

**Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976**  
**Guidance for keeping a dangerous wild animal**

**1. General Information**

- 1.1 There are many types of animals referred to as a dangerous wild animal, for example crocodiles, the big cats, wolves, ostriches and many poisonous snakes. Pet Shops owners do not need to hold a Dangerous Wild Animal licence to sell a dangerous wild animal but anyone wishing to buy a dangerous wild animal **must** hold a licence before buying one.
- 1.2 It is illegal to keep a dangerous wild animal without holding a licence. The first time the licence is issued your animal(s) must be inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Council. The applicant will be expected to pay for this inspection and other fees associated with the regulation of animal licensing.
- 1.3 The keeping of dangerous wild animals is controlled by the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.
- 1.4 No person may keep a dangerous wild animal unless they have **first** obtained a licence from their Local Authority.

**2. Before granting a licence the local authority must be satisfied that:**

- 2.1 That they are suitably qualified to keep animals with regard to the type and number proposed to be kept.
- 2.2 It is not contrary to the public interest on grounds of safety, nuisance or other grounds.
- 2.3 The applicant is a suitable person to hold a licence to keep the animal(s) listed on the application.
- 2.4 That the animal/s will be held in secure accommodation that prevents escape of the animal and is suitable in size for the animals to be kept and which is suitable as regards construction, temperature, lighting, ventilation, drainage and cleanliness.
- 2.5 The animal(s) will be supplied with adequate and suitable food, drink and bedding material and be visited at suitable intervals.
- 2.6 Appropriate steps will be taken to ensure the protection of the animal(s) in case of fire or other emergency.
- 2.7 All reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease.
- 2.8 The animal(s) accommodation is such that it can take adequate exercise.
- 2.9 Where the Council issues a licence, that licence is subject to such conditions as the Council sees fit and in each case these conditions will specify that:

- (a) Only the person named on the licence shall be entitled to keep the animal.
  - (b) The animal shall only be kept on the premises named on the licence.
  - (c) The animal shall not be moved or may only be moved in accordance with conditions specified in the licence.
  - (d) The licensee must hold a current insurance policy, approved by the Council, which insures against liability for damage caused by the animal.
  - (e) Only the species and number of animals listed on the licence may be kept.
  - (f) 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.
- 2.10 We may attach any other conditions which we think fit but if it is to permit the animal to be taken into another Local Authority area for more than 72 hours, it must consult that Local Authority.
- 2.11 On the death of a licence holder, the licence continues in the name of the personal representatives for 28 days only and then expires unless application is made for a new licence within that time, in which case it continues until the new application is determined.
- 2.12 The council may at any time revoke or amend any licence condition.
- 3. Disqualification's and Cancellations**
- 3.1 Where a person is convicted of an offence under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 or under any legislation that concerns the health, safety and welfare of animals a court may take the steps outlined in 3.2.
- 3.2 The Court may cancel any licence s/he may hold to keep a dangerous wild animal and disqualify the person, whether or not s/he is the current holder, from holding such a licence for such a period as the Court thinks fit. The cancellation or disqualification may be suspended by the Court in the event of an appeal.
- 4. Seizure of Animals**
- 4.1 If a dangerous wild animal is being kept without the authority of a licence or in contravention of a licence condition, we may seize the animal and retain it, destroy it or otherwise dispose of it. We are not liable to compensation and therefore may recover costs from the keeper of the animal at the time of this seizure.

**5. Licensing of Dangerous Wild Animals**

- 5.1 Where a licence is granted that licence and any subsequent licence will expire on the 31st December of the year to which it relates and must be renewed before that date.

**6. Your Right of Appeal**

- 6.1 Any person aggrieved by a refusal to be granted a licence or by any conditions to which a licence is subject may appeal to the Magistrates Court and they may give such directions regarding the licence or its conditions as they think proper.

**7. Authorised Inspection Visits**

- 7.1 The licence holder or any person in charge of the premises must permit any inspector or Veterinary Surgeon or Veterinary Practitioner duly authorised by the Council to enter the premises at all reasonable times and inspect them and any animals found thereon or anything therein for the purpose of ascertaining whether an offence has been or is being committed under the licence or the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976