

Standard Licence Conditions for

Pet Shops

INTRODUCTION

Under the provisions of the above Act district councils issue licences to proprietors of pet shops. The licence can stipulate a number of conditions to secure the following objectives:-

- i) *that animals are kept in accommodation suitable in respect of construction, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness;*
- ii) *that animals are adequately supplied with suitable food and drink, and are visited at suitable intervals;*
- iii) *that animals are not sold at too early an age;*
- iv) *that reasonable precautions are taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases; and*
- v) *that appropriate steps can be taken in the event of an emergency.*

In order to promote consistency of enforcement and to reflect current good practice in the industry, the Association of District Councils, the British Veterinary Association and the Pet Trade and Industry Association combined to produce a standard set of licence conditions for use by district councils.

At the Environmental Committee meeting on 18 November 1992 it was resolved to adopt these standard conditions in respect of Pet Shop Licences issued by this Council from 1 January 1993.

This document sets out those conditions which shall apply to all licences to keep a Pet Shop issued by this Council on or after that date.

THE STANDARD LICENCE CONDITIONS

1.0 ACCOMMODATION

- 1.1 Animals must at all times be kept in accommodation suitable with respect to construction, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.
- 1.2 Animals must not be exposed to draughts and must be kept in an environment suitable to the species. If animals are displayed outdoors, they should have protection appropriate to their species.
- 1.3 Housing must be constructed of non-porous materials or be appropriately treated.
- 1.4 Animals must not be kept in housing in such a way that they can be interfered with by other animals or the public.
- 1.5 All livestock, for sale, must be readily accessible and easy to inspect.
- 1.6 Accommodation must be cleaned as often as necessary to maintain good hygiene standards, consistent with the rate of stock turnover.
- 1.7 Where accommodation is on a tiered system, water, food or other droppings must not be allowed to enter the lower housing.
- 1.8 All accessories provided in the accommodation must be suitable for the species.

2.0 EXERCISE FACILITIES

- 2.1 Facilities must be available where appropriate.

NB For example, in the case of puppies, if they are kept longer than five days, an exercise pen should be provided.

3.0 REGISTER OF ANIMALS

3.1 A livestock purchase register must be maintained for all livestock. A sales register must be maintained for:

- i) puppies;
- ii) kittens;
- iii) psittacines;
- iv) species contained in the Schedule to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (as modified).

NB This can only be by cross reference to an invoice file. The purpose of the register is to ascertain the source of livestock and for emergency contact of purchaser. The name and telephone number of the purchaser is, therefore, sufficient.

4.0 STOCKING NUMBERS AND DENSITIES

The maximum numbers of animals to be stocked on the premises will be governed by the accommodation available, as defined by the stocking density lists detailed in the schedules attached to these licence conditions.

4.1 Schedule 1 - Cages Birds

4.2 Schedule 2 - Small Mammals

4.3 Schedule 3 - Ornamental Fish

4.4 Schedule 4 - Other Species

5.0 HEALTH, DISEASE AND ACCLIMATISATION

5.1 All stock must be in good health as far as can be reasonably determined without veterinary inspection.

5.2 Any sick or injured animal must receive appropriate care and treatment without delay.

NB This may include euthanasia.

5.3 Veterinary advice should be sought wherever necessary.

5.4 Any animal with an obvious, significant abnormality which would materially affect its quality of life, must not be offered for sale. When in doubt, veterinary advice should be sought.

5.5 All animals must be allowed a suitable acclimatisation period before sale.

5.6 The facility to isolate sick animals must be provided.

5.7 All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of disease. No animal which is suffering from, or could reasonably be suspected or having come into contact with any other animal suffering from, any infectious or contagious disease, or which is infested with parasites, shall be brought into or kept on the premises unless effectively isolated.

5.8 Puppies and kittens must be kept separate from other litters.

5.9 All necessary precautions must be taken to prevent the introduction to the premises, and harbourage, of rodents, insects and other pests.

NB 'Rodent' and 'insect' excludes livestock for sale or for feeding.

6.0 FOOD AND DRINK

6.1 Animals must be supplied with adequate amounts of food and drink, appropriate to their needs, and at suitable intervals.

6.2 All goods must be suitable for the species concerned.

6.3 Food and drink receptacles must be constructed and positioned to minimise faecal contamination.

6.4 A sufficient number of receptacles must be provided and cleaned at regular intervals.

7.0 FOOD STORAGE

7.1 All food, excluding live foods, intended for feeding to livestock on the premises, must be stored in impervious closed containers.

7.2 The containers and equipment used for feeding must be kept in a clean condition.

8.0 OBSERVATION

8.1 All livestock must be attended to at regular intervals, appropriate to the species.

NB In no circumstances will this be less than daily.

9.0 EXCRETA AND SOILED BEDDING

9.1 All excreta and soiled bedding must be stored in impervious containers with close fitting lids.

9.2 Excreta and soiled bedding should be removed from the premises on a regular basis, at least weekly, and disposed of to the satisfaction of the appropriate local authority and in accordance with current regulations and good waste management practice.

9.3 All containers must be kept in a clean condition.

10.0 TRANSPORTATION

10.1 When receiving stock, the licensee must make every effort to ensure that it is transported in a suitable manner.

10.2 Any livestock received or consigned shall be transported according to the regulations laid down by the Transit Animals (General) Order 1973 or other relevant legislation or recommendations.

NB For air transportation, the IATA guidelines must be followed. For rail transportation, the British Rail guidelines must be followed.

11.0 TRANSPORTATION OF CONTAINERS

11.1 Livestock must be transported or handed to purchasers in suitable containers.

12.0 SALE OF LIVESTOCK

12.1 All stock sold must be in good health as far as can be reasonably determined without veterinary inspection.

12.2 No mammal shall be sold unweaned or, if weaned, at an age at which it should not have been weaned.

12.3 In the case of non-mammals, they must be capable of feeding themselves.

13.0 DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS

13.1 When dangerous animals are kept, the cages must be of a secure construction appropriate to the species. A fine wire mesh, glass or plastic safety barrier must be incorporated into the cage system.

13.2 Licensees selling animals on the Schedule to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act should inspect the purchaser's licence to keep such an animal and inform the issuing authority of the details of the purchase.

14.0 PET CARE ADVICE

- 14.1 PTIA Pet Care leaflets or other similar written instructions should be made available to customers where appropriate at the time of purchase.
- 14.2 Purchasers of accessories should, where necessary, be given proper advice as to their maintenance and use.
- 14.3 The PTIA Pet Store Manual or other appropriate reference books must always be available for use by staff.

15.0 STAFF TRAINING AND LIVESTOCK KNOWLEDGE

- 15.1 No animal should be stocked or sold unless the staff (or a member of the staff) is familiar with the care and welfare of that animal.
- 15.2 In respect of new applications, at least one member of staff working at the licensed premises must hold the City and Guilds Pet Store Management Certificate, or some other appropriate qualification, or must be in the course of training to take the examination (within two years of the introduction of these conditions).
- 15.3 The licensee must formulate a written training policy for all permanent staff, and will be required to demonstrate that systematic training is carried out.

16.0 FIRE AND OTHER EMERGENCY PRECAUTIONS

- 16.1 Suitable emergency precautions and written procedures shall exist and be made known to all staff, including arrangements for evacuation of livestock.
- 16.2 Entrances and exits must be clear of obstructions at all times.
- 16.3 Fire extinguishers must be provided and sited as approved by the Fire Protection/Prevention Officer.
- 16.4 The fire fighting equipment must be maintained in good working order.
- 16.5 The licensee, or a designated keyholder, must at all times be within reasonable distance of the premises and available to visit the premises in case of emergency.
- 16.6 A list of keyholders must be lodged with the local police and fire brigade.
- 16.7 An emergency telephone number must be displayed at the front of the shop: this may either be the keyholder's number or the emergency number 999.
- 16.8 When pet shops are sited within other premises, the licensee or keyholders must have access at all times to the premises containing the livestock.

FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 SALE OF LIVESTOCK

- 1.1 No animal should be sold to any person under the age of 16 years who is unknown to the retailer unless that person is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or provides appropriate written consent. Subsequent sales to a juvenile less than 16 years (but over 12 years) of age who is known to the retailer can be carried out in the absence of a parent or legal guardian or appropriate written consent, provided that the retailer is satisfied as far as possible that:-
 - i) the parent/guardian would not object to the acquisition;
 - ii) the juvenile is sufficiently knowledgeable as to the needs, care and nature of the species acquired;
 - iii) the juvenile's intention towards the acquisition is consistent with the well being of the animal concerned.

2.0 APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE

2.1 Although not provided for in the Act, it is recommended that applicants consult their local authority prior to submitting an application.

3.0 TRADE ASSOCIATIONS

3.1 Licensees are recommended to apply for membership of an appropriate trade organisation which might act as a point of reference should any disputes over the licence conditions arise.

4.0 CATEGORIES OF ANIMALS WHICH A PET SHOP MAY BE LICENSED TO KEEP

1. Dogs and Cats (puppies and kittens)
2. Smaller domesticated mammals, eg rabbits, cavies, gerbils, hamsters, rats, mice
3. Larger domesticated mammals, eg goats, pot bellied pigs
4. Primates, eg marmosets
5. Other mammals
6. Parrots, parakeets and macaws
7. Other birds
8. Reptiles
9. Amphibians
10. Fish
11. Other species

**SCHEDULE 1
STOCKING DENSITIES - CAGED BIRDS**

	Length (cm)	FLOOR AREA (sq cm)	
		Single	Each Additional
Parrots, Parakeets, Budgerigar, etc			
African Grey		1250	625
Amazon	up to 35	1000	500
	35 - 40	1250	625
	over 40	2000	750
Budgerigar		650	200
Cockatiel		1000	250
Cockatoo	up to 35	1250	625
	35 - 40	2000	1000
	over 45	2750	1325
Lovebird		750	200
Macaw	up to 40	1250	625
	40 - 60	2250	1000
	over 60	3750	1200
Parakeet (incl. Conure)	up to 25	1000	250
Kakariki, Rosella)	25 - 35	1000	250
	over 35	1400	450
Parrot (incl. Caique, Pronus Senegal, Meyer's)	up to 30	800	275
	30 - 35	1250	625
	over 35	1500	750
Parrotlet		400	200
Hanging Parrot		450	250
Lories and Lorikeets	up to 22½	800	250
	22½ - 30	1250	375
	over 30	2000	500
Seed eaters			
Canary		650	250
Cardinal		1000	250
Dove and Pigeon	up to 22½	450	250
	over 22½	1250	625
Finch (incl. Mannikin)	up to 12½	650	100
Silverbill Sparrow	12½ - 17½	750	150
Waxbill)	over 17½	1000	200
Grossbeak		1000	200
Quail	up to 15	450	250
	15 - 20	650	375
	over 20	1000	500
Weaver	up to 15	650	150
	over 15	1000	200
Whydah (male with full tail)	up to 40	1000	200
- female and male in non- breeding plumage as Weaver	over 40	2000	275
Softbills			
Barbet	up to 20	1250	275
	over 20	1400	450
Bulbil, Fruitsucker		1000	250
Fairy bluebird, Oriole		1250	250
Jay, Jay-Thrush	up to 25	1500	250
(Laughing Thrush)	25 - 35	2000	500
	over 35	4000	1000
Mynah hill		1500	250

Pekin Robin, Mesia		1000	2000
Starling (incl small mynahs)	up to 20	1000	250
	over 20	1500	375
Tanager, Sugar bird	up to 15	1000	250
	over 15	1000	250
Thrush (incl. Shama)		1000	375
Toucan		3750	1000
Toucanette, Aracari		2000	625
Touraco		2000	625
Zosterops		750	100

NB All birds should be housed in accommodation that allows the full spreading of wings.

**SCHEDULE 2
STOCKING DENSITIES - SMALL MAMMALS**

**MINIMUM FLOOR AREA* (sq
cm)**

SPECIES	Single	Each Additional	Minimum Cage Height (cm)
Mice	200	50	20
Hamsters	300	75	20
Gerbils	300	75	20
Rats	500	125	20
Guinea Pigs	700	175	20
Rabbits	2000	500	50
Kittens	2000	500	50
Puppies	10000	2500	50

*Minimum floor areas apply to young stock. For adult stock offered for sale the dimensions should be doubled. For advice on the age of stock, you are advised to contact the veterinary surgeon.

NB The range of behavioural opportunities for many of the animals listed in the above Schedule will be increased by enriching the environment with such accessories as shredded paper, pieces of wood, toilet rolls, lengths of piping etc.

The installation of shelving in rabbit cages is particularly beneficial to rabbits as they like to spend a lot of time off the cage floor.

**SCHEDULE 3
STOCKING DENSITIES - ORNAMENTAL FISH**

It is virtually impossible to determine the quantity of fish to be kept in a tank purely on a weight/volume or numbers of fish/volume.

The variation in system design, husbandry techniques and types of fish involved would render any such method too simple to be useful or too complicated to be practical.

The maintenance of water quality standards is essential and is a simple but effective way to determine stocking densities.

WATER QUALITY CRITERIA

(1mg/litre - 1ppm)

Cold Water

*Dissolved Oxygen	- min	6mg/litre
*Free Ammonia	- max	0.002mg/litre
Nitrate	- max	0.2mg/litre
Nitrate	- max	50mg/litre above ambient tapwater

Tropical Fish

*Dissolved Oxygen	- min	6mg/litre
*Free Ammonia	- max	0.2mg/litre
Nitrate	- max	0.2mg/litre
Nitrate	- max	50mg/litre above ambient tapwater

Tropical Marine Species

*Dissolved Oxygen	- min	5.5mg/litre
*Free Ammonia	- max	0.001mg/litre
Nitrate	- max	0.125mg/litre
Nitrate	- max	40mg/litre
		This is an absolute figure: it does not relate to ambient tapwater

*pH (tropical marine only)	- min	8.1
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*These parameters should be checked first. Only if a problem exists with these tests is it necessary to check nitrate and nitrite levels.

SCHEDULE 4
STOCKING DENSITIES - OTHER SPECIES

Accommodation must be provided appropriate to size, age and type of species.

Further advice may be obtained from organisations such as the Pet Care Trust, the Universities' Federation for Animal Welfare, The British Herpetological Society etc.

The Association of District Councils
26 Chapter Street
London
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☎ 0171 233 6868

The British Veterinary Association
7 Mansfield Street
London
W1M 0A7

☎ 0171 636 6541

The Pet Care Trust
Bedford Business Centre
170 Mile Road
Bedford
MK42 9TW

☎ 01234 273933