



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.gov.uk/defra

Date: 20 December 2015

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on the review of animal establishments licensing in England

I am writing to invite views on the review of the animal establishments licensing system in England.

As part of our cross-Department review of licensing, Defra undertook an informal review of animal licensing. As part of this review, we circulated a questionnaire to key stakeholders in industry, local government, and animal welfare organisations. Respondents were strongly in favour of replacing and updating the existing licensing legislation and highlighted several aspects of the licensing system that could be improved.

Currently, local authorities are required by law to issue licences for specific animal-related establishments and activities, with the aim of maintaining good standards of animal welfare. There is a registration requirement for performing animals, and licensing systems for pet shops, animal boarding, riding establishments and dog breeding. The laws, and their specific requirements, are often decades old, and difficult to adapt to the changing types of animal-related businesses, and to new standards of good practice in animal welfare. Moreover, the current process is complex and burdensome for both businesses and local authorities.

We are aiming to modernise the animal licensing system to relieve the administrative burden on local authorities, simplify the application and inspection process for businesses, as well as maintain and improve existing animal welfare standards.

We are proposing to introduce new secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, as had been anticipated when the Act was originally enacted. This would introduce a single 'Animal Establishment Licence' for animal boarding establishments, pet shops, riding establishments, and dog breeding.

This consultation is an opportunity for anyone to comment on the proposed changes.

The following documents may be found on the Gov.UK Defra's [website](#):

- Consultation on the review of animal establishments licensing in England – Consultation document

We welcome your views and comments. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation please contact: AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool) at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-health-and-welfare/consultation-on-the-review-of-animal-licensing>

Our preferred method of receiving responses is online because it is the fastest and most cost-effective way for us to collate and analyse responses. However, if you wish to respond to the consultation by email or in writing, please send responses to:

By email – AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Or

Animal Welfare Team
Area 4B
Nobel House
17 Smith Square,
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The closing date for the Consultation is **12th March 2016**.

This will be a 12 week consultation period.

This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Summary of responses and confidentiality

1. Any responses you send us will be seen in full by Defra staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Defra staff to help them plan future consultations.
2. When this consultation ends, we will summarise all responses and place this summary online available through our website at www.gov.uk. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details. If you require a hard copy of the summary, or have any other enquiries, please contact us by email at: AnimalWelfare.Consultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk

3. We will store a copy of the responses received for at least six months from the date the consultation responses document has been published. This is so that the public can see them and copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.
4. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation.
5. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.
6. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.
7. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Room 629, 9 Millbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR; or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation. We welcome your views and comments. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Animal Welfare Team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs