

23 October 2018

Agenda Item: 5

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****REPORT TO THE PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE OF THE ANIMAL  
HEALTH LICENSING WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE TRADING STANDARDS &  
COMMUNITIES SERVICE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Committee on the relevant Animal Health licensing work carried out by the Trading Standards & Communities Service on behalf of the Committee and the new changes that have come in to force.

**Information**Background

2. The Authority has responsibility for a number of licensing and registration schemes designed to ensure the safety of our communities.
3. Under the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 owners who train or exhibit performing animals are required to apply to the Authority for a licence. The Trading Standards Service is responsible for issuing these licences.
4. The current fee to owners is £17 per licence. There is no time limitation on any licence issued to an owner and any changes to those animals would need to be registered with the Authority; therefore many of the older licences issued will have naturally expired due to the animals' age and likelihood of them no longer being alive.
5. Since 1925 the types of animals licensed by the Authority has changed considerably. During the 1970's the register contained wild animals registered for a local circus, however, wild animals are no longer licensed through this Act. More recently the Service is licensing the keepers of more domesticated animals like dogs, cats, smaller mammals, birds of prey and reindeer that are used for training purposes or performances.
6. During 2017/18 a total of 5 performing animals licences were issued totalling £85 and in the current year of 2018/19 a total of 4 licences have already been issued.

Change in Legislation

7. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 all performing animals licenses will no longer be issued by the Authority. The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 came into force, bringing together all types of animal licensing including dog and cat breeding and boarding, horse hiring and the training or keeping of animals for exhibition. The licensing function for performing animals within Nottinghamshire moved to the District Councils from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, however, current licences will remain valid for a

period of 6 months until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, when the owner will need to apply for a new licence to the District Council, London Borough Council or Combined Authority in the area where their licensable activity takes place.

8. Trading Standards are currently writing to each current licence holder regarding the new requirements and liaising with each District Council as appropriate.
9. Trading Standards will engage with media colleagues to highlight the changes and impact on customers.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. None

### **Reason for Recommendation**

11. The new legislation, which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, changed the Animal Health licensing function for the Authority and will affect current licence holders.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

13. The change will result in the loss of approximately £85 per year in loss of income to the Service which is negligible.

### **Human Resources Implications**

14. There is minimal implication as any corresponding actions required by the change will be absorbed by the existing staff group within the Trading Standards and Communities Service.

### **Implications for Service Users**

15. A small number of Service Users who currently have a performing animals licence will be affected as described in paragraph 7 above.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) It is recommended that Members agree to the appropriate use of the media to communicate the legal changes.

**Adrian Smith**  
**Corporate Director, Place**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Claudine White, Team Manager, Trading Standards and Communities, Tel: 0115 8040277, **Email:** [claudine.white@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:claudine.white@nottscc.gov.uk)

### **Constitutional Comments [SLB 02/10/2018]**

16.Planning and Licensing Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

### **Financial Comments [RWK 01/10/2018]**

17.The financial implications are set out in paragraph 13 of the report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All