



## **PET ANIMALS ACT 1951 CONDITIONS OF LICENCE TO KEEP A PET SHOP**

### **1 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 EXERCISE FACILITIES**

- 2.1 Facilities must be available where appropriate (for example, in the case of puppies, if they are kept longer than five days, an exercise pen should be provided).

### **3 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).

(This can be cross referenced 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 STOCKING NUMBERS AND DENSITIES**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 No other animals, other than those specified in the licence, may be stocked without prior written approval from the licensing authority.

## **5 HEALTH, DISEASE AND ACCLIMATISATION**

- 5.1 All stock sold 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 (This may include euthanasia).
- 5.3 Veterinary advice should be sought whenever necessary.
- 5.4 All animals must receive appropriate inoculations where required for one species, as advised by the council's approved veterinary surgeon. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever necessary.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 All animals must be allowed a suitable acclimatisation period before sale.
- 5.7 The facility to isolate sick animals must be provided.
- 5.8 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 of 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.
- 5.9 Puppies and kittens must be kept separate from other litters.
- 5.10 All necessary precautions must be taken to prevent the introduction to the premises, and harbourage, of rodents, insects and other pests.  
(‘Rodent’ and ‘insect’ excludes livestock for sale or for feeding).

## **6 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 food must be suitable for the species concerned.

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

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

## **7 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 OBSERVATION**

8.1 All livestock must be attended to at regular intervals, appropriate to the species. (In no circumstances will this be less than daily).

## **9 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 TRANSPORTATION**

10.1 When receiving stock, a 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 of Animals (General) Order 1973 or other relevant legislation or recommendations. (For air transportation, the IATA guidelines must be followed. For rail transportation, the British Rail guidelines must be followed).

## **11 TRANSPORTATION CONTAINERS**

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

## **12 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 DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS**

- 13.1 When dangerous wild 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 PET CARE ADVICE**

- 14.1 PTIA Pet Care leaflets or other similar written instructions must be made available to customers where appropriate at the time of purchase.
- 14.2 Purchasers of accessories must, 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 STAFF TRAINING AND LIVESTOCK KNOWLEDGE**

- 15.1 No animal should be stocked or sold unless the staff (or member of the staff) is familiar with the care and welfare of that animal.
- 15.2 In respect of new applications, unless an applicant can show sufficient relevant experience; 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 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 local Fire Protection/Prevention Officer.
- 16.4 The fire-fighting equipment must be maintained in good working order.
- 16.5 The licensee, or a designated key holder, 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 key holders must be lodged with the local police and licensing authority.

- 16.7 An emergency telephone number must be displayed at the front of the shop: this may either be the key holder's number or the emergency telephone number 999. The number of the local police station should also be displayed.
- 16.8 When pet shops are sited within other premises, the licensee or key holders must have access at all times to the premises containing the livestock.
- 16.9 All electrical installations and appliances must be maintained in a safe condition.

## **17 DISPLAY OF LICENCE**

- 17.1 The licence, or a copy of the licence, shall be suitably displayed to the public in a prominent position in the premises.

**TABLE 1: STOCKING DENSITIES – CAGE BIRDS**

1. No species of bird shall be housed in accommodation which does not afford that species sufficient space for natural free and full wing stretching and the number of birds housed shall be such that overcrowding does not significantly reduce that freedom. Long tailed birds or birds in full plumage must be provided with properly placed perches and feeding and watering points to prevent that plumage being fouled or otherwise damaged. (Note – this refers to the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which should not be contravened, particularly section 8 of that Act).
2. For perching birds, a sufficient number of perches (as appropriate) must be provided at such a height that the bird can rest its head without its head touching the top and its tail the bottom of the cage.
3. A quality padded net should be used when catching birds in an aviary.
4. 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, it is advisable to contact the veterinary surgeon.

**TABLE 2: STOCKING DENSITIES – JUVENILE SMALL MAMMALS**

	No. of animals	1-4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Minimum cage height	Minimum cage depth
Mice, hamsters, gerbils	Sq. cm	450	525	500	675	750	825	900	25	25
Rats	Sq. cm	675	785	900	1,010	1,125	1,235	1,350	30	30
Guinea pigs	Sq. cm	1,350	1,570	1,800	2,020	2,250	2,470	2,700	30	30
Rabbits up to 2kg, kittens, ferrets, chinchillas, chipmunks	Sq. cm	2,250	2,625	3,000	3,375	3,750	4,125	4,500	40	30
Puppies up to age of 12 weeks max.	Sq. cm	10,000	12,500	15,000	17,500	20,000	22,500	25,000	Double height at shoulder minimum 50	0.9m

1. The range of behavioural opportunities for many of the animals listed above will be increased by enriching the environment with accessories.
2. Raised shelving should be taken into consideration when assessing the total floor area.
3. Temporary (up to six days) rehousing of adult rabbits in smaller cages than specified above should be considered as acceptable.
4. The above recommended stocking densities are insufficient for the housing of marmosets. Marmosets must be housed in cages sufficiently large enough to allow for natural movement, such as climbing and swinging.

**TABLE 3: STOCKING DENSITIES – ORNAMENTAL FISH**

1. It is virtually impossible to determine the quantity of fish to be kept in a tank purely on a weight/volume ratio.
2. 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.
3. The maintenance of water quality standards is essential and is a simple but effective way to determine stocking densities. Water quality testing should be carried out at least once a week in centralised systems and 10% of individual tanks should likewise be tested. Unsatisfactory tests results must be recorded in a register, together with the corrective action taken. Further tests must be carried out when visual inspection of the tanks indicates the need.

**Water quality criteria**

(1mg/litre – 1ppm)

<b>Cold Water</b>		
*Dissolved oxygen	-min	6mg/litre
*Free ammonia	-max	0.02mg/litre
Nitrite	-max	0.2mg/litre
Nitrate	-max	50mg/litre above ambient tap water

<b>Tropical fish</b>		
*Dissolved oxygen	-min	6mg/litre
*Free ammonia	-max	0.02mg/litre
Nitrite	-max	0.2mg/litre
Nitrate	-max	50mg/litre above ambient tap water

<b>Tropical marine species</b>		
*Dissolved oxygen	-min	5.5mg/litre
*Free ammonia	-max	0.01mg/litre
Nitrite	-max	0.125mg/litre
Nitrate	-max	40mg/litre. This is an absolute figure: it does not relate to ambient tap water
*pH (tropical marine only)	-min	8.1

\*These parameters should be checked first. Only if a problem exists with these tests is it necessary to check nitrite and nitrate levels.

4. Further advice and guidance on water quality criteria can be obtained from the Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association Ltd. from the address at annex 1.

**TABLE 4: STOCKING DENSITIES – OTHER SPECIES**

1. Other species should be housed in accommodation appropriate to size, age and type of species and to avoid overcrowding. This should be sufficient space for free and natural movement, which should not be restricted by either the size of the accommodation or the number of animals in that holding. Correct temperature for the species must be maintained.

2. The advice and approval of the licensing authority should be sought wherever there is doubt about a species being sold. Should you have any queries, please contact the council's Trading Standards Section (Tel. 01495 235285).

## **ANNEX 1 – FURTHER ADVICE**

Further advice may be obtained from the following organisations

The Local Government Association  
26 Chapter Street  
London SW1P 4ND  
Tel: 020 7834 2222  
Fax: 020 7664 3030  
Website: <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health  
Chadwick House  
15 Hatfields  
London SE1 8DJ  
Tel: 020 7928 6006  
Fax: 020 7827 5865

British Veterinary Association  
7 Mansfield Street  
London W1M 0AT  
Tel: 020 7636 6541  
Fax: 020 7436 2970

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to  
Animals  
Causeway  
Horsham  
West Sussex RH12 1HG  
Tel: 01403 264181  
Fax: 01403 241048

The Pet Care Trust  
Bedford Business Centre  
170 Mile Road  
Bedford MK42 9TW  
Tel: 01234 273933  
Fax: 01234 273550

Universities' Federation of Animal Welfare  
The Old School  
Brewhouse Hill  
Wheathampstead  
Hertfordshire AL4 8AN  
Tel: 01582 831818  
Fax: 01582 831414

Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association  
Ltd.  
Unit 5  
Narrow Wine Street  
Trowbridge  
Wiltshire BA14 8YY  
Tel: 01225 777177  
Fax: 01225 775523  
Website: <http://www.ornamentalfish.org>

Environment Agency  
Millbank Tower  
25<sup>th</sup> Floor  
21-24 Millbank  
London SWQ1P 4XL  
Tel: 020 7863 8600  
Fax: 020 7863 8650

British Small Animal Veterinary  
Association  
Kingsley House  
Church Lane  
Shurdington  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire GL51 5TQ  
Tel: 01242 862994  
Fax: 01242 863009

Health and Safety Executive (Information  
line)  
  
Tel: 0541 545500