



# Zoo Licensing Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 37

An Act to regulate by licence the conduct of zoos.

[27th July 1981]

### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** Act: Functions transferred (W.) (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672, art. 2, Sch. 1](#)

### *Licences*

#### **1 Licensing of zoos by local authorities.**

- (1) Subject to this section it is unlawful to operate a zoo to which this Act applies except under the authority of a licence issued under this Act by the local authority for the area within which the whole or the major part of the zoo is situated.
- (2) In this Act “zoo” means an establishment where wild animals (as defined by section 21) are kept for exhibition to the public otherwise than for purposes of a circus (as so defined) and otherwise than in a pet shop (as so defined); and this Act applies to any zoo to which members of the public have access, with or without charge for admission, on more than seven days in any period of 12 consecutive months.
- (3) The local authorities for the purposes of this Act are—
  - (a) in England and Wales, the district councils, the councils of London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London;
  - (b) in Scotland, the islands councils and district councils.
- (4) In relation to zoos in operation before the commencement of this Act this section and section 2 have effect subject to the provisions of section 20.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

## **[<sup>F1</sup>1A Conservation measures for zoos**

The following are conservation measures to be implemented in zoos in accordance with this Act—

- (a) participating in at least one of the following—
  - (i) research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals;
  - (ii) training in relevant conservation skills;
  - (iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals;
  - (iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity; and
  - (v) where appropriate, the repopulation of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals;
- (b) promoting public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by providing information about the species of wild animals kept in the zoo and their natural habitats;
- (c) accommodating their animals under conditions which aim to satisfy the biological and conservation requirements of the species to which they belong, including—
  - (i) providing each animal with an environment well adapted to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of the species to which it belongs; and
  - (ii) providing a high standard of animal husbandry with a developed programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition;
- (d) preventing the escape of animals and putting in place measures to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release of animals;
- (e) preventing the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises; and
- (f) keeping up-to-date records of the zoo's collection, including records of—
  - (i) the numbers of different animals;
  - (ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals;
  - (iii) the causes of any such deaths; and
  - (iv) the health of the animals.]

### **Textual Amendments**

- F1** S. 1A inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3080](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 2, 5](#) (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/992\)](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. para. 2](#) (with reg. 4))

## **2 Application for licence.**

- (1) An application to the local authority for a licence for a zoo shall not be entertained by the local authority unless, at least two months before making it, the applicant has given notice in writing to the local authority of his intention to make the application,

---

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

---

has published notice of that intention in one local newspaper circulating in the locality and one newspaper with a national circulation and has exhibited a copy of that notice at the site and the said notice shall state that the notice to the local authority may be inspected as provided by subsection (3).

- (2) Any notice given or published under subsection (1) must identify the situation of the zoo for which the application is to be made; and the notice to the local authority must specify—
- (a) the kinds of animals listed in taxonomic category of Order and approximate number of each group kept or to be kept for exhibition on the premises and the arrangements for their accommodation, maintenance and wellbeing;
  - (b) the approximate numbers and categories of staff employed or to be employed in the zoo;
  - (c) the approximate number of visitors and motor vehicles for which accommodation is or is to be provided;
  - (d) the approximate number and position of the means of access provided or to be provided to the premises.
- (3) Any notice given to the local authority under this section shall, until the disposal of the application to which it relates, be kept available by the authority at their offices for public inspection free of charge at reasonable hours.

### 3 Consideration of application.

- (1) On the consideration of an application for a licence the local authority shall take into account any representations made by or on behalf of any of the persons mentioned in subsection (2).
- (2) The persons are:—
- (a) the applicant;
  - (b) the chief officer of police (or in Scotland the chief constable) for any area in which the whole or any part of the zoo is situated;
  - (c) any authority discharging, in any area in which the whole or any part of the zoo is situated, the functions of fire authority under the <sup>M1</sup>Fire Services Act 1947;
  - (d) the governing body of any national institution concerned with the operation of zoos;
  - (e) where part of the zoo is not situated in the area of the local authority with power to grant the licence, a planning authority for the area in which the part is situated (other than a county planning authority . . . <sup>F2</sup>);
  - (f) any person alleging that the establishment or continuance of the zoo would injuriously affect the health or safety of persons living in the neighbourhood of the zoo;
  - (g) any other person whose representations might, in the opinion of the local authority, show grounds on which the authority has a power or duty to refuse to grant a licence.

---

#### Textual Amendments

**F2** Words repealed by [Local Government Act 1985 \(c. 51, SIF 81:1\)](#), ss. 1, 102, [Sch. 17](#)

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

#### Marginal Citations

M1 1947 c. 41.

#### 4 Grant or refusal of licence.

- (1) Before granting or refusing to grant a licence for a zoo, the local authority shall—
  - (a) consider inspectors' reports made in pursuance of inspections of the zoo under this Act, or
  - (b) if no inspection of the zoo has been made under this Act, consult such persons on the list as the Secretary of State nominates for the purposes of this section.
- (2) The local authority shall refuse to grant a licence for a zoo if they are satisfied that the establishment or continuance of the zoo would injuriously affect the health or safety of persons living in the neighbourhood of the zoo, or seriously affect the preservation of law and order.
- (3) The local authority may refuse to grant a licence for a zoo if they are not satisfied that the standards of accommodation, staffing or management are adequate for the proper care and wellbeing of the animals or any of them or otherwise for the proper conduct of the zoo.
- (4) The local authority may also refuse to grant a licence if—
  - (a) the applicant, or
  - (b) (where the applicant is a body corporate) the body or any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body, or
  - (c) any person employed as a keeper in the zoo,
 has been convicted of an offence under this Act or under any of the enactments mentioned in subsection (5) or of any other offence involving the ill-treatment of animals.
- (5) The enactments are—
  - the Protection of Animals Acts 1911 to 1964;
  - the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Acts 1912 to 1964;
  - the <sup>M2</sup>Pet Animals Act 1951;
  - ...<sup>F3</sup>
  - the <sup>M3</sup>Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963;
  - the Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970;
  - the <sup>M4</sup>Breeding of Dogs Act 1973;
  - ...<sup>F3</sup>
  - the <sup>M5</sup>Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976;
  - the <sup>M6</sup>Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act 1976.
  - [<sup>F4</sup>Part I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981]
- (6) If the local authority are not satisfied that any planning permission required under Part III of [<sup>F5</sup>the Town and Country Planning Act 1990] or under the <sup>M7</sup>Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972, for the establishment of the zoo or for the continuance of the zoo during the period for which the licence would be in force, has been, or is deemed to be, granted, they shall either refuse to grant the licence or grant the licence but suspend its operation until the local planning authority within the meaning of [<sup>F5</sup>the

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

said Act of 1990] or, as the case may be, 1972 have notified the local authority that any such planning permission has been or is deemed to be granted.

- (7) Except as provided by this section the local authority shall not refuse to grant a licence pursuant to an application and if they do refuse to grant it they shall send to the applicant by post a written statement of the grounds of their refusal.
- (8) When a licence is granted the local authority shall send it to the applicant by post and the licence or a copy of it shall be publicly displayed at each public entrance to the zoo.

#### Textual Amendments

- F3** Entry repealed by [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(c. 69, SIF 4:5\)](#), ss. 75(14), 73(4), [Sch. 17 Pt. II](#)
- F4** Entry added by [Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 \(c. 69, SIF 4:5\)](#), s. [72\(14\)](#)
- F5** Words substituted by [Planning \(Consequential Provisions\) Act 1990 \(c. 11, SIF 123:1, 2\)](#), s. 4, [Sch. 2 para. 49](#)

#### Marginal Citations

- M2** 1951 c. 35.
- M3** 1963 c. 43.
- M4** 1973 c. 60.
- M5** 1976 c. 38.
- M6** 1976 c. 72.
- M7** 1972 c. 52.

## 5 Period and conditions of licence.

- (1) An original licence granted under this Act shall be granted for a period of four years beginning with the date specified in the licence as that on which it is granted or any later date specified in the licence as that on which the licence is to commence.
- (2) A fresh licence granted under this Act to the holder of an existing licence shall be granted for a period of six years beginning with the end of the period of the existing licence.
- (3) Any licence under this Act may be granted subject to such conditions as the local authority think necessary or desirable for ensuring the proper conduct of the zoo during the period of the licence, including conditions relating to the following—
  - (a) precautions to be taken against the escape of animals, and steps to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release;
  - (b) records to be kept of the numbers of different animals, of acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals or escapes of animals, of the causes of any such deaths, and of the health of animals;
  - (c) insurance against liability for damage caused by animals.
- (4) In deciding what (if any) conditions to attach to a licence, a local authority shall have regard to any standards specified by the Secretary of State under section 9 and sent by him to the authority.
- (5) A local authority shall attach to a licence any condition which the Secretary of State directs them to attach.
- (6) The authority shall not attach to a licence any condition inconsistent with one they are so directed to attach.

---

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

---

- (7) The authority shall not attach to a licence a condition which relates only or primarily to the health, safety or welfare of persons working in the zoo.

## **6 Renewal of licence.**

- (1) Where application for the renewal of an existing licence is made to the local authority not later than six months before the end of the period of the licence or such shorter time as the local authority may in special circumstances allow the local authority may either—
- (a) extend the period of the existing licence; or
  - (b) direct the applicant to apply for a fresh licence in accordance with section 2.
- (2) Where application for a fresh licence is made by the holder of an existing licence, the existing licence shall, if the application is made before the end of the period of that licence or within six months after notice of a direction given to the applicant under subsection (1)(b), continue in force until the application is disposed of or withdrawn and, if the application is refused, for a further period of six months.
- (3) Any extension of the period of an existing licence under subsection (1)(a) shall be granted for a period of six years beginning with the end of the period of the existing licence; and the local authority shall take reasonable steps to secure that the holder of the licence is notified in writing of the extension.
- (4) The local authority shall give notice to the holder of any licence granted by that authority, not later than nine months before the end of the period of the licence, of the latest date on which application for renewal may be made under this section.

## **7 Transfer, transmission and surrender of licence.**

- (1) A licence for a zoo may with the approval of the local authority be transferred to another person, and in that case the transferee shall become the holder of the licence from the date which application for renewal may be made under this section.
- (2) On the death of the holder of a licence, the personal representatives of the deceased are deemed to be the holders of the licence during the period of three months after the death or such longer period as the local authority may approve.
- (3) The holder of a licence may at any time surrender it to the local authority who shall thereupon cancel the licence.

*Secretary of State's functions*

## **8 Secretary of State's list.**

- (1) The Secretary of State shall, after consultation with the presidents of the British Veterinary Association, the National Federation of Zoological Gardens and the National Zoological Association and with such other persons as he thinks fit, compile a list consisting of two parts, the first part containing the names of veterinary surgeons and veterinary practitioners falling within subsection (2) and the second part containing the names of persons falling within subsection (3).
- (2) The surgeons and practitioners shall have experience of animals of kinds which are kept in zoos or which in the Secretary of State's opinion might be so kept.

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) Each of the persons shall be competent in the Secretary of State's opinion to do all the following, namely, to inspect animals in zoos, to advise on keeping them and on their welfare, and to advise on the management of zoos generally.
- (4) A person's name may be contained in both the first and the second parts of the list.
- (5) After such consultation, the Secretary of State may vary the list by adding names or deleting them (or both).
- (6) Persons on the list may charge the licensing authority such amounts in respect of their services and expenses as the Secretary of State may from time to time determine with the approval of the Minister for the Civil Service.

## 9 Secretary of State's standards.

After consulting such persons on the list and such other persons as he thinks fit, the Secretary of State may from time to time specify standards of modern zoo practice, that is, standards with respect to the management of zoos and the animals in them.

### *Inspections*

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

#### **[<sup>F6</sup>9A Procedure relating to inspections before the grant, refusal, renewal or significant alteration of licences**

- (1) This section applies where an inspection is to be carried out as mentioned in sections 4(1A), 6(1A) and 16(2B) and (3A).
- (2) Where an inspection under section 10 falls to be carried out within the period of 12 months beginning with the date on which a local authority become required to make arrangements for an inspection to be carried out as mentioned in subsection (1)—
  - (a) the authority need not arrange for an inspection to be carried out in accordance with this section; and
  - (b) if they do not, subsections (10) to (13) of this section apply in relation to the inspection under section 10 as they would have applied in relation to an inspection in accordance with this section.
- (3) Where—
  - (a) an application has been made under section 6(1) for renewal of a zoo's licence and the authority propose to extend the period of the licence; and
  - (b) one or more inspections of the zoo are required by section 16,the authority may combine those inspections with the inspection which is required by section 6(1A)(a).
- (4) Where more than one inspection is required under section 16, the authority may combine the inspections.
- (5) Subject to subsection (6), where in the course of an inspection under section 10 or 12 or in accordance with this section it becomes apparent to the inspectors that a significant alteration to the licence is likely to be needed, they shall—

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

- (a) consult the holder of the licence about that alteration;
  - (b) consider whether any new conditions they consider will be needed to secure that alteration are likely to be met if the licence is altered; and
  - (c) include their findings and recommendations in a report.
- (6) Subsection (5) does not apply where the inspection is an inspection before the significant alteration of a licence, and the significant alteration the inspectors consider likely to be needed is the same or substantially the same as that which the authority propose to make or the Secretary of State proposes to direct the authority to make.
- (7) An inspection required by section 4(1A)(b) or 6(1A)(a) (including an inspection required by section 6(1A)(a) which is combined with another inspection) shall be conducted by one or more inspectors nominated, after consultation with the authority, by the Secretary of State from the list.
- (8) An inspection required by subsection (2B)(b) or (3A)(b) of section 16 (including such an inspection which is combined with another such inspection, but not including such an inspection which is combined with an inspection required by section 6(1A)(a)) shall be conducted by one or more persons who appear to the authority to be competent for the purpose and who are authorised by the authority to conduct the inspection.
- (9) Before carrying out an inspection in accordance with this section, the authority shall, after consultation with the applicant or operator of the zoo (as the case may be), give him at least twenty-eight days' notice of the date on which it is proposed to carry it out.
- (10) Except in the case of an inspection carried out before the grant or refusal of an original licence, the inspector shall consider whether the conditions attached to the licence are met.
- (11) In the case of an inspection carried out before the grant or refusal of a licence, the inspector shall consider whether the conditions proposed by the authority under section 4(1A)(a) are likely to be met if the licence is granted.
- (12) In the case of an inspection carried out before the period of an existing licence is extended, the inspector shall consider whether the conditions attached to the licence are likely to be met if the period of the licence is extended.
- (13) In the case of an inspection carried out before the significant alteration of a licence, the inspector shall consider—
  - (a) whether any new or varied conditions proposed by the authority under section 16(2B)(a) or by the Secretary of State under section 16(3A) are likely to be met if the licence is so altered; and
  - (b) whether the conservation measures referred to in section 1A will be implemented at the zoo if the licence is altered as proposed by the authority or the Secretary of State (as the case may be).
- (14) Except in the case of an inspection carried out before the grant or refusal of an original licence, the inspector may require the production of all records kept by the holder of the licence in pursuance of conditions requiring the conservation measures referred to in section 1A(f) to be implemented at the zoo, and the holder shall produce the records.



**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

- (15) The inspector shall send his report to the authority, and within one month after receiving the report of the inspection the authority shall send a copy to the applicant or operator (as the case may be) and give him an opportunity to comment on it.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F6** S. 9A inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, regs. 1(1), 2, 12 (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/992), regs. 1(1), 2(1), Sch. para. 9 (with reg. 4))

## 10 Periodical inspections.

- (1) The local authority shall carry out periodical inspections in accordance with this section of any zoo for which a licence granted by that authority is in force.
- (2) Before any such inspection the local authority shall, after consultation with the operator of the zoo, give him at least twenty-eight days notice of the date upon which it is proposed to carry it out.
- (3) Inspections under this section shall be made at the following times—
- (a) in the case of an original licence, during the first year and not later than six months before the end of the fourth year of the period of the licence;
  - (b) in the case of a renewed licence or fresh licence granted to the holder of an existing licence, during the third year and not later than six months before the end of the sixth year of the period of that licence.
- (4) The following provisions apply to any inspection to be carried out under this section:
- (a) the inspection shall be conducted by the following inspectors, namely—
    - (i) not more than three appointed by the local authority, being persons who appear to the authority to be competent for the purpose, at least one of whom shall be a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner; and
    - (ii) two nominated after consultation with the local authority by the Secretary of State from the list, one from the first part of the list and one from the second;and the names of all persons inspecting shall be notified to the operator of the zoo;
  - (b) the operator may give notice to the local authority of objection to any one or more of the inspectors, and the local authority or the Secretary of State as appropriate may if they think fit give effect to any such objection;
  - (c) representatives of the operator not exceeding three in number may accompany the inspectors on the inspection; and the inspectors may require the attendance of any veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner employed in or retained by or for the purposes of the zoo;
  - (d) the inspection shall extend to all features of the zoo directly or indirectly relevant to the health, welfare and safety of the public and the animals, including measures for the prevention of the escape of animals;

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (e) the inspectors shall require the production of all records kept by the operator in pursuance of conditions of the licence under section 5(3)(b) and the operator shall produce the records.
- (5) The inspectors shall send their report to the local authority, and the report may include advice on the keeping of records and recommendations for any practicable improvements designed to bring any features of the zoo up to the normal standards of modern zoo practice; and for this purpose the inspectors shall have regard to any standards known to them which have been specified by the Secretary of State under section 9.
- (6) Any disagreement between the inspectors over recommendations to be made in their report relating to the welfare of the animals or any of them may be referred to the Secretary of State, who may, after consultation with such persons on the list as he thinks fit, give such guidance as he thinks proper in regard to the recommendations to be made.
- (7) Within one month after receiving the report of the inspection the local authority shall send a copy to the operator of the zoo and give him an opportunity to comment on it.

## **11 Special inspections.**

- (1) The local authority may at any time carry out a special inspection of a zoo for which a licence granted by them is in force if they consider it appropriate to do so having regard to—
  - (a) any periodical report on the zoo made to them pursuant to section 10; or
  - (b) any representations made to them on behalf of a properly constituted body concerned with any aspect of the management of zoos or the welfare of animals; or
  - (c) any report on the zoo made to them pursuant to an inspection under the provisions of section 12; or
  - (d) any other circumstances which in their opinion call for investigation.
- (2) A special inspection under this section shall be conducted by persons who appear to the local authority to be competent for the purpose and who are authorised by the authority to conduct the inspection.
- (3) Where the purpose of the inspection relates to the health of animals, the inspectors shall include (or, if one, the inspector shall be) a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner with experience of animals of kinds kept in the zoo.
- (4) On appointing persons under subsection (2), the authority shall communicate to them and to the operator of the zoo the purpose and scope of the inspection.
- (5) Paragraphs (c) to (e) of subsection (4) and subsections (5) to (7) of section 10 apply to a special inspection as they apply to a periodical inspection except that the references in subsections (4)(d), (4)(e) and (5) to features and records and improvements are references only to features and records and improvements relevant to the purpose and scope of the special inspection.

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

### **[<sup>F7</sup>11A Special inspections of closed zoos**

- (1) The local authority may at any time carry out a special inspection of a zoo or a section of a zoo to which section 16E applies—
  - (a) if they consider it appropriate to do so having regard to their function under section 16E(4) of supervising the implementation of a plan prepared under section 16E(2);
  - (b) if they consider it appropriate to do so having regard to their function under section 16E(6); or
  - (c) if they consider it appropriate to do so in order to determine whether to exercise their function under section 16E(7) or (8).
- (2) Subsection (4)(c) of section 10 and subsections (2), (3) and (4) of section 11 apply to an inspection under this section as they apply to an inspection under those sections.
- (3) The inspectors may require the production of all records of the zoo's collection kept by the operator of the zoo, and the operator shall produce the records.
- (4) The inspectors shall send their report to the authority, and, except where the operator of the zoo cannot after reasonable enquiries have been made be found, the authority shall send a copy to the operator forthwith and give him an opportunity to comment on it.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F7** S. 11A inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3080, regs. 1\(1\), 2, 15](#) (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/992\)](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 2\(1\), Sch. para. 12](#) (with [reg. 4](#)))

## **12 Informal inspections.**

- (1) Without prejudice to sections 10 and 11, the local authority shall make such arrangements as they think fit to ensure that any zoo for which a licence granted by that authority is in force is inspected informally by an inspector once in any calendar year in which no inspection is made under those sections.
- (2) The inspector shall be appointed by the authority and shall be a person appearing to the authority to be competent for the purpose of the inspection.

*Special cases*

## **13 Local authority zoos.**

- (1) When a local authority is the owner of a zoo to which this Act applies, this Act shall apply with the following additions and modifications.
- (2) As soon as practicable after granting a licence for the zoo, or extending the period of a licence, or receiving an inspectors' report made in pursuance of an inspection

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

---

of the zoo under this Act, the authority shall send to the Secretary of State a copy of the licence, or notification in writing of the extension, or a copy of the report (as the case may be).

- (3) The authority shall send with the copy of the report any comments on it which they may have.
- (4) The Secretary of State (instead of the authority) shall have power, after giving the holder of the licence an opportunity to be heard, to revoke the licence on any of the grounds mentioned in section 17(1)(a) to (d), and references in those paragraphs to the authority shall be construed as references to the Secretary of State.
- (5) Subsections (2) and (3) of section 17 apply for the purposes of subsection (4) above as if references to the authority were references to the Secretary of State, and section 18 applies for those purposes with the appropriate modifications.

#### **14 Dispensation for particular zoos.**

- (1) If the local authority with power to grant a licence for a zoo inform the Secretary of State that in their opinion a direction should be made under this subsection because of the small size of the zoo or the small number of the kinds of animal kept there, he may, after consulting such persons on the list as he thinks fit, direct—
  - (a) that this Act shall not apply to that zoo; or
  - (b) that sections 10 and 11 or either of them shall not apply thereto.
- (2) If the operator of a zoo informs the Secretary of State that in his opinion a direction should be made under this subsection because the number of inspectors provided for by section 10(4)(a) is too large for the zoo (having regard to the small size of the zoo or the small number of the kinds of animal kept there), the Secretary of State may, after consulting the local authority with power to grant a licence for the zoo and such persons on the list as he thinks fit, direct—
  - (a) that in the application of this Act to the zoo, section 10(4)(a) and (b) shall not apply; and
  - (b) that, instead, any inspection to be carried out under section 10 shall be conducted by such inspector or inspectors as the Secretary of State appoints.
- (3) Any direction made under subsection (1) or (2) may be revoked or varied by a further direction of the Secretary of State made after he has consulted the local authority and such persons on the list as he thinks fit.
- (4) While a direction under subsection (1)
 

has effect, this Act, or sections 10 and 11, or either of them, shall not apply to the zoo (depending on the terms of the direction and any variation made by a further direction under subsection (3)).
- (5) While a direction under subsection (2)
 

has effect, this Act shall apply to the zoo with the modifications specified in the direction (subject to any variation made by a further direction under subsection (3)).
- (6) The Secretary of State shall take reasonable steps to secure that the local authority and any person who operates the zoo are notified in writing of any direction made under subsection (1), (2) or (3).

---

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

---

*Fees etc.*

**15 Fees and other charges.**

- (1) Subject to this section, the local authority may charge such fees as they may determine in respect of—
  - (a) applications for the grant, renewal or transfer of licences;
  - (b) the grant, renewal or transfer of licences;and may charge to the operators of zoos such sums as they may determine on account of expenses incurred by them upon inspections under sections 10 to 12.
- (2) Any fee charged under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) in respect of an application shall be treated as paid on account of the fee charged under paragraph (b) on the grant, renewal or transfer applied for.
- (3) In respect of any fee or other sum charged under this section, the local authority may, if so requested by the operator, accept payment by instalments.
- (4) Any fee or other charge payable under this section by any person shall be recoverable by the local authority as a debt due from him to them.
- (5) The local authority shall secure that the amount of all the fees and other sums charged by them under this section in a year is sufficient to cover the amount of expenditure incurred by the authority in the year by virtue of this Act.

*Enforcement*

**16 Power to alter licences.**

- (1) At any time after the grant of a licence under this Act, it may be altered by the local authority if in their opinion it is necessary or desirable to do so for ensuring the proper conduct of the zoo during the period of the licence (whether their opinion arises from an inspectors' report or an alteration of standards specified under section 9 or otherwise).
- (2) Before exercising the power under subsection (1), the local authority shall give the holder of the licence an opportunity to make representations.
- (3) If, at any time after the grant of a licence under this Act, the Secretary of State directs a local authority to alter the licence, the authority shall give effect to the direction within a reasonable time.
- (4) An alteration under this section may be made by varying, cancelling or attaching conditions or by a combination of any of those methods.
- (5) The authority shall secure that the terms of any condition attached to a licence are not inconsistent with the terms of a condition attached or varied in pursuance of a direction of the Secretary of State.
- (6) No alteration made under subsection (1) or in pursuance of a direction under subsection (3) shall have effect until written notification of it has been received by the holder of the licence; and this subsection is without prejudice to section 18(7).

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

### **[<sup>F8</sup>16A Enforcement of licence conditions**

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where the local authority, after giving the licence holder an opportunity to be heard, are not satisfied that a condition attached to a licence granted by them under this Act is met in relation to the zoo or a section of it.
- (2) Unless subsection (3) applies, the authority shall make a direction specifying—
  - (a) the licence condition which they are not satisfied is met;
  - (b) whether they are not satisfied that that condition is met in relation to—
    - (i) the zoo; or
    - (ii) a section of the zoo, and if so, which section;
  - (c) steps to be taken by the licence holder to ensure that that condition is met in relation to the zoo (or, if a section of the zoo is specified under paragraph (b) (ii), in relation to that section) within a period specified in the direction, which may not exceed two years from the date of the direction; and
  - (d) whether the zoo or a section of it is required to be closed to the public during that period or any part of it specified in the direction.
- (3) This subsection applies if the authority have power to make a zoo closure direction under section 16B(5) and they exercise that power.
- (4) The authority may, after giving the licence holder an opportunity to be heard, make a direction under this subsection varying a direction under subsection (2) (including such a direction as varied by a direction under this subsection).
- (5) A direction under subsection (4) may increase the period specified in the direction under subsection (2)(c) or (d), but the period as increased must not exceed two years beginning with the date of the direction under subsection (2).
- (6) A direction under subsection (2) (including such a direction as varied by a direction under subsection (4)) may be revoked by a further direction of the authority.]

#### **Textual Amendments**

- F8** S. 16A inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3080](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 2, 21](#) (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003](#) (S.I. 2003/992), [regs. 1\(1\), 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. para. 18](#) (with reg. 4))

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

### **[<sup>F9</sup>16B Zoo closure direction**

- (1) The local authority shall make a zoo closure direction in respect of a zoo licensed under this Act where—
  - (a) they have made a direction under section 16A(2) in respect of the zoo;
  - (b) the period specified in the direction by virtue of section 16A(2)(c), including such a direction as varied under section 16A(4), has expired; and

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

- (c) they are satisfied, after giving the licence holder an opportunity to be heard, that a condition—
  - (i) specified in that direction and in respect of which the zoo was specified under section 16A(2)(b)(i); and
  - (ii) which requires any conservation measure referred to in section 1A to be implemented at the zoo,is not met in relation to the zoo.
- (2) The authority shall make a zoo closure direction in respect of a zoo licensed under this Act where they are satisfied, after reasonable enquiries have been made, that the licence holder cannot be found.
- (3) The authority shall make a zoo closure direction in respect of a zoo licensed under this Act where, after giving the licence holder an opportunity to be heard—
  - (a) they are satisfied that members of the public have had access to it on fewer than seven days in the period of twelve months ending on the date on which the authority determine that they are so satisfied; and
  - (b) it does not appear to them that it is the licence holder's intention that members of the public will have access to it on seven days or more during any future period of twelve months.
- (4) The authority may make a zoo closure direction in respect of a zoo licensed under this Act where—
  - (a) they have made a direction under section 16A(2) in respect of the zoo;
  - (b) the period specified in that direction by virtue of section 16A(2)(c), including such a direction as varied under section 16A(4), has expired; and
  - (c) they are satisfied, after giving the licence holder an opportunity to be heard, that a condition specified in that direction, other than one which requires any conservation measure referred to in section 1A to be implemented at the zoo, is not met in relation to—
    - (i) if the zoo was specified in that direction, the zoo or any section of it; or
    - (ii) if a section of the zoo was specified in that direction, that section, any part of that section, any larger section which includes that section, or the whole zoo.
- (5) The authority may, after giving the licence holder an opportunity to be heard, make a zoo closure direction in respect of a zoo licensed under this Act if—
  - (a) any reasonable requirements relating to the premises or conduct of the zoo notified by them to the licence holder in consequence of the report of any inspection under this Act are not complied with within such time as is reasonable in the circumstances;
  - (b) they are satisfied that the zoo has been conducted in a disorderly manner or so as to cause a nuisance;
  - (c) the licence holder (or, where the licence holder is a body corporate, the body or any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body) is convicted of any offence mentioned in section 4(4); or
  - (d) any person who, to the knowledge of the licence holder, has been so convicted is employed as a keeper in the zoo.
- (6) But the authority may not make a zoo closure direction under subsection (5) if a direction under section 16A(2) is in force in respect of the zoo and—

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

- (a) when that direction was made there were grounds upon which the authority could have made a zoo closure direction under subsection (5) in respect of the zoo, but they chose not to do so; and
  - (b) the grounds upon which they would make a zoo closure direction under subsection (5) are the same as any of those upon which they could have made one when they made the direction under section 16A(2) instead.
- (7) No zoo closure direction may be made under subsection (5)(a) or (b) on grounds involving the care or treatment of animals unless the authority have first consulted such persons on the list as the Secretary of State may nominate for the purposes of this subsection.
- (8) Where the authority make a zoo closure direction in respect of a zoo under this section, the zoo's licence is revoked from the date on which the direction has effect (in accordance with section 18(10)).]

#### Textual Amendments

- F9** S. 16B inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, **regs. 1(1), 2, 21** (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of *The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003* (S.I. 2003/992), **regs. 1(1), 2(1), Sch. para. 18** (with reg. 4))

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

#### <sup>F10</sup>16C Zoo closure direction for zoos without licences

- (1) This section applies to a zoo—
- (a) which is being operated without a licence;
  - (b) in relation to which no direction under section 14(1)(a) has effect; and
  - (c) which appears to the local authority to have been operated in contravention of this Act because, during the period of twelve months ending with the date on which the authority determine that it so appears to them, members of the public have had access to it on more days than permitted under section 1.
- (2) If the authority are satisfied, after reasonable enquiries have been made, that the operator of a zoo to which this section applies cannot be found, they shall make a zoo closure direction in respect of the zoo.
- (3) Otherwise, unless the authority inform the Secretary of State that in their opinion a direction should be made under section 14(1) in respect of the zoo, and he makes a direction under section 14(1)(a), the authority shall give to the operator at least 35 days' notice in writing of—
- (a) their intention to make a zoo closure direction in respect of the zoo; and
  - (b) the operator's opportunity to be heard in accordance with subsection (4)(a).
- (4) Where notice has been given under subsection (3)—
- (a) the authority shall give the operator of the zoo an opportunity to be heard; and
  - (b) if, after the expiration of the period of at least 35 days referred to in subsection (3) and after giving the operator an opportunity to be heard, it



**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

does not appear to the authority that the view they reached as mentioned in subsection 1(c) was incorrect, they shall make a zoo closure direction in respect of the zoo, unless before the expiration of that period notice has been given to the authority under section 2(1) of intention to make an application for a licence for the zoo.

(5) Where, before the expiration of the period referred to in subsection (3), notice is given to the authority under section 2(1) of intention to make an application for a licence for the zoo, but—

- (a) an application for a licence for the zoo is not made by the end of a period of three months beginning on the date on which the notice was given under section 2(1); or
- (b) the application for a licence for that zoo is refused and—
  - (i) no appeal is brought against the refusal within the time mentioned in section 18(2); or
  - (ii) if an appeal is brought against the refusal within the time mentioned in section 18(2), it is abandoned, or the court confirms the decision to refuse the application,

the authority shall make a zoo closure direction in respect of the zoo.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F10** S. 16C inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, **regs. 1(1), 2, 21** (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003](#) (S.I. 2003/992), **regs. 1(1), 2(1)**, **Sch. para. 18** (with reg. 4))

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C2** S. 16C restricted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, **regs. 1(1), 28(3)**(which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003](#) (S.I. 2003/992), **regs. 1(1), 2(1)**, **Sch. para. 18** (with reg. 4))

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

#### [<sup>F11</sup>16D Application of section 16E

(1) Section 16E applies to—

- (a) a zoo in respect of which a zoo closure direction has been made, from the date on which the direction has effect (in accordance with section 18(10)); and
- (b) a zoo whose licence has expired or been surrendered, from the date of its expiration or surrender (as the case may be).

(2) This Act shall cease to apply to a zoo when the local authority have notified the operator, or, where the operator cannot be found, any person appearing to them to be responsible for the zoo, in writing that they are satisfied that—

- (a) all animals which are to be disposed of pursuant to section 16E have been disposed of; and
- (b) satisfactory arrangements for the care of any animals kept in the zoo which are not to be disposed of pursuant to section 16E are in effect, and there

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

are reasonable grounds for believing that satisfactory arrangements will continue to be maintained for such animals.

- (3) Section 16E applies to a section of a zoo which is closed permanently to the public by virtue of alterations to the zoo's licence under section 16(1B), from the date on which those alterations have effect (in accordance with section 18(7A)).
- (4) If a section of a zoo which was closed permanently to the public by virtue of alterations to the zoo's licence under section 16(1B) reopens pursuant to further alterations to the licence, section 16E shall cease to apply to that section.]

### Textual Amendments

**F11** S. 16D inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, **regs. 1(1), 2, 21** (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003](#) (S.I. 2003/992), **regs. 1(1), 2(1), Sch. para. 18** (with **reg. 4**))

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

### [<sup>F12</sup>16E Welfare of animals following closure of zoo

- (1) Subsections (2) to (7) apply to a zoo to which this section applies unless the local authority are satisfied, after reasonable enquiries have been made, that the operator of the zoo cannot be found.
- (2) As soon as reasonably practicable after the date from which this section applies, the operator shall give to the authority a plan of the arrangements he proposes to make in relation to the animals kept in the zoo—
  - (a) for their future care; or
  - (b) for their disposal and for their care until they are disposed of.
- (3) The operator shall supply the authority with any information they request about the care or disposal of animals kept in the zoo.
- (4) Where the authority notify the operator that they approve a plan prepared under subsection (2), he shall implement it under the supervision of the authority.
- (5) Except with the agreement of the authority, the operator shall not—
  - (a) dispose of any animal kept in the zoo before a plan prepared under subsection (2) has been approved by the authority; or
  - (b) dispose of any animal kept in the zoo otherwise than in accordance with a plan so approved.
- (6) Where—
  - (a) the authority are not satisfied with a plan prepared under subsection (2);
  - (b) the authority are not satisfied with the way in which such a plan is being implemented;
  - (c) the operator of the zoo has not prepared such a plan within a reasonable period after the date from which this section applies; or
  - (d) the authority consider that urgent steps need to be taken by the operator to safeguard the welfare of animals kept in the zoo,

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

the authority may, after giving the operator an opportunity to be heard, make a direction in such terms as they see fit as to the future care of the animals kept in the zoo, or for their disposal and for their care until they are disposed of.

(7) Where—

- (a) the zoo operator has not complied with a direction under subsection (6) to the satisfaction of the authority; or
- (b) the authority consider that urgent steps need to be taken by them to safeguard the welfare of animals kept in the zoo,

the authority shall, after giving the operator an opportunity to be heard, make arrangements for the future care of the animals kept in the zoo, or for their disposal and for their care until they are disposed of.

(8) Where the authority are satisfied, after reasonable enquiries have been made, that the operator of the zoo cannot be found, they shall make arrangements for the future care of the animals kept in the zoo, or for their disposal and for their care until they are disposed of.

(9) Subject to section 16G, for the purpose of giving effect to arrangements under subsection (7) or (8) the authority may—

- (a) care for any animal on the premises of the zoo; or
- (b) remove any animal found on the premises of the zoo and either retain it in the authority's possession or dispose of it.

(10) Arrangements for the care or disposal of animals under this section shall not be prejudicial to the protection of wild animals and the conservation of biodiversity.

(11) The authority may make a direction varying or revoking a direction under subsection (6) (including such a direction as varied by a direction under this subsection), but, unless they are satisfied, after reasonable enquiries have been made, that the operator cannot be found, they shall not do so without first giving him an opportunity to be heard.

(12) Where this section applies by virtue of section 16D(3), references in this section to a zoo shall be read as references to that section of the zoo which is closed permanently to the public.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F12** S. 16E inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, **regs. 1(1), 2, 21** (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003](#) (S.I. 2003/992), **regs. 1(1), 2(1), Sch. para. 18** (with **reg. 4**))

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

#### [<sup>F13</sup>16F Power of authority to dispose of animals

(1) This section applies where a local authority are required to make arrangements under subsection (7) or (8) of section 16E.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

- (2) The authority may sell or otherwise dispose of any animal in relation to which arrangements are required to be made if—
  - (a) after making reasonable inquiries they are satisfied that the animal is owned by the operator of the zoo;
  - (b) after making reasonable inquiries they are unable to identify or unable to find the animal's owner;
  - (c) they have obtained the consent of the owner of the animal;
  - (d) the owner of the animal has been asked for his consent before a date specified in the request, but that date has passed and the authority have not received it, and the owner has not arranged to take possession of the animal or arranged for such possession to be taken by another person; or
  - (e) the owner has arranged to take possession of the animal or for its possession to be taken by another person, but the date for implementation of the arrangements has passed and they remain unimplemented.
- (3) Where an animal is sold or given away under subsection (2), any person to whom the animal is sold or given shall have a good title to it.
- (4) Subsections (5) to (9) apply when the authority have sold all the animals which are to be sold under subsection (2).
- (5) Subject to subsection (8), the authority shall pay to the operator of the zoo a sum equal to the total proceeds of the sales of animals falling within subsection (6), less any part of the charge which the authority are entitled to make under section 15(2A) (d) which has not been paid.
- (6) An animal falls within this subsection if the authority are satisfied that it was owned by the operator of the zoo immediately before its sale under subsection (2) (whether or not they were so satisfied when they exercised their power of sale under that subsection).
- (7) Where the authority have identified a person other than the operator whom they are satisfied was the owner of an animal immediately before its sale under subsection (2), they shall (subject to subsection (8)) pay to that person a sum equal to the proceeds of the sale of that animal, less the costs incurred by them in connection with the sale and in caring for the animal before the sale.
- (8) If the person to whom the authority are required to make a payment under subsection (5) or (7) cannot be found before the end of the period of four months beginning with the date of the sale of the last animal which is to be sold under subsection (2), the proceeds of sale shall vest in the authority.
- (9) Any remaining proceeds of the sales under subsection (2) shall vest in the authority.
- (10) An authority must make any payment they are required to make under subsection (5) or (7) before the end of the period of four months beginning with the date of the sale of the last animal which is to be sold under subsection (2), but they shall not make such a payment before the end of the period of one month beginning with the date of that sale.
- (11) Nothing in this section shall prevent an authority from making arrangements, on the advice of a veterinary surgeon or practitioner, for an animal to be put down without delay where it is necessary or expedient to do so in the interests of its welfare.]

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

### Textual Amendments

- F13** S. 16F inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, **regs. 1(1), 2, 21** (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of **The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003** (S.I. 2003/992), **regs. 1(1), 2(1), Sch. para. 18** (with reg. 4))

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

### [<sup>F14</sup>16G Powers of entry

- (1) For the purpose of giving effect to arrangements under section 16E(7) or (8), a person duly authorised by the authority for the purposes of this subsection may, on producing his authority if so required, enter the premises of the zoo for the purposes of—
  - (a) inspecting any animal found there to which the arrangements relate;
  - (b) inspecting the accommodation of any such animal;
  - (c) caring for any such animal; or
  - (d) removing any such animal.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall not authorise entry into any part of the premises of the zoo which is used as a private dwelling.
- (3) If a justice of the peace is satisfied by sworn information in writing that—
  - (a) it is necessary or desirable for the purpose of giving effect to arrangements under section 16E(7) or (8) for a person duly authorised by the authority for the purposes of this subsection to enter the premises of the zoo for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (1); and
  - (b) either—
    - (i) any part of the premises to which admission for any of those purposes is sought is used as a private dwelling; or
    - (ii) admission to the premises or any part of the premises for any of those purposes has been refused,he may grant a warrant authorising that person to enter the premises, or (as the case may be) the part of the premises used as a private dwelling or to which admission has been refused, for all or any of those purposes, with or without constables and any other persons who may be necessary, and if need be by reasonable force.
- (4) A warrant granted under subsection (3) shall also specify—
  - (a) the length of time for which it is valid; and
  - (b) the times at which entry may be effected,and may contain such restrictions as the justice thinks fit.
- (5) A person duly authorised for the purposes of subsection (3) shall, if so required, produce his authority and warrant before entering the premises of the zoo or part of the premises to which the warrant relates (as the case may be).]

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)*

### Textual Amendments

**F14** S. 16G inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, **regs. 1(1), 2, 21** (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by virtue of **The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003** (S.I. 2003/992), **regs. 1(1), 2(1), Sch. para. 18** (with reg. 4))

## 17 Revocation of licence.

- (1) The local authority may, after giving the holder an opportunity to be heard, revoke a licence for a zoo granted by them under this Act—
  - (a) if any reasonable requirements relating to the premises or conduct of the zoo notified by them to the holder in consequence of the report of any inspection under this Act are not complied with within such time as is reasonable in the circumstances;
  - (b) if they are satisfied that the zoo has been conducted in a disorderly manner or so as to cause a nuisance, or in breach of any conditions of the licence;
  - (c) if the holder (or, where the holder is a body corporate, the body or any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body) is convicted of any offence mentioned in section 4(4);
  - (d) if any person who, to the knowledge of the holder, has been so convicted is employed as a keeper in the zoo.
- (2) No licence may be revoked under subsection (1)(a) or (b) on grounds involving the care or treatment of animals unless the authority first consults such persons on the list as the Secretary of State may nominate for the purposes of this subsection.
- (3) The local authority shall take reasonable steps to secure that the holder of the licence is notified in writing of their decision to revoke the licence.

## 18 Appeals.

- (1) A person aggrieved by the refusal to grant a licence, by any condition attached to a licence, by any variation or cancellation of a condition or by the revocation of a licence may appeal—
  - (a) in England and Wales, to a magistrates' court acting for the petty sessions area in which the zoo is situated;
  - (b) in Scotland, by summary application to the sheriff.
- (2) Any such appeal shall be brought within twenty-one days from the date on which the person wishing to appeal receives written notification of the authority's decision to refuse to grant a licence, to revoke a licence, to attach a condition (whether on the grant of the licence or later) or to vary or cancel a condition, as the case may be; but an appeal may be brought under this section whether or not the authority's decision was made in pursuance of a direction of the Secretary of State under this Act.
- (3) On an appeal under this section to a magistrates' court, the court may confirm, vary or reverse the local authority's decision and generally give such directions as it thinks proper, having regard to the provisions of this Act.
- (4) On an appeal under this section to the sheriff, he shall have power (without prejudice to any other power which he may have) to confirm, vary or reverse the local authority's decision and to award such expenses as he thinks fit.

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

- (5) The procedure on an appeal to a magistrates' court under this section shall be by way of complaint for an order, and the <sup>M8</sup>Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 shall apply to the proceedings.
- (6) The decision of the sheriff on an appeal under this section shall be final.
- (7) In so far as a condition attached to a licence (whether on its grant or later), or the variation of a condition, imposes a requirement on the holder of the licence to carry out works he would not otherwise be required to carry out, the condition or the variation shall not have effect—
  - (a) during the period within which the holder is entitled to appeal against the attachment or variation, or
  - (b) where such an appeal is brought within that period, during the period before the appeal is determined or abandoned.
- (8) A licence revoked under section 17 shall be deemed to continue in force—
  - (a) if no appeal is brought under this section within the time mentioned in subsection (2), until the expiration of the period of six months commencing with the expiration of that time; or
  - (b) if an appeal is so brought, until the determination or abandonment of the appeal (but without prejudice to the licence continuing in force further by virtue of the court's or sheriff's decision or of subsection (9)).
- (9) If, on an appeal brought under this section, the court or the sheriff confirms a revocation under section 17, the licence shall be deemed to continue in force for a further period of six months commencing with the date of the confirmation.

#### Marginal Citations

M8 1980 c. 43.

## 19 Offences and penalties.

- (1) If a zoo is operated without a licence in contravention of this Act, the operator is guilty of an offence.
- (2) If the operator of a zoo fails without reasonable excuse to comply with any condition for the time being attached to a licence for the zoo granted under this Act and held by him, he is guilty of an offence.
- (3) Any person who intentionally obstructs an inspector acting pursuant to this Act is guilty of an offence.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F15</sup>level 4 on the standard scale] for an offence under subsection (1) or (2) and [<sup>F16</sup>level 3 on the standard scale] for an offence under subsection (3).
- (5) Where an offence under this section committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to have been attributed to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or any other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate, is guilty of that offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

#### Textual Amendments

- F15** Words substituted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\), s. 46](#) and (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\), s. 289G](#)
- F16** Words substituted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\), s. 46](#) and (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\), s. 289G](#)

### Supplemental

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

#### [<sup>F17</sup>19A Directions

- (1) Where a local authority make a direction under this Act, they shall take reasonable steps to secure that the operator of the zoo is notified in writing of it.
- (2) But where the operator of the zoo cannot, after reasonable enquiries have been made, be found, the authority shall take reasonable steps to secure that any person appearing to them to be responsible for the zoo is notified in writing of the direction.
- (3) The operator of a zoo or other person notified in writing of a direction pursuant to subsection (2) shall comply with a direction under this Act made in respect of that zoo.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F17** [S. 19A](#) inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3080, regs. 1\(1\), 2, 25](#)

## 20 Transitory provision for existing zoos.

- (1) A person who immediately before the date of the commencement of this Act was operating a zoo on any premises may continue to operate that zoo on those premises without a licence under this Act—
  - (a) during the period of six months beginning with that date; and
  - (b) if within that period application is made for a licence, until that application is finally disposed of or withdrawn and, if the application is refused, for a further period of six months.
- (2) In the case of an application made as mentioned in subsection (1)(b), notice of intention to make the application shall not be required under section 2, but the application shall specify all such particulars as would be required to be included in a notice to the local authority under that section.
- (3) On any such application the local authority shall carry out an inspection of the zoo in accordance with the provisions of section 10 before deciding whether to grant or refuse the licence, and may, if the licence is granted, grant it subject to such conditions as may be specified in the report of the inspectors.
- (4) If the licence is granted—



**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

- (a) the inspection required by this section is in lieu of the first inspection under paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 10;
- (b) it shall be granted for a period of four years beginning with the date on which the licence is granted.

## 21 Interpretation.

### (1) In this Act—

“animals” means animals of the classes Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia, Amphibia, Pisces and Insecta and any other multi cellular organism that is not a plant or a fungus and “wild animals” means animals not normally domesticated in Great Britain;

“circus” means a place where animals are kept or introduced wholly or mainly for the purpose of performing tricks or manoeuvres at that place;

“keeper” includes any person employed under the directions of a keeper;

“the list” means the list compiled by the Secretary of State under section 8;

“pet shop” means premises for whose keeping as a pet shop a licence is in force, or is required, under the <sup>M9</sup>Pet Animals Act 1951;

“taxonomic category” means a group or assemblage of species recognised as an entity in scientific classification;

“zoo” has the meaning assigned by section 1(2).

- ### (2) Nothing in this Act and nothing done under it shall prejudice or affect the operation of any of the relevant statutory provisions (whenever made) as defined in Part I of the <sup>M10</sup>Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

#### Marginal Citations

**M9** 1951 c. 35.

**M10** 1974 c. 37.

## 22 Consequential amendments.

- ### (1) The <sup>M11</sup>Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 shall be amended as follows—

- (a) in section 5, for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted

“(1) a zoo within the meaning of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 for which a licence is in force (or is not for the time being required) under this Act”;

- (b) in section 7(4) the definition of zoological garden shall be omitted.

- ### (2) For the purpose of the said Act an animal shall be treated as kept in a zoo when it is elsewhere in the personal possession of the operator of the zoo, or of competent persons acting on his behalf.

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C3** The text of s. 22(1)(a)(b) is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. (See end of Document for details)

#### Marginal Citations

M11 1976 c. 38.

VALID FROM 08/01/2003

#### [<sup>F18</sup>22A Application of Act: England and Wales

- (1) The amendments made to this Act by the 2002 Regulations have effect in relation to England only, and accordingly, in the application of this Act in relation to Wales, the Act continues to have effect without the amendments made by the 2002 Regulations.

This subsection is subject to any regulations which may be made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 by the National Assembly for Wales.

- (2) In this section “the 2002 Regulations” means the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002.]

#### Textual Amendments

F18 S. 22A inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, regs. 1(1), 2

#### 23 Short title, commencement and extent.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on such day as the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument appoint.
- (3) This Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C4 Power of appointment conferred by s. 23(2) fully exercised: 30.4.1984 appointed by S.I. 1984/423

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this Act contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.