

DWA Application Guidance

Any application made to a local authority for a licence must be made (unless in exceptional circumstances) by the person who is proposed to own and possess the animal and they must:

- Specify the species and number of animals to be kept
- Specify the premises where the animals will normally be kept
- Be made to the local authority for those premises
- Be made by a person 18 years of age or over and not disqualified from holding a licence under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
- Be accompanied by a fee stipulated by the local authority at a level sufficient to meet the direct and indirect costs involved.

The licence will expire on the 31st December of the year to which the licence relates. It must be renewed before that date if the licence holder is to continue to keep the animal(s) named on the licence.

On the death of a licence holder, the licence continues in the name of the personal representatives for 28 days only and then expires unless application is made for a new licence within that time, in which case it continues until the new application is determined.

The exotic, dangerous or wild animals licensing procedure does not apply to animals kept in:

- a zoological garden
- circus
- pet shop
- Places registered under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 for the purpose of performing experiments.
- A person is held to be the keeper of the animal if he has it in his possession and the assumption of possession continues even if the animal escapes or it is being transported etc. This removes the need for carriers or veterinary surgeons to be licensed.

These premises are subject to separate licensing requirements.