

Dog Breeding Licences Guide for Applicants



DOG BREEDING LICENCES

The need for a Licence:

A person who carries on a business of breeding dogs with a view to selling them may require a licence from the Local Authority.

Dog Breeding Licences are issued in accordance with the:

**Breeding of Dogs Act 1973,
Breeding of Dogs Act 1991
Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999**

If a person keeps bitches at any premises and they give birth to **five** or more litters at anytime 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.

The presumption is that if there are two litters in a year then the owner is in the business of selling puppies unless they prove otherwise. Therefore they require a licence unless the owner can clearly demonstrate that none of the pups were sold.

Where there are five or more litters then they require to be licenced. Whether pups are sold or not becomes irrelevant.

So onus is on breeder to prove he is not selling them up to 5 litters.

The Application Process:

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

- ✓ A completed Dog Breeding Licence application form
- ✓ The appropriate fee

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(s) of the Council.

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

The Local Authority will shall determine whether to grant a licence within three months from when the application is received.

If the application is granted, the applicant will be granted a Dog Breeding Licence, which will commence on the day that the licence is granted or on the day specified by the applicant (whichever is the latter), and will run for a period of 12 months.

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

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 feed, 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 suitable 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.