**REHOMING ACTIVITIES**

**THE ANIMAL WELFARE (LICENSING OF ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ANIMALS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2021**

**The General Conditions of licence**

***Condition: A copy of the licence must be clearly and prominently displayed on any premises used for the licensable activity.***

***Condition: The name of the licence holder, the number of the licence and the name of the local authority that issued the licence must be clearly and prominently displayed on any website used in respect of the licensable activity.***

**2. Records**

***Condition: The licence holder must ensure that all the records that the licence holder is required to keep as a condition of the licence are either*—**

***(a) available for inspection by an inspector in a visible and legible form at any premises specified in the licence at which the licensable activity is carried on, or***

***(b) if not kept as such premises, are kept in a manner in which they can be readily made available to an inspector.***

***Condition: Where any records that the licence holder is required to keep as a condition of the licence are stored in electronic form they must be in a form from which they can readily be produced in a visible and legible form.***

***Condition: The licence holder must keep all such records for at least 3 years beginning with the date on which the record was created.***

***Condition: Where records are not kept at any premises specified in the licence at which the licensable activity is carried on, the licence holder must promptly make such records available (whether in electronic format or otherwise) for inspection upon request by an inspector.***

**3. Number of animals**

***Condition: The total number of animals kept for the licensable activity at any time must not exceed the maximum that is reasonable taking into account the facilities and numbers of employed staff and volunteers on any premises on which the licensable activity is carried on.***

**4. Staffing**

***Condition: Sufficient numbers of people who are competent for the purpose must be available to provide a level of care that ensures that the welfare needs of all the animals in the licenced premises are met.***

***Condition: The licence holder or a designated manager and any staff employed to care for the animals must be competent to identify the normal behaviour of the species for which they routinely care and to recognise signs of, and take appropriate measures to mitigate or prevent, suffering, injury, disease or abnormal behaviour.***

***Condition: Volunteers who assist in relation to the licensable activity must only undertake tasks for which they have been suitably trained.***

***Condition: The licence holder must provide and ensure the implementation of a written training policy for all staff members and volunteers who care for the animals.***

**5. Suitable Environment**

***Condition: All areas, equipment and appliances to which the animals have access must present minimal risks of injury, illness and escape and must be constructed in materials that are robust, safe and durable, in a good state of repair and well maintained.***

***Condition: If the licensable activity is carried on from premises at which animals are kept, such premises must provide an environment suitable to their species and condition (including health status and age) with respect to*—**

***(a) their behavioural needs,***

***(b) its situation, space, air quality, cleanliness and temperature,***

***(c) the water quality (where relevant),***

***(d) noise levels,***

***(e) light levels,***

***(f) ventilation.***

***Condition: Animals must be kept clean and comfortable.***

***Condition: Where appropriate for the species*—**

***(a) opportunities for toileting must be provided, and***

***(b) a toileting area must be provided if the licensable activity is carried on from premises at which animals are kept.***

***Condition: Procedures must be in place to ensure that*—**

***(a) accommodation in any premises from which the licensable activity is carried on and in which animals are kept is capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.***

***(b) any equipment within the accommodation is cleaned as often as necessary, and***

***(c) good hygiene standards are maintained.***

***Condition: The animals must be transported and handled in a manner (including, for example, in relation to housing, temperature, ventilation and frequency) that protects them from pain, suffering, injury and disease.***

***Condition: If the animals are kept in premises from which the licensable activity is carried on, all the animals must be easily accessible to staff and for inspection and there must be sufficient light for the staff to work effectively and observe the animals.***

***Condition: All resources must be provided in a way (for example as regards frequency, location and access points) that minimises competitive behaviour or the dominance of individual animals.***

***Condition: The animals must not be left unattended in any situation or for any period likely to cause them distress.***

**6. Suitable Diet**

***Condition: The animals must be provided with a suitable diet in terms of quality, quantity and frequency and any new feeds must be introduced gradually to allow the animals to adjust to them.***

***Condition: Feed and (where appropriate) water intake must be monitored, and any problems recorded and addressed.***

***Condition: Feed and drinking water provided to the animals must be unspoilt and free from contamination.***

***Condition: Feed and drinking receptacles must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected, or disposable.***

***Condition: If the animals are kept in premises from which the licensable activity is carried on, constant access to fresh, clean drinking water must be provided in a suitable receptacle for species that require it.***

***Condition: Where feed is prepared on any premises from which the licensable activity is carried on, there must be hygienic facilities for its preparation, including a working surface, hot and cold running water and storage.***

**7. Enrichment and training of animals**

***Condition: If the animals are kept in premises from which the licensable activity is carried on, active and effective environmental enrichment must be provided to the animals in inside and any outside environments.***

**8. Animal Handling and interactions**

***Condition: All people responsible for the care of the animals must be competent in the appropriate handling of each animal to protect it from suffering, injury or disease.***

***Condition: If the animals are kept in premises from which the licensable activity is carried on, the animals must be kept separately or in suitable compatible social groups appropriate to the species and individual animals. No animals from a social species may be isolated or separated from others of their species for any longer than is necessary***

**9. Protection from Pain, Suffering, Injury and Disease**

***Condition: Written procedures must—***

***(a) be in place and implemented covering—***

***(i) feeding regimes,***

***(ii) cleaning regimes,***

***(iii) transportation,***

***(iv) the prevention of, and control of the spread of, disease,***

***(v) monitoring and ensuring the health and welfare of all the animals,***

***(vi) the death or escape of an animal (including the storage of deceased animals);***

***(b) be in place covering the care of the animals—***

***(i) following the suspension or revocation of the licence,***

***(ii) during an emergency, and***

***(iii) following an emergency.***

***Condition: All people responsible for the care of the animals must be made fully aware of these procedures before they attend to any animal in the course of the licensable activity.***

***Condition: If animals are kept in premises from which the licensable activity is carried on, appropriate isolation, in separate self-contained facilities, must be available for the care of sick, injured or potentially infectious animals.***

***Condition: All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent and control the spread among the animals and people of infectious diseases, pathogens and parasites.***

***Condition: All excreta and soiled bedding for disposal must be stored and disposed of in a hygienic manner and in accordance with any relevant legislation.***

***Condition: Sick or injured animals must receive prompt attention from a veterinary surgeon or, in the case of any sick or injured fish, an appropriately trained person and the advice of that veterinary surgeon or that trained person must be followed.***

***Condition: Where necessary, animals must receive preventative treatment by an appropriately competent person in consultation with a veterinary surgeon.***

***Condition: The licence holder must register with a veterinary surgeon and the contact details of that veterinarian must be readily available to all staff on any premises on which animals are kept and where the licensable activity is carried on.***

***Condition: Prescribed medicines must be stored safely and securely to safeguard against unauthorised access, at the correct temperature, and used in accordance with the instructions of the veterinary surgeon.***

***Condition: Medicines other than prescribed medicines must be stored, used and disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer or veterinary surgeon.***

***Condition: Cleaning products must be suitable, safe and effective against pathogens that pose a risk to the animals and must be used, stored and disposed of in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and used in a way which prevents distress or suffering of the animals.***

***Condition: No person may euthanase an animal except a veterinary surgeon, a person acting under supervision of a veterinary surgeon, a person who has been authorised by a veterinary surgeon as competent for such purpose or*—**

***(a) in the case of fish, a person who is competent for such purpose,***

***(b) in the case of equines, and species generally regarded as farmed livestock, a person who is competent, and who holds a licence or certificate which is relevant to the species, for such purpose,***

***except where the purpose of the euthanasia is to end suffering that has arisen suddenly and unexpectedly and to arrange for such a person to euthanase the animal would prolong the suffering.***

***Condition: All animals must be checked at least once daily and more regularly as necessary for any signs of suffering, injury, disease or abnormal behaviour and vulnerable animals must be checked more frequently.***

***Condition: Any signs of suffering, injury, disease or abnormal behaviour must be recorded and if necessary the advice of a veterinary surgeon (or in the case of fish, of an appropriately competent person) must be sought and followed.***

**10. Emergencies**

***Condition: If animals are kept in premises, other than domestic premises, from which the licensable activity is carried on***—

***(a) a written emergency plan, acceptable to the licensing authority, must be in place, known and available to all the staff on the premises, and***

***(b) such a plan must be followed where necessary to ensure appropriate steps are taken to protect all animals on the premises (without risking human life) in case of fire, breakdowns of essential heating, ventilation and aeration or filtration systems or other emergencies.***

***Condition: Any such emergency plan must include details of the emergency measures to be taken for the extrication of the animals should the premises become uninhabitable and an emergency telephone list that includes the fire service and police.***

***Condition: External doors and gates must be lockable.***

***Condition: If animals are kept in premises from which the licensable activity is undertaken, a designated key holder with access to all animal areas must at all times be within reasonable travel distance of the premises and available to attend in an emergency.***

**Guidance on specific conditions – rehoming activities (other than in the course of operating an AWE)**

**1. Supply of animals**

***Condition: No animal of any of the following descriptions may be supplied as a pet by or on behalf of the licence holder—***

***a) unweaned mammals,***

***b) mammals weaned at an age at which they should not have been weaned,***

***c) non-mammals that are incapable of feeding themselves,***

***d) puppies, kittens, ferrets or kits, aged under 8 weeks, and***

***e) puppies which were not bred by the licence holder.***

**2. Protection from suffering, injury and disease**

***Condition: All animals supplied as pets must be in good health.***

***Condition: Any animal with a condition which is likely to affect its quality of life must not be moved, transferred or supplied as a pet but may be moved to an isolation facility or veterinary care facility if required until the animal has recovered.***

***Condition: When arranging for the receipt of animals, the licence holder must make reasonable efforts to ensure that they will be transported in a suitable manner.***

***Condition: When an animal is transported in or handed over in a container to the person to whom the licence holder is supplying the animal, the container must be suitable for the species and expected duration of the journey.***

**3. Pet care and advice**

***Condition: Any equipment and accessories being supplied with an animal must be suitable for the animal.***

***Condition: A person supplied with an animal as a pet by the licence holder must be provided with information on the appropriate care of the animal including in relation to—***

***a) feeding,***

***b) housing,***

***c) handling,***

***d) husbandry,***

***e) the life expectancy of its species,***

***f) the provision of suitable accessories, and***

***g) veterinary care (including details of any vaccinations and disease testing that the licence holder has arranged for the animal).***

***Condition: A person supplied with the animal as a pet must be informed of the country of origin of the animal and the species, and where known, the age, sex and veterinary record of the animal.***

**4. Return of animals**

***The licence holder must accept return of any live animal that the licence holder has supplied to a person in the course of the licensable activity, and arrange for the collection of the animal to facilitate the return if requested by the person supplied, if—***

***a) the person supplied notifies the licence holder of the intention to return the animal within the 10 days following the date the animal was supplied, and***

***b) the animal is in a fit state to be transported.***

**CAGE SIZES IF APPROPRIATE**

**Minimum cage/enclosure sizes (where used) applicable to all licensable activities**

***Dogs: Minimum enclosure/kennel size:***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dog weight** | **Minimum Kennel area (m2) (per dog)** | **Kennel example dimensions (LxW) (m)** | **Minimum area per additional dog (m2)** | **Minimum height of kennel (m)** |
| <5kg (incl. puppies) | 4 | 2 x 2 | 0.5 | 2 |
| 5 to 10kg | 4 | 2 x 2 | 1.0 | 2 |
| 10 to 15kg | 4 | 2 x 2 | 1.5 | 2 |
| 15 to 20kg | 4 | 2 x 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 20 to 30kg | 8 | 4 x 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Over 30kg | Must be scaled up as appropriate | Must be scaled up as appropriate | Must be scaled up as appropriate | 2 |

The kennel area should be large enough to allow separate sleeping and activity areas. The activity area must not be used (designated) as a sleeping area or part of the sleeping area. The kennel should allow each dog to be able to walk, turn around and wag its tail without touching the sides of the kennel. The dogs should have sufficient room to play, stand on their hind limbs and to lie down fully stretched out without touching another individual. The kennel size required will increase in relation to the size and number of dogs housed at any one time. **Bitches with a litter of pups should have an enclosure size double that stated for its normal weight range.**

The length and the width should be sufficient to allow all the dogs to lie outstretched without their noses or tails touching the walls or other individuals. Where the exercise area is physically separate from the dogs resting/sleeping area dogs must be given access to the exercise area at least four times a day. Part or all of the exercise area should be outdoors. Any separate exercise area should be fully cleaned and disinfected between its use by different batches of dogs to minimise the risk of disease transmission.

***Cats: Minimum enclosure size for adult cats (older than 26 weeks old):***

The size of a cat unit includes the sleeping area plus the exercise area. These sizes are outlined below.

The sleeping area may be full height or penthouse sleeping accommodation (an enclosed boxed sleeping area or pod raised off the ground). The pod needs to be high enough off the ground to be able to clean underneath but not too high as to make cleaning inside the box difficult. The height of the pod must be between 75cm and 1.5m and the total height of the sleep area must be a minimum of 1.8m whether full height or a pod. The area under the pod cannot be considered as part of the exercise area.

In some catteries that are completely indoors, it is not necessary to have completely separate sleeping and exercise areas. The floor area must be equal to the sum of the above sleeping and exercise areas and the cat needs a unit to sleep on.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Size** | **Min  area for the sleeping area** | **Min area for the exercise area** | **Minimum total area if single indoor unit** | **Min height** |
| One cat | 0.85m2 | 1.65m2 | 2.5m2 | 1.8m |
| Up to 2 cats | 1.1m2 | 2.2m2 | 3.3m2 | 1.8m |
| Up to 4 cats | 1.7 m2 | 2.8m2 | 4.5m2 | 1.8m |

***Minimum enclosure sizes for kittens up to 26 weeks old***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cats** | **Minimum floor area (m2)** | **Example dimensions (m) W x L** | **Minimum cage height (m)** | **Additional space** |
| 4 Kittens <12-weeks old | 1 | 1 x 1 | 0.6 | 0.25m2 / kitten |
| Single cat 12 – 26 weeks old | 0.85 | 0.9 x 0.95 | 1.8 | - |
| 2 cats 12 – 26 weeks old | 1.5 | 0.9 x 1.66 | 1.8 | - |
| 3 to 4 cats 12 – 26 weeks old | 1.9 | 0.9 x 2.1 | 1.8 | - |

Kittens require adequate space to play together and to have space for a litter tray and bed. Where practical, varying floor heights to enable climbing should also be provided. There should be adequate space for feeding, drinking, sleeping and litter tray to be kept separate.

***Rabbits: Minimum enclosure sizes (excluding exercise run/area)***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Weight of rabbit** | **Maximum stocking density** | **Minimum floor area (m2)** | **Example dimensions (m) W x L** | **Minimum cage height (m)** | **Additional floor area for each additional rabbit (m2)** |
| Up to 4kg | 4 | 0.75 | 1.5 x 0.5  or  1.0 x 0.75 | 0.45 | 0.25 |
| 4 – 6kg | 2 | 0.75 | 1.5 x 0.5  or  1.0 x 0.75 | 0.5 | 0.25 |
| >6kg | 2 | 1.08 | 1.8 x 0.6  or  1.5 x 0.72 | 0.8 | 0.54 |

Enclosures should be large enough for rabbits to be able to stand fully upright on their haunches without their ears touching the roof and lie fully outstretched (without touching the sides of the enclosure or another rabbit). Slatted, grid or wire mesh floors must not be used in rabbit accommodation. Where exercise runs are attached to enclosures these must be of sufficient size to allow rabbits to hop, jump and generally enjoy total freedom of movement

***Ferrets: Minimum enclosure sizes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Age of ferret** | **Maximum stocking density** | **Minimum floor area (m2)** | **Dimensions (m) W x L** | **Minimum dimensions (m)** | **Minimum cage height (m)** | **Additional floor area for each additional ferret (m2)** |
| <12 weeks old | 1 – 4 | 1 | 1 x 1  or  1.66 x 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.25 |
| >12 weeks old | 1 | 0.6 | 1 x 0.6  or  0.77 x 0.77 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 |

Accommodation needs to be of sufficient size to allow all the ferrets housed to be able to lie fully outstretched in any direction, run, forage, explore or play, as well as to stand fully upright without touching the roof of the enclosure. Ferrets must be provided with constant access to places to hide. As a minimum, each hiding place must be large enough to allow one ferret to rest alone.

***Guinea Pigs: Minimum enclosure sizes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Stocking density** | **Minimum floor area (m2)** | **Example dimensions (m)**  **W x L** | **Minimum cage height (m)** | **Additional floor area for each additional animal (m2)** |
| Guinea pig | 1-4 | 0.23 | 1 x 0.23  or  0.52 x 0.52 | 0.3 | 0.09 |

Accommodation needs to be of sufficient size to allow all the guinea pigs housed to be able to lie fully outstretched (without touching the sides of the enclosure or another guinea pig), run, play, tunnel and stand without touching the roof of the enclosure. Ramps within enclosures must be no steeper than 45° as guinea pigs are poor climbers.

Where guinea pigs are housed in hutches, provision must be made for regular exercise in a secure area outside of the hutch.

Guinea pigs must be provided with constant access to places to hide, which may include hay piles, in addition to their sleeping area. At a minimum each hiding place is to be large enough to allow one guinea pig to rest alone.

***Small Rodents: Minimum enclosure sizes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No. of Animals** | **Area per number of animals (cm2)** | | | | | | | **Minimum**  **Cage Height**  **(cm)** | **Minimum**  **Cage Depth**  **(cm)** |
| **1 – 4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** |
| Mice and hamsters | 680 | 790 | 900 | 1000 | 1113 | 1240 | 1350 | 25 | 25 |
| Gerbils | 680 | 790 | 900 | 1000 | 1113 | 1240 | 1350 | 30 | 25 |
| Rats | 1350 | 1570 | 1800 | 2020 | 2225 | 2470 | 2700 | 30 | 28 |
| Degus | 2250 | 2630 | 3000 | 3380 | 3750 | 4130 | 4500 | 30 | 30 |
| Chinchillas | 2500 | 3750 | 5000 | 6250 | 7500 | 8750 | 10000 | 45 | 45 |

Every animal should be able to lie fully outstretched, turn around unimpeded, stand fully upright without touching the cage roof, hide, dig, and play.

Sleeping areas need to be dry, draught-free, well ventilated and clean as well as large enough to allow all the small rodents housed to rest together fully outstretched, turn around unimpeded and move around comfortably.

***Birds: Minimum enclosure/cage sizes***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Approx. length of bird (head to tip of tail)**  **(cm)** | **Average length of flying wingspan**  **(cm)** | **Minimum cage dimensions (cm)**  **(L= 2 x wingspan, D = 1.5 x wingspan, H = 1.5 x wingspan)** | | | **Suggested % enclosure size increase per additional bird.** |
| **L** | **D** | **H** |
| Budgerigar | 18 | 30 | 60 | 45 | 45 | 5 |
| Cockatiel | 30 | 48 | 96 | 72 | 72 | 10 |
| Love bird | 15 | 28 | 56 | 42 | 42 | 10 |
| Small parakeets and conures | 20 | 35 | 70 | 52.5 | 52.5 | 10 |
| Large parakeets, conures and small macaws | 34 | 70 | 140 | 105 | 105 | 20 |
| Amazon parrots | 30 | 60 | 120 | 90 | 90 | 20 |
| African grey | 34 | 70 | 140 | 105 | 105 | 20 |
| Cockatoo (small - medium) | 35 | 75 | 150 | 112.5 | 112.5 | 20 |
| Large cockatoos and macaws | 85 | 110 | 220 | 165 | 165 | 20 |
| Canary | 10 -12 | 22 | 44 | 33 | 33 | 5 |
| Zebra finch | 10 -12 | 22 | 44 | 33 | 33 | 5 |
| Pigeon | 35 | 70 | 140 | 105 | 105 | 10 |
| Turaco | 40-50 | 50 | 100 | 75 | 75 | 20 |

Care must be taken where aviaries or cages are constructed of newly galvanised mesh to prevent heavy metal poisoning, particularly in psittacines which will often chew the metal. If wire mesh is used in the construction of an enclosure the mesh hole size must be small enough that birds housed within cannot put their head or wing through it. The mesh gauge must be stout enough that the birds cannot break or bend it. The licence holder must be able to demonstrate the steps taken to minimise or prevent any poisoning.

Birds should not have to compete for drinkers/feeders and risk exclusion. Passerines should have food available at all times. Enrichment and feeding devices need to be provided for larger psittacids. For parrots, it is preferable to use swinging systems such that the keeper does not need to enter the cage in order to change food/water. Bowls should not be able to be removed from holders by the parrot.

There must be adequate perching space for all birds at the same time. Perches must be positioned so that birds do not defecate on each other and must be of appropriate size and shape for each species. Outdoor aviaries must include sufficient sheltered and non-sheltered space. Cage size must be adequate to allow birds to open their wings fully in all directions. Cages must include appropriate environmental enrichment.

***Reptiles and amphibians: minimum acceptable enclosure sizes***

***SVL:*** *Snout-to-vent length (distance from nose to cloaca).*

***STL:*** *Snout-to-tail length (distance from nose to tip of tail).*

***SCL:*** *Straight-carapace-length (straight length of the curved part of the shell of a tortoise). Carapace is the curved top part of the tortoise or terrapin shell, as opposed to the flat bottom part which is the plastron.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Group** | **Length** | **Width** | **Height** | **Water depth (where appropriate)** |
| Frogs and toads | 30cm or 3 x SVL (whichever is larger) | 30cm or 3 x SVL (whichever is larger) | 30cm or 3 x SVL (whichever is larger) | 2 x SVL |
| Newts and salamanders | 30cm or 3 x SVL (whichever is larger) | 30cm or 2 x SVL (whichever is larger) | 30cm or 3x SVL (whichever is larger) | 2 x SVL |
| Snakes (currently subject to review by UK Animal Welfare Commission) | No less than 2/3 length STL | No less than 1/3 length STL | - | - |
| Lizards | 4 x SVL | 2.5 x SVL | - | - |
| Terrapins and turtles | 90cm or 5 x SCL (whichever is larger) | 3x SCL | - | 4 x carapace height\* |
| Tortoises | 90cm or 5 x SCL (whichever is larger) | |  | | --- | | 5 x SCL | | |  | | --- | | 2 x SCL | | - |

Height and Widthof the enclosure must be appropriate to the species, with arboreal species requiring more height than terrestrial species. When considering vivarium size for arboreal species the licence holder should look to increase the heights outlined above. Where this is the case it is acceptable to reduce the length of the vivarium dimensions by a maximum of 30%. Any reduction in length must, at least, equal the additional height.

Most amphibians and reptiles are not social and may, therefore, be kept individually. Decisions to pair- or group-house amphibian or reptile species must be made by suitably trained and competent staff. Compatible species-specific sex ratios and suitable group sizes must be observed bearing in mind potential for persistent aggression.

**NB – These conditions are likely to be subject to up-dates and will be reissued as and when appropriate.**