

Environmental Health and Licensing Manager
Civic Centre
Paris Street
Exeter
EX1 1RQ

Wednesday 11th October 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

R.E. Animal Licensing Policy

Dogs Trust is pleased to be able to respond to your consultation on Animal Licensing Policy, which is welcome groundwork ahead of the upcoming repeal of the older legislation governing this area and its replacement with new Regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

The new Regulations (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) are currently expected to come into effect in October 2018, but with some transitional provisions. As much of the new Regulations are based on the current Model Licence Conditions for dog breeding, boarding and pet vending, we are encouraged to see you will be using these until the new Regulations come into force. As you will be aware the Model Licence Conditions are being reviewed and included in the Schedules of the new Regulations.

Going forwards, the new Regulations will bring in some additional requirements. These include:

- All sales of puppies below the age of eight weeks will be prohibited via the removal of the exemption that currently exists in the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999
- The statutory licensing threshold for dog breeders will be reduced from five to three or more litters per year
- Licensed sellers of pets will be required to display their licence number when advertising
- A proposal to legally require pet sales to provide written information when selling animals, as a part of licence conditions. The information will be required to cover the five freedoms as set out in the Animal Welfare Act 2006

Dogs Trust

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Changes to the licensing system itself will see the introduction of:

- Licences issued for a fixed term set at any point in the year (they currently are restricted to run from January – December only)
- Licences may be issued for up to three years; this will be linked to a requirement for local authorities to use a standard risk-based assessment system

In addition, we work with local authorities to help improve responsible dog ownership standards within the community. If you would like to find out more about how we can work together, please do not hesitate to contact our Campaigns Team via campaigns@dogstrust.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Paula Boyden
Veterinary Director

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