

TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
6 OCTOBER 2016

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS: LICENCE CONDITIONS
(Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection)

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider adoption of the Model Licence Conditions for Boarding Establishments as published by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) in 2013 (cats) and 2016 (dogs).

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Committee approves a consultation exercise with all existing licence holders in respect of adoption of the revised model licence conditions.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The contents of the CIEH Model Licence Conditions are widely accepted as representing the minimum standards to be applied in order to ensure appropriate standards of health, safety and welfare. The current conditions are based on CIEH Model Licence Conditions published in 1995, and can be found at Annex A and Annex B. These were approved for use by the Licensing Committee at their meeting on 13 October 2011.
- 3.2 The revised Model Licence Conditions can be found at Annex C and Annex D. These replace the original versions published in 1995. Since then there have been developments in the understanding of animal welfare and also the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The documents have therefore been revised and updated to better reflect the legal and animal welfare considerations that Councils should consider when licensing boarding establishments.
- 3.2 It is proposed that existing licence holders are consulted to seek their views on the model licence conditions so that a report can be brought to a future Committee meeting. The existing licences are next due for renewal on 1 January 2017, so it is likely that the new conditions would not be implemented prior to 1 January 2018, which should allow sufficient time for licence holders to ensure compliance by the time of the licence renewal process.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None, officers are of the view that best practice is to adopt the most recent version of the CIEH Model Licence Conditions. This view is supported by the City of London Animal Health Inspector who assesses the licensed premises for compliance.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Animal boarding establishments are licensed on an annual basis following an inspection by a City of London Animal Health Inspector. A licence is granted subject to conditions being attached that relate to conditions to protect the welfare of the animals being cared for as well as the number and type of animals that can be boarded.

- 5.2 Under section 3 of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, a local authority can attach licence conditions to ensure:
- i) that animals will at all times be kept in accommodation suitable as respects construction, size of quarters, number of occupants, exercising facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness;
 - ii) that animals will be adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and bedding material, adequately exercised, and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals;
 - iii) that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent and control the spread among animals of infectious or contagious diseases, including the provision of adequate isolation facilities;
 - iv) that appropriate steps will be taken for the protection of the animals in case of fire or other emergency;
 - v) that a register be kept containing a description of any animals received into the establishment, date of arrival and departure, and the name and address of the owner, such register to be available for inspection at all times by an officer of the local authority, veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner authorised under section 2(1) of this Act.
- 5.3 Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, those responsible for animals including boarding establishments must take reasonable steps to meet the welfare needs of animals in their care which would include
- i) its need for a suitable environment
 - ii) its need for a suitable diet
 - iii) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
 - iv) any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
 - v) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
- 5.4 The Model Licence Conditions produced by the CIEH cover both the requirements of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act and the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act. They are to be used as a pool of conditions to be applied as required.
- 5.5 If agreed this consultation would not amend the conditions in respect of those persons licensed to board dogs in their own home, as the Council is already using the most up to date version of the Model Licence Conditions for Home Boarders of Dogs as issued by LACORS in 2005. Revised conditions for this sector, to include day boarding, are expected in 2017.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The legal implications are identified within the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Consultation not yet carried out.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Consultation not yet carried out.

Representations Received

- 7.3 Consultation not yet carried out.

Background Papers

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Cat Boarding Establishments

Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments

Contact for further information

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