

Animal Licensing Policy Consultation



Overview

We want to hear your views on our draft Animal Licensing Policy for Plymouth City Council.

As the Licensing Authority, we have legal responsibilities for the licensing of several activities relating to the welfare of animals. This includes licensing:

Business Operators:

- Breeding dogs
- Providing or arranging for the provision of boarding cats or dogs
- Selling animals as pets
- Keeping or training animals for exhibition
- Hiring out horses
- Keepers of dangerous wild animals
- Zoo

A single Plymouth City Council Animal Licensing Policy will set out a clear and consistent framework for applicants, licence holders and others affected by it.

Plymouth City Council Animal Licensing Policy

The draft policy sets out:

- Our role in animal welfare and relevant legislation
- Guidance on application processes
- What we consider when granting a licence
- Our approach to enforcement
- Our approach to animal licensing fees

The draft policy aims to ensure that:

- There is fairness and consistency for operators of animal related businesses.
- That anyone responsible for the management of animal welfare follow standards of good practice
- Residents feel confident licensed businesses offer a good standards of animal welfare and comply with legislation.

Our draft policy has been developed in accordance with all animal licensing legislation and statutory guidance. In addition, we are proposing further safeguarding measures.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check for Applicants Proposal

Under this policy, applicants will be required to provide evidence of a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (or “basic disclosure”). This is a check of someone’s criminal record.

The DBS certificate must be no more 3 months old at the time of the application.

Existing licence holders will be required to provide evidence of a DBS check on renewal.

Safeguarding for Activities Involving Children or Vulnerable People Proposal

The main aim of animal licensing is to maintain and improve animal welfare standards

We would also expect applicants and licence holders whose activities involve contact with children or vulnerable persons to:

- have a written safeguarding policy and provide training for staff
- have a procedure for vetting staff who have unsupervised contact with young / vulnerable persons

We are not setting any specific standards in relation to these requirements, but each case will be considered on its own merits.

How the Draft Policy has Been Developed

The draft policy follows statutory guidance produced by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and guidance from other relevant organisations.

What is Not Covered by the Draft Policy

There are types of animal related businesses that do not currently require a licence. These include:

- animal rescue centres
- livery yards
- dog walkers
- dog groomers and similar

Related Documents

Before you respond to this consultation, please have a look at the following document. This is available at

THIS LINK WILL BE INSERTED WHEN APPROVAL OBTAINED FROM COMMITTEE

How to Have Your Say

You can tell us your views in the following way:

- [Consultations | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK](#)

If you have any questions about this consultation, please e-mail us at licensing@plymouth.gov.uk

Please tell us your views by midnight on 20/11/2024

What happens next?

We will use your responses to develop the final draft of the Plymouth City Council Animal Licensing Policy

The policy will then be presented to our Licensing Committee for approval and adoption.

We will review the policy to reflect any changes in animal licensing legislation.

We will carry out a formal review of at least every 5 years of our Animal Licensing Policy.

Privacy

We will use the information you provide here only for this activity. We will store the information securely in line with data protection laws and will not share or publish any personal details. For more information about data and privacy, please see our [Privacy Policy](#)

If you have any questions about data and privacy, please e-mail us on dataprotectionofficer@plymouth.gov.uk

PRINTED CONSULTATION SURVEY

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check for applicants

Under this policy, applicants will be required to provide evidence of a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check (or “basic disclosure”). This is a check of someone’s criminal record.

The DBS certificate must be no more than 3 months at the time of the application.

1. Do you agree that applicants should provide evidence of a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check to hold a licence?

Please tick (☐) one option

- Yes
- No
- I don’t know

Please tell us the reasons for your answer:

Safeguarding for activities involving children or vulnerable people

Under this policy, we would expect applicants and licence holders whose activities involve contact with children or vulnerable persons to:

- have a written safeguarding policy and provide training for staff
- have a procedure for vetting staff who have unsupervised contact with young / vulnerable persons

We are not setting any specific standards in relation to these requirements, but each case will be considered on its own merits.

2. Do you agree that applicants and licence holders whose activities involve contact with children or vulnerable people have:

Please tick (✓) one option per statement

	Yes	No	I don't know
a written safeguarding policy and provide training for staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a procedure for vetting staff who have unsupervised contact with young / vulnerable persons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tell us the reasons for your answers:

Other comments

3. How easy is the draft Plymouth Council Animal Licensing Policy to understand?

Please tick (☐) one option

- Very easy
- Somewhat easy

Not very easy

Not at all easy

I don't know

If you think we could make the Plymouth Council Animal Licensing Policy easier to understand, please tell us how:

4. If you have any other comments about the draft Plymouth Council Animal Licensing Policy, please tell us here:

About you

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5. What animal licence(s) do you currently hold?

Please tick (☐) all that apply

I don't currently hold an animal licence

Boarding for cats or dogs licence

Dangerous wild animal licence

Dog breeding licence

Hiring out horses licence

- Keep or train animals for exhibition licence
- Selling animals as pets licence
- Zoo licence

6. Which of the following describe you?

Please tick (☐) all that apply

- I live in Plymouth
- I work in Plymouth
- I study in Plymouth
- I represent or own a business in Plymouth
- I represent a community or voluntary group in Plymouth
- I am an elected representative in Plymouth ☐
- I work for Plymouth City Council
- I work for a neighbouring local authority
- Other (please give details below):

7. How did you find out about this consultation?

Please tick (☐) all that apply

- Local media (newspaper, radio or TV)
- Social media (Facebook, Twitter)
- Nextdoor
- Plymouth City Council website or Your Voice Bucks website
- Plymouth City Council newsletter
- Email from Plymouth City Council
- From Plymouth Council staff
- Through working at Plymouth City Council
- Word of mouth
- Local Community Board

- Local Councillor
- Local Parish / Town Council
- Other (please give details below):

8. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation (e.g. a business or a voluntary group)?

Please tick () one option

- As an individual (go to question 10)
- On behalf of an organisation

On behalf of an organisation

9. Please provide the following details:

Name of organisation:

Your job title:

End of survey if responding on behalf of an organisation

More about you

We want to hear from as many people as possible to understand the views and needs across Plymouth. The following questions help us see if the communities we serve have had the opportunity to be heard through this activity.

All questions are optional. You can skip any questions you do not wish to answer.

10. What is your age?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different age groups.

Please tick (☐) one option

- Under 16
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- Over 85
- Prefer not to say

11. Do you consider yourself to have a disability / disability, impairment(s) or long term health condition(s)?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of disabled people, people with impairments and people with long term health conditions.

Please tick (☐) all that apply

- Disability / disabilities
- Impairment(s)
- Long term health condition(s)
- No
- Prefer not to say

12. Are you:

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different sexes.

Please tick (☐) one option

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

13. How would you describe your ethnicity?

Why we ask this: We want to understand the experiences and views of different ethnicities.

Please tick (☐) one option

- Asian - British
- Asian - Bangladeshi
- Asian - Chinese
- Asian - Indian
- Asian - Pakistani
- Any other Asian background - Please give details below

- Black - African Black - British
- Black - Caribbean
- Any other Black, African or Caribbean background - Please give details below

- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black British
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - Mixed or Multiple Ethnic backgrounds British
- Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background - Please give details below

- White - English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or English traveller
- White - Irish Traveller
- White - European
- Any other White background - Please give details below

- Other ethnic group - Arab
- Other ethnic group - Arab British
- Other ethnic group - Please give details below
- Prefer not to say

Please give other details here:

End of the survey

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

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