



Licensing of Dangerous Wild Animals – Guidance for Applicants

To own a dangerous wild animal in South Kesteven you must first obtain a licence from us.

Animals that fall within the definition in the Dangerous Wild Animals Act are detailed in the Schedule to the Act.

The Act aims to ensure that where private individuals keep dangerous wild animals, they do so in circumstances which create no risk to the public and which safeguard the welfare of the animals.

We must be satisfied that the animal will be held in suitable and secure accommodation which prevents its escape and that the applicant is suitable to hold a licence.

Licences must contain certain mandatory conditions prescribed by the Act, but we may also impose such further conditions as considered necessary.

Additional conditions may be determined by recommendations contained in the inspecting veterinary officers report and may be dependent upon the species proposed to be kept.

Applicants must be in possession of public liability insurance.

Licences are granted at the time of approval and are valid for two years. Conditions attached to a licence may be varied at any time (other than those prescribed in the Act).

A licence is not required for dangerous wild animals kept at a pet shop licensed under the Pet Animals Act 1951 or at a zoo licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

Determining the licence

In determining whether or not to grant a licence to keep a dangerous wild animal we will have regard to the report of a veterinary practitioner (additional fees apply for the veterinary inspection) and must be satisfied that:

- It is not contrary to the public interest on the grounds of safety, nuisance or otherwise to do so; and
- The applicant is a suitable person to hold a licence

Any animal covered by the licence will:

- Be held in secure accommodation which will prevent the animal from escape, and is suitable as regards construction, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation, drainage and cleanliness and is large enough for the number of animals proposed to be held in it
- Be supplied with adequate and suitable food, drink and bedding material and be visited at suitable intervals

And that:

- Safeguards will be taken to ensure the protection of any animal in case of fire or other emergency
- All reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases
- The accommodation is large enough for the animal(s) to take adequate exercise.
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A licence will not be granted unless the applicant either owns and possesses, or proposes to both own and possess, the animal(s).

The following mandatory conditions will be imposed on all licences:

Specifying that while any animal is covered by the licence:

- It shall be kept only by those persons specified (whether by name or description) in the licence
- It shall normally be kept at the premises specified in the licence
- It shall not be moved from those premises except in such circumstances as may be specified in the licence
- The person to whom the licence is granted must hold a current insurance policy which insures them and any other person covered by the licence to keep the animal, against liability for any damage which may be caused by the animal
- The terms of the policy must, in our opinion, be satisfactory
- Stipulating restrictions on the species (whether one or more) of animal, and number of animals of each species, which may be kept
- Requiring the person to whom the licence is granted to 'at all reasonable times' make available a copy of the licence to any person entitled to keep an animal under the authority of the licence

We may impose other conditions that are considered to be necessary or desirable in order to ensure that it is satisfied that the requirements will be met.

The application process

The application must specify the species of animal(s) and numbers of each species proposed to be kept, the premises where it is proposed to keep them and be accompanied by the appropriate fee.

The applicant must be over 18 years of age and not be disqualified under the Act from keeping a dangerous wild animal.

Fees

Fees are reviewed annually and published in the Councils fees and charges. Additional fees are payable for the veterinary inspection.

Inspection

On receipt of the application we will arrange for an approved veterinary officer to carry out an inspection of the premises. They may be accompanied by a Licensing Officer.

Sufficient time must be allowed to ensure that a thorough inspection of the premises can be carried out to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

Determination of an application

Following the inspection, the veterinary officer will provide us with a report detailing their findings.

We will consider their report and other information and either:

- Grant a licence with appropriate licence conditions attached or
- Refuse the application, giving a clear explanation for the reasons for refusal.

Any person aggrieved by the refusal of their application or any condition(s) attached to a licence may appeal to the magistrates' court.

Duration of the licence

The full licence commences on the day it is issued and lasts for two years.

Renewal of the licence

Applications for renewal should be received before the expiry of the existing licence.

Renewal applications follow the same procedure as for new applications but applications may not be treated as renewals if they relate to any species of animal other than those for which the original licence was granted.

Where an application to renew is made before the expiry of the current licence, that licence is deemed to continue in force until the grant or refusal of the renewal application. The renewed licence takes effect from the date of expiry of the old licence.