



The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

Specific Conditions: Selling Animals as Pets

Interpretation

“prospective owner” means a person purchasing an animal to keep or to be kept as a pet;

“premises” means the premises on which the licensable activity of selling animals as pets (or with a view to their being later resold as pets) is carried on;

“purchaser” means a person purchasing an animal to keep as a pet or with a view to it later being resold as a pet.

1. Records and advertisements

1.1. A register must be maintained for all the animals or, in the case of fish, all the groups of fish, on the premises which must include —

- (a) the full name of the supplier of the animal,
- (b) the animal’s sex (where known),
- (c) (except in the case of fish) the animal’s age (where known),
- (d) details of any veterinary treatment (where known),
- (e) the date of birth of the animal or, if the animal was acquired by the licence holder, the date of its acquisition,
- (f) the date of the sale of the animal by the licence holder, and
- (g) the date of the animal’s death (if applicable).

1.2. Where an animal is undergoing any medical treatment—

- (a) this fact must be clearly indicated—
 - (i) in writing next to it, or
 - (ii) (where appropriate) by labelling it accordingly, and
- (b) it must not be sold.

1.3. Any advertisement for the sale of an animal must—

- (a) include the number of the licence holder’s licence,
- (b) specify the local authority that issued the licence,
- (c) include a recognisable photograph of the animal being advertised,
- (d) (except in the case of fish) display the age of the animal being advertised,
- (e) state the country of residence of the animal from which it is being sold, and
- (f) state the country of origin of the animal.

2. Prospective sales: pet care and advice

2.1. The licence holder and all staff must ensure that any equipment and accessories being sold with an animal are suitable for the animal.

2.2. The licence holder and all staff must ensure that the prospective owner is provided with information on the appropriate care of the animal including in relation to—

- (a) feeding,
- (b) housing,
- (c) handling,
- (d) husbandry,
- (e) the life expectancy of its species,
- (f) the provision of suitable accessories, and
- (g) veterinary care.

2.3. Appropriate reference materials on the care of all animals for sale must be on display and provided to the prospective owner.

2.4. The licence holder and all staff must have been suitably trained to advise prospective owners about the animals being sold.

2.5. The licence holder and all staff must ensure that the purchaser is informed of the country of origin of the animal and the species, and where known, the age, sex and veterinary record of the animal being sold.

3. Suitable accommodation

3.1. Animals must be kept in housing which minimises stress including from other animals and the public.

3.2. Where members of the public can view or come into contact with the animals, signage must be in place to deter disturbance of the animals.

3.3. Dangerous wild animals (if any) must be kept in cages that are secure and lockable and appropriate for the species (“dangerous wild animal” means an animal of a kind specified in the first column of the Schedule to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976(a))

4. Purchase and sale of animals

4.1. The purchase, or sale, by or on behalf of the licence holder of any of the following is prohibited—

- (a) unweaned mammals;
- (b) mammals weaned at an age at which they should not have been weaned;
- (c) non-mammals that are incapable of feeding themselves;
- (d) puppies, cats, ferrets or rabbits, aged under 8 weeks.

4.2. The sale of a dog must be completed in the presence of the purchaser on the premises.

5. Protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease

5.1. All animals for sale must be in good health.

5.2. Any animal with a condition which is likely to affect its quality of life must not be moved, transferred or offered for sale but may be moved to an isolation facility or veterinary care facility if required until the animal has recovered.

5.3. When arranging for the receipt of animals, the licence holder must make reasonable efforts to ensure that they will be transported in a suitable manner.

5.4. Animals must be transported or handed to purchasers in suitable containers for the species and expected duration of the journey.