutory Guidance for consideration of the 5 animal welfare needs:

1. Health – Protection from pain, injury, suffering & disease and treatment if unwell or injured.

2. Behaviour – the ability to behave naturally for their species e.g. Play, run, dig, jump, etc.

3. Companionship – to be housed appropriately.

4. Diet – a suitable diet. This can depend on age and weight and ensures the appropriate nutrition is being provided, as well as access to fresh clean water.

5. Environment – This should include the suitable type of home with comfortable places to rest and hide as well as space to exercise and explore.