

The Highland Council

Transport, Environmental & Community Services Committee
6 February 2014

Agenda Item	13
Report No	TEC 11/14

Conditions for Licensed Animal Establishments

Report by Environmental Health Manager

Summary

This report advises Members on changes to national guidance on conditions for Animal Boarding Establishments and Pet Shops and invites Members to agree that the new conditions are adopted for premises licensed by the Council.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 and Pet Animals Act 1951 require any premises from which any relevant business operates (including from a private dwelling) to be licensed by the local authority.
- 1.2 The Highland Council has in the past based their licence conditions on those widely adopted by councils across Great Britain. In the case of Animal Boarding Establishments guidance was produced in 1995 by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) in consultation with other relevant bodies. In the case of Pet Animals guidance was produced by a working group including representatives of the Local Government Association, CIEH, British Veterinary Association and other relevant trade associations (produced in 1992 and revised in 1998).

2. Review of licence conditions

- 2.1 Working groups have recently produced new model conditions and guidance for Cat Boarding Establishments (CIEH) and Pet Vending to take account of new knowledge of animal physiology and behaviour as well as updated standards of animal welfare introduced by the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2006. New conditions for Dog Boarding and Dog Breeding are still being considered.
- 2.2 The new conditions and guidance are available from the links below:-

[CIEH Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Cat Boarding Establishments 2013](#)

[Model Conditions for Pet Vending Licensing 2013](#)
- 2.3 Summaries of the proposed changes are provided under headings 3, 4 and 5

below. It is proposed that the new conditions apply to all establishments with the proviso that delegated officers be granted discretion in the application of these conditions in relation to existing establishments (provided animal welfare is not compromised). This delegated discretion is in line with previously approved delegated powers granted for licensing of animal establishments.

3. Cat boarding conditions

3.1 Changes include minor changes in wording and in some areas expansion to include behavioural needs and requirement to be housed with or apart from other animals. Also greater emphasis on monitoring of animals and noting findings and having standard operating procedures.

3.2 It also introduces minimum sizes for existing units (already required for all new premises since 1995) as well as increasing sizes for new builds and adds requirement for a shelf in exercise area.

4. Pet Vending conditions

4.1 Changes include minor changes in wording and in some areas expansion to include behavioural needs and requirement to be housed with or apart from other animals.

4.2 New conditions include animals under veterinary treatment to be identifiable and where appropriate the need for an effective contingency plan for essential heating, ventilation and aeration/ filtration systems. Also Introduces more detailed animal specific requirements and for a wider selection of animals.

5 Proposed new condition for Dog Boarding

5.1 The proposed new condition is:

‘3.1.8 Any parts to which dogs have access to shall not have any gaps in, within, or between any structure designed to contain an animal (including, without limitation, fencing, bars and frames), large enough to permit a dog’s head to pass through. To protect against this any such gaps should prevent the passage of a 50mm diameter sphere.’

5.2 All existing kennels have already been alerted to the incident and many have already been consulted about the proposed change in conditions. Discussion will continue with individual kennels on how best to ensure compliance.

6. Implications

6.1 No resource implications for Highland Council. It is unlikely to have significant resource implications for existing cat and dog boarding establishments or pet shops as most changes apply to operating procedures and record keeping. Cat units will require to have a shelf added to the exercise area if they do not already have one.

6.2 There are no Legal; Equalities; Climate Change/Carbon Clever; and Risk implications arising from these proposals

7. Recommendations

Members are invited to agree:

- a. For cat boarding establishments, to adopt, as a guide for licence conditions for new and for new extensions to existing establishments, the model licence conditions and guidance for cat boarding establishments published in 2013 by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health;
- b. For dog boarding establishments, the licence conditions for new establishments are amended to include a condition with a specific reference to a 50mm limit on aperture size (for existing establishments officers will consult individual proprietors on implementing this condition); and
- c. For Pet Shops, to adopt, as a guide for licence conditions for new and for new extensions to existing establishments, the model licence conditions and guidance for Pet Vending Licensing published in 2013 by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Designation: Environmental Health Manager

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