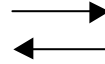


DOG BREEDING LICENCE

DEFINITION OF LICENCE

A person who carries on a business of breeding dogs with a view to selling them (even if it's on a fairly small scale) may require a licence from the Local Authority.



LEGISLATION/GUIDANCE

Dog Breeding Licences are issued in accordance with the: Breeding of Dogs Acts 1973 & 1991, Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, Breeding of Dogs (Licensing Records) Regulations 1999 & Home Office Circular 53/1999.



If a person keeps bitches at any premises and they give birth to five or more litters during a period of twelve months they must obtain a Dog Breeding licence. This includes:

- Bitches kept by the person at the premises
- Bitches kept by any relative of the person at the premises
- Bitches that are kept elsewhere by the person
- Bitches kept (anywhere) by the person under a breeding arrangement/contact with another person.



Applicants must not be disqualified from keeping or breeding animals under the:

- Dog Breeding Act 1973 & 1999
- Pet Animals Act 1951
- Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954
- Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963



PROCEDURE

Stage 1

To apply for a Dog Breeding Licence applicants must supply the following to the Local Authority:

- A completed Dog Breeding Licence application form
- Appropriate fee – see Environmental Health homepage



Stage 2

Applicants that **have not** previously been licensed to breed dogs at their current establishment must have the premises inspected by:

- A veterinary surgeon/practitioner **and**
- An officer of the Council.



Stage 3

Applicants that **have** previously been granted a licence to breed dogs will have their premises inspected by:

- An officer of the Council **or**
- A veterinary surgeon/practitioner

Please note the premises may occasionally be inspected by both.

Stage 4

When determining the application the Council will take into consideration the following:

- That the dogs will at all times have access to suitable accommodation, with regards to the construction and size of the quarters, number of occupants, ventilation, cleanliness, exercising facilities, temperature and lighting.
- That the dogs will be suitably fed, watered, exercised, visited and supplied with adequate bedding material.
- That all-reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious/contagious diseases.
- That the appropriate steps will be taken to protect the dogs in the event of a fire or other emergency.
- That the dogs will be suitably cared for when being transported to and from the breeding establishment i.e. food, drink, bedding, exercise etc.
- That bitches are not mated if they are less than one year old.
- That bitches do not give birth to more than six litters of puppies each.
- That bitches do not give birth more than once in a twelve-month period.
- That accurate records be kept on the premises and be made available for inspection by an officer of the Council or veterinary surgeon/practitioner.

Stage 5

- The Council will determine the application for a licence within three months from the day that the application was received.

Stage 6

- On successful completion of the application the applicant will be granted a Dog Breeding Licence, which will commence on the day that the licence is granted or on a day specified by the applicant on the application.
- All licences run until 31st December, so initially may run for part of the year until first renewal. Licence holders will receive notification from the Council prior to the expiry of the licence.

- Authorised officers of the Council and/or authorised veterinary surgeons/practitioners may enter and inspect the premises at any reasonable time.



FURTHER INFORMATION

- If you have any further queries regarding this matter please contact The Licensing Team, Environmental Health, North Devon District Council, Civic Centre, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1EA, or telephone 01271 388870 or email: ehdirect@northdevon.gov.uk
- We welcome your comments on how we can improve the way we deliver our services. If you have any comments, compliments or feel you need to complain about our service delivery, please write to Mr Jeremy Mann, the Environmental Health & Housing Manager at North Devon District Council, Civic Centre, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1EA.
- Please note that the Council has a set procedure for dealing with complaints. You will be advised of the outcome of the investigation, together with what action the Council proposes to take.