



Elmbridge
Borough Council
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Dangerous Wild Animal Licence Guidance Notes and Key Features

Introduction

Anyone who wishes to keep a dangerous wild animal requires a licence from their Local Authority under the terms of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976. A comprehensive list of species which require a licence can be downloaded from the [DEFRA website](#) (found under Dangerous Wild Animals Act).

The Council may authorise an officer, veterinary surgeon or practitioner to inspect premises before and after a licence is granted.

The licence is subject to fees, and conditions to ensure the proper conduct. Once a licence has been granted and the appropriate fee paid, annual inspections will be performed prior to renewal of the licence to ensure all conditions which are imposed on the licence can be met.

Note: The Dangerous Wild Animals Act does not apply to any dangerous wild animal kept in a zoo or circus as these premises are registered under their own specific legislation.

Who can apply and what for

The applicant must identify:

- the animal location
- the type of animal and number and the arrangements for their accommodation, maintenance and wellbeing
- insurance details.

An applicant must not be disqualified from any of the following at the time of the application:

Application Criteria

[A summary of the regulation relating to this licence](#)

Application Evaluation Process

The following criteria will be considered when the application is being evaluated:

- it is not contrary to the public interest to do so on the grounds of safety, nuisance or

other grounds.

- the applicant is a suitable person to hold a licence to keep the animals listed on the application.
- the animal(s) will be kept in accommodation that prevents its escape and is suitable in respect of construction, size, temperature, drainage and cleanliness.
- that the animal(s) will be supplied with adequate and suitable food drink and bedding material and be visited at suitable intervals.
- appropriate steps will be taken to ensure the protection of the animal(s) in case of fire or other emergency.
- all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- the animal(s) accommodation is such that it can take adequate exercise.

Where the Council issues a licence, that licence will be subject to such conditions as the Council sees fit and in each case these conditions will specify that:

- only the person named on the licence shall be entitled to keep the animal.
- the animal shall only be kept on the premises named on the licence.
- the animal shall not be moved or may only be moved in accordance with conditions specified in the licence.
- the licensee must hold a current insurance policy, approved by the Council, which insures against liability for damage caused by the animal.
- only the species and number of animals listed on the licence may be kept.
- the licensee shall make a copy of the licence and its contents available to any other person listed on the licence as being able to look after the animal.

Will Tacit Consent Apply?

No. It is in the public interest that the authority must process your application before it can be granted in view of the need for an inspection by a veterinary surgeon. If you have not heard from the Council within a reasonable period, please contact them.

Failed Application Appeal/Redress Process

Please contact the Council.

An applicant whose application is refused can appeal to the local magistrates' court.

Consumer Complaints

We would always advise that in the event of a complaint contact is made with the trader/business proprietor by you - preferably in the form of a letter (with proof of delivery). If that has not worked, if you are located in the UK, [Consumer Direct](#) will give you advice. From outside the UK contact the [UK European Consumer Centre](#).

Any person who is refused a licence can appeal to the local Magistrates' court. Appeals must be made within 28 days of the notice of the Council decision.

Additional sources of information including Trade Associations

- [Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons](#)
- [DEFRA](#)
- [Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals \(RSPCA\)](#)