

Licensing Committee – 2nd December 2008

4. **Adoption of Model Licence Conditions relating to Home Boarding Establishments.**

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Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek the adoption of new model licence conditions under Section 1 of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 in relation to the licensing of home boarding establishments for dogs.

Recommendations

That the Licensing Committee adopts the new model licence conditions as devised by LACORS in respect of Home Boarding detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

Background

Under Section 1 of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 any business providing accommodation for other people's dogs and cats must be licensed by the Local Authority.

In the past this has applied to traditional boarding establishments such as Kennels and Catteries. Recently however, there has been an increase in the popularity of Home Boarding Establishments, which involves businesses providing accommodation for other peoples dogs within the proprietor's own home.

Model Conditions

Model conditions already exist for the more traditional boarding arrangement in relation to catteries and kennels. These conditions help the local authority to regulate the standards of accommodation and management of the premises, particularly in relation to the well being of the animals being boarded.

However, in view of the increase in the number of home boarding establishments being made available in the South Somerset district it is felt that consideration should be given to adopting new model conditions to specifically cover the alternative arrangements necessary for home boarding. A copy of the proposed model conditions is available in Appendix 1.

The model conditions have been prepared by the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and relate to the number of animals being boarded, the construction of the premises, training of staff, cleanliness of the premises, food and water supplies, disease control etc.

If the Licensing Committee formally adopts these conditions it will allow the us to licence the activity of Home Boarding and attach conditions to licences to ensure consistency of enforcement and that standards of animal care are maintained.

At present there are two known home boarding establishments in the district which are currently unlicensed.

Legislation

As outlined above under Section 1 of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 it is stated that the running of a boarding establishment is “the carrying on at premises of any nature (including a private dwelling) of a business of providing accommodation for others peoples animals”.

The existing legislation was originally drafted without home boarding activities in mind, however, guidance from LACORS states that host families involved in home boarding activities are providing accommodation as defined in the Act and therefore if the host family is providing accommodation as a business then a licence is required.

Consultation

Consultation has taken place at a national level by LACORS with all the relevant stakeholders. No local consultations have taken place.

Financial Implications

Additional cost for home boarding businesses to cover licence fees and the cost of veterinary inspection. Very small increase in fee income for licensing service, offset by additional cost of administration. The current fees for all animal boarding establishments is £97.50 plus the actual cost of the veterinary inspection for the first visit.

Background Papers: Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963
Model Conditions and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments, CIEH.
