

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

Animal Activity Licences – Fees and Guidance Notes

Table of Fees:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Licensable activity | Application Fee | Licence Fee (1 year) | Licence Fee (2 years) | Licence Fee (3 years) | Application to Vary Licence | Vet Fees (if applicable) | LA Inspection (on request) |
| Hiring out horses | £322.00 | £180.00 | £357.00 | £535.00 | £235.00 | Invoiced at cost | £160.00 |
| Breeding of dogs | £322.00 | £180.00 | £357.00 | £535.00 | £235.00 | Invoiced at cost | £160.00 |
| Providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing boarding for cats • Providing boarding in kennels for dogs • Providing home boarding for dogs • Providing day care for dogs | £322.00 | £180.00 | £357.00 | £535.00 | £235.00 | Invoiced at cost | £160.00 |
| Selling animals as pets | £322.00 | £180.00 | £357.00 | £535.00 | £235.00 | Invoiced at cost | £160.00 |
| Keeping or training animals for exhibition | £215.00 | N/A | N/A | £290.00 | £155.00 | Invoiced at cost | £160.00 |

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Guidance Notes on Table of Fees

Application Fees (Column A)

When applying for the grant or renewal of a licence under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, the applicant must pay the relevant “application fee,” as shown in column A on the table of fees, when submitting their application form

The application fee covers the cost of administering the application and carrying out the required inspection to determine whether a licence can be granted or not.

When the relevant premises has been inspected and a decision is made that a licence can be issued, the officer who has carried out the inspection will also carry out the required assessment of risk which will determine the star rating that will apply to the licence and the length of licence that will be issued. The costs of this assessment are also covered by the application fee.

If applying for a licence to carry out more than one licensable activity, only one application fee needs to be paid, that being the highest applicable application fee.

Licence Fees (Columns, B, C and D)

Before a licence can be issued the relevant licence fee(s) for the activities the licence will authorise must be paid. The relevant fees for one year licences are shown in column B on the fees table, two year licence fees are shown in column C and three year licence fees are shown in column D.

Whilst only one application fee needs to be paid, that being the highest applicable application fee, the relevant licence fee(s) must be paid for each activity the licence will authorise.

For example, someone applying for a licence to provide boarding in kennels for dogs and also breed dogs, and who has been awarded a one year licence, will need to pay:

1 x application fee (£322.00) at the point of making the application.
2 x licence fees (£180.00 + £180.00 = £360) before the licence can be issued.

The licence fees cover the costs on ongoing compliance and enforcement activities, including unannounced inspections, responding to complaints and investigating and taking appropriate action against unlicensed businesses.

Fees to Apply for Variation of a Licence (Column E)

A licence holder may apply to vary their licence, for example to increase their star rating following a requested re-inspection or to amend any other details shown on the licence. Anyone applying to vary their licence will need to pay the relevant variation fees shown in column E when making their application. A variation fee will need to be paid in respect of each licensable activity authorised by the licence.

This fee will cover the cost of processing the variation application and any local authority officer inspections that are required as a result.

Vet Fees (Column F)

Some applications will necessitate the local authority appointing a vet to carry out an inspection. Where this is the case, any costs incurred by the local authority as a result of having to engage a vet, will be invoiced to the applicant / licence holder at cost.

Failure to pay an invoice for vet fees may mean that the licence will not be issued or, if a licence has already been issued, may lead to the suspension or revocation of the licence. Civil debt recovery procedures will also be initiated in such circumstances.

Requested Inspection Fees (Column G)

Where a licence holder requests an additional inspection, they will need to pay the relevant fee shown in column G.

A licence holder may request an inspection in order to try and improve their star rating during the term of their licence.

Licences to keeping or train animals for exhibition

The Regulations and associated guidance make clear that licences that authorise the holder to keep or train animals for exhibition are not subject to the risk assessment process and such licences are automatically granted for three years if the required minimum standards are met.

As a result, the fees for licences to carry on this activity are lower and there is no one year or two year licence fee.

If an applicant is applying for a licence to keep or train animals for exhibition and another licensable activity (such as selling animals as pets) they will need to pay the higher application fee only.

If a licence is subsequently granted, the length of licence issued will be determined by the lowest star rating awarded in respect of the other licensable activities authorised by the licence.

All relevant licence fees will need to be paid in accordance with the length of licence issued, but where the licence contains authorisation to keep or train animals for exhibition, no further licence fees will be required for a period of three years from the date the licence is issued.



Licence Fees – Frequently Asked Questions

Why do I have to pay an application fee and a licence fee?

The two fees cover different costs. The application fee covers the cost of administering the application and carrying out the required inspection to determine whether a licence can be granted or not. The licence fees cover the ongoing costs of compliance and enforcement activities, including unannounced inspections, responding to complaints and taking appropriate action against unlicensed businesses.

Applicants who are refused a licence following inspection will not have to pay any licence fees, but will not receive a refund of their application fee. Unsuccessful applicants will also remain liable for any vet fees incurred in determining their application.

How come the fees are so high?

The regulations have significantly altered the licensing regime and have imposed additional duties onto local authorities, including a requirement to carry out far more inspections than under previous licensing regimes in place. As a result, the Council is having to put more resources into this area of work and has therefore had to set fees at a level that allows them to recover their full costs in carrying out their new licensing responsibilities.

The fees will be kept under review to ensure that they are fully recovering the local authority's costs and also to ensure that they not leading to a surplus.

If paying by cheque, who do I make the cheque payable to?

The relevant district Council to whom you are applying. Cheques should NOT be made payable to Worcestershire Regulatory Services

Following my inspection, I have qualified for a three year licence but I only want to pay for a one year licence, is that possible?

No – with the exception of licences for keeping or training animals for exhibition, the length of licence is determined by the star rating achieved following the inspection. The fee for the relevant length of licence must be paid before the licence is issued.

Can I pay my fees by instalment?

No licences will be issued until such time as all application and licence fees have been paid in full. To allow payments by instalment would significantly increase the local authority's administration costs, which would have to be reflected in higher licence fees.

The licence fees for three-year licences appear very expensive, so why would I want to be granted a three-year licence?

Over the course of three years, it is significantly cheaper to have held a three-year licence than three one-year licences.

For example the cost of holding a three-year licence for hiring out horses is:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Application fee: | £322.00 |
| 3 year licence fee: | £535.00 |
| Total | <u>£857.00</u> |

The cost of three one-year licences to carry out the same activity would be:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Application fee: | £322.00 |
| 1 year licence fee: | £180.00 |

Total: **£502.00** x 3 = **£1506.00**

Therefore over the course of three years, someone awarded a three year licence will have paid **£649.00**, approximately **43%**, less in application and licence fees.