

Monmouthshire County Council

Animal related licensing

As the Licensing Authority for Monmouthshire, we are responsible for issuing a range of animal licences to ensure that establishments and owners comply with the required standards.

Our Animal Licensing officers have a responsibility to:

- advise about aspects of animal licensing
- inspect and grant licences to premises subject to animal legislation such as dog breeding establishments, dog boarding kennels, catteries, pet shops, riding establishments and others
- investigate complaints about the health and welfare of animals in these premises
- investigate complaints of illegal activities and take formal action against offenders where other action is unsuccessful

Licenses are required for:

- dog breeding establishments
- dog boarding kennels
- keeping of dangerous/wild animals
- catteries
- pet shops
- home boarding/day care facilities
- Riding establishments

You must obtain a licence before operating any of the above activities.

Who needs a dog breeding Licence?

The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 require anyone breeding more than two litters of puppies in a 12-month period to obtain a licence.

The regulations state that a dog breeding licence is required where a person

keeps more than 2 breeding bitches and;
breeds more than 2 litters in any 12-month period or;
advertises for sale more than 2 litters in any 12-month period or;
supplies puppies born from more than 2 litters or;
advertises a business of breeding or selling puppies.

A licence must be obtained prior to a person operating a breeding establishment.

A person guilty of an offence under this regulation is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months in prison, a fine not exceeding level 5 (£5000) on the standard scale, or both.

Apply for a dog breeding licence

Licences are valid for 12 months and must be renewed before the expiry date.

A fee is payable (see the current animal licence fees).

A licence may be issued if the applicant is not disqualified from:

- keeping a dog breeding establishment
- keeping a pet shop
- keeping a dog
- keeping an animal establishment
- having custody of animals

Conditions

Before a licence is granted the applicant will need to submit a written Enhancement and Enrichment programme and a Socialisation Programme. The premises will be inspected by a veterinary inspector authorised by Monmouthshire County Council, paid for by the applicant.

An annual inspection will then be made by the Authority's Animal Licensing Officer.

During the inspection the applicant must be able to demonstrate that:

- dogs are kept in suitable accommodation in respect of construction, size of quarters, number of occupants, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness
- dogs are supplied with food, drink and bedding material, adequately exercised and visited at suitable intervals
- reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases, including the provision of isolation facilities
- steps will be taken to protect dogs in case of fire or other emergency, including the provision of suitable and sufficient firefighting equipment
- steps will be taken to ensure that dogs are provided with suitable food, drink and bedding material and adequately exercised when being transported to or from the breeding establishment
- 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;
- that bitches do not give birth to puppies before the end of the period of twelve months beginning with the day on which they last gave birth to puppies; and
- that accurate breeding records in a form prescribed by regulations are kept at the premises
- that the minimum staffing ratio is adhered to

How to apply

To apply, please contact us by phone or email and we will send you an application pack.

Telephone: 01873 735420

Email: animalhealth@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appeal

If a licence is refused an appeal may be made to the magistrate's court which may give such directions regarding the licence or its conditions.

Contact the Animal Health team at Monmouthshire County Council for further information.

If you have any welfare concerns for animals within a breeding establishment or believe a person is breeding without a licence, please contact us directly.