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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2012 No. 132**

**DOGS**

**The Dogs (Licensing and Identification)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012**

*Made* - - - - *16th March 2012*

*Coming into operation* *9th April 2012*

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development <sup>M1</sup>, makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 6(2), (3) and (5), 7(9), 8(2) and (3), 15(1), 31(1) and 31(1A) of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 <sup>M2</sup>:

**Marginal Citations**

- M1** Formerly the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland; see [S.I. 1999/283 \(N.I. 1\) Article 3\(4\)](#)  
**M2** [S.I. 1983/764 \(N.I. 8\)](#), as amended by [S.I. 1991/2292 \(N.I. 21\)](#), [2001 c.1 \(N.I.\)](#) and [2011 c.9 \(N.I.\)](#)

**PART 1**

**GENERAL**

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 and shall come into operation on 9th April 2012.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Regulations—

“certificate of registration” means a certificate of registration issued by the Kennel Club, the Irish Coursing Club, the Masters of Foxhounds Association, the Masters of Harriers and Beagles Association, the Northern Ireland Master of Hounds Association, the International Sheep Dog Society or any other such organisation that the Department may specify by an order made under Article 8(1) of the Order;

“greyhound” means a greyhound, or the pup of a greyhound dog and greyhound bitch, which has been entered into the Irish Greyhound Stud Book in which thoroughbred greyhounds are registered and identified under the Constitution of the Irish Coursing Club;

“licensed” means kept under the authority of a dog licence or block licence; and  
“the Order” means the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983.

## **PART 2**

### **LICENSING**

#### **Period of validity of a dog licence**

- 3.—(1) A dog licence shall, unless suspended, remain in force for a period of one year.  
(2) A block licence shall, unless suspended, remain in force for a period of one year.

#### **Forms**

- 4.—(1) An application for a dog licence shall be in the form set out in Schedule 1.  
(2) A dog licence shall be in the form set out in Schedule 2.  
(3) A transfer certificate shall be in the form set out in Schedule 3.  
(4) An application for a refund of a dog licence shall be in the form set out in Schedule 4.  
(5) An application for a block licence shall be in the form set out in Schedule 5 and shall be accompanied, where appropriate, by certificates of registration for dogs kept at premises in respect of which the block licence is sought.  
(6) A block licence shall be in the form set out in Schedule 6.

#### **Register of dog licences and block licences**

- 5.—(1) The register of dog licences and block licences to be kept by district councils under Article 15(1) of the Order shall contain such particulars as are set out in Schedule 7.  
(2) The register may be kept in manual or computerised form so long as the recording is capable of being reproduced in a legible form for inspection.

## **PART 3**

### **IDENTIFICATION**

#### **Identification of the keeper**

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the keeper of a dog in respect of which a licence is required under the Order or of a dog to which Article 5(a), (b) or (d) of the Order applies shall ensure that the dog wears a collar with the name and address of the keeper inscribed on it or on a plate or badge attached to it.

- (2) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall not apply to the keeper of a dog—
- (a) which is a member of a pack of hounds; or
  - (b) while that dog is being judged at a competition; or
  - (c) while that dog is being used for—
    - (i) any sporting purposes;
    - (ii) the capture or destruction of vermin;

(iii) the purpose of driving or tending sheep or cattle.

### Licence identification

<sup>F1</sup>7. ....

<b>F1</b> Reg. 7 revoked (1.1.2015) by <a href="#">The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (S.R. 2014/283)</a> , regs. 1, <b>2(2)</b>
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## PART 4

### MICROCHIPPING

#### Microchipping of dogs kept under a block licence

**8.**—(1) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5) the holder of a block licence shall ensure that all dogs kept under the licence shall be microchipped before they attain the appropriate age.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), in the case of such dogs the appropriate age is—

- (a) from the date these Regulations come into operation, 12 weeks;
- (b) from 1 January 2013, 8 weeks.

(3) Where a dog that has attained the appropriate age arrives on any premises for which a block licence is in force and has not already been microchipped, the holder of the licence shall microchip the dog within 7 days from the date the dog arrived on the premises.

(4) Paragraph (1) does not apply to—

- (a) a dog kept under a block licence if the holder of the licence produces to the district council a certificate signed by a veterinary surgeon to the effect that implantation (or continued implantation) of a microchip in that dog would have an adverse effect on the health of the dog;
- (b) greyhounds kept under a block licence until 1 January 2013.

(5) Paragraph (1) does not apply to the holder of a block licence issued before the coming into operation of these Regulations.

#### Conditions for valid microchipping

**9.**—(1) For the purposes of Article 6(8) of the Order and regulation 8(1) a dog is microchipped if (and only if) it is implanted with a microchip which—

- (a) generates a unique number when read by a scanning device;
- (b) is implanted by a competent person;
- (c) complies with either ISO standard 11784:1996 or Annex A to ISO standard 11785:1996 of the International Standards Organisation's standards for microchips <sup>M3</sup>;
- (d) is registered on a database which holds the information set out in paragraph (2); and
- (e) that database is accessible to officers.

(2) A database referred to in paragraph (1) shall record the following information—

- (a) the unique number generated by the microchip;
- (b) in respect of the keeper of the dog implanted with the microchip—

- (i) the keepers name and address; and
- (ii) at least one contact telephone number; and
- (c) in respect of the dog implanted with the microchip—
  - (i) its breed;
  - (ii) its sex;
  - (iii) colour and distinguishing marks; and
  - (iv) date of birth or estimated year of birth.
- (3) A database shall be made available to an officer at all times.
- (4) For the purposes of regulation 8(1), a dog is microchipped where a microchip has been implanted in the dog before the coming into operation of section 2(1) of the Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
- (5) A competent person who carries out the microchipping must make arrangements to notify the database operator of the microchip details within 7 days of carrying out the microchipping so that the database may be updated.
- (6) For the purpose of this regulation a competent person means a veterinary surgeon or person who has been received instruction on how to implant a microchip.

#### Marginal Citations

- M3** ISO Central Secretariat, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1 rue de Varemb, Case postale 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland.

#### [<sup>F2</sup>Updating information

**9A.** Where the information referred to in regulation 9(2)(b) changes at any time after the recording of that information on the database, the keeper shall notify the operator of the database with the new information as soon as reasonably practicable.]

- F2** [Reg. 9A](#) inserted (1.1.2015) by [The Dogs \(Licensing and Identification\) \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2014 \(S.R. 2014/283\)](#), regs. 1, **2(3)**

#### Powers of officers

**10.—(1)** An officer may require the scanning of a microchip implanted in a dog for the purposes set out in these Regulations.

(2) For the purposes of regulation 9(1) an officer may compare any information made available by a database operator with information held in any register kept in accordance with Article 15(1) of the Order or records kept under regulation 11.

#### Record keeping

**11.—(1)** A holder of a block licence shall keep a record of the microchip numbers of all dogs held under a block licence, which may be kept in written or electronic form, containing the following information—

- (a) microchip details of each of the dogs of the appropriate age kept at the premises where a block licence is in force;
- (b) date of sale, transfer or death of any dog;

- (c) the name and address of the person to whom any dog is sold or transferred; and
- (d) the new keeper's dog licence or block licence number.

(2) Information about the sale, transfer or death of any dog shall be recorded within 7 days of its sale, transfer or death.

(3) Records kept under this regulation shall be retained for a minimum of 3 years from the date of the last entry.

(4) The holder of a block licence shall, if required to do so by an officer, produce for inspection at all reasonable times the record kept under this regulation.

(5) Where the record is kept in written form, the holder of a block licence shall permit copies to be taken by an officer.

(6) Where the record is kept in electronic form, the holder of a block licence shall produce the record in a form which may be taken away by an officer.

### **Revocation**

**12.** The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 <sup>M4</sup> are revoked.

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**Marginal Citations**

**M4** S.R. 2011 No. 279

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on 16th March 2012.

L.S.

*C. McMaster*  
A senior officer of the  
Department of Agriculture and Rural  
Development

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012. (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 4(1)

Application for a Dog Licence

The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983

Application for a Dog Licence

**Details of applicant (Please use BLOCK LETTERS)**

Title (Mr, Mrs, etc)	Forename(s)	Surname
Address		Postcode
Contact telephone number		
Email address (if available)		
Date of expiry of previous licence (if any)		
<b>Description of dog</b>		
Colour	Breed	Male or Female
		Is the dog sterilised? Yes/No
Age	Distinguishing marks (if any)	
Microchip number		
Name of dog (if any)		
<b>Control conditions</b>		
Is a notice in force attaching control conditions under Article 20A(2) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 to a previous licence held in respect of the above dog?		Yes/No
If Yes, please give the serial number of notice		
<b>Exemption for prohibited types</b>		
Is the dog above subject to a contingent destruction order under Article 25C(4) or Article 35(1B) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983?		Yes/No
If Yes, please give either—		
The date of that court order		
The serial number of an exemption certificate issued in respect of the dog		
Is it a requirement that a policy of third party insurance is in force in respect of any exempted dog. Please supply—		
Policy provider		
Policy number		
<b>Fees and concessions</b>		
I am eligible for a free licence as I am over 65 and this is the first or only dog I keep.	Tick as appropriate	Fee
		None
I am over 65 and have already claimed a free licence for one dog.		£5.00
I am in receipt of an income-related benefit (within the meaning of the Social Security Administration (Northern Ireland) Act 1992 (c. 8)) at the time of the application for the licence.		£5.00
The dog described above is sterilised.		£5.00
None of the above		£12.50

**NOTE:** The information given above may be subject to checks.

I declare that the information given above is correct in every respect. I am not under 16 years of age and I have not been disqualified from keeping a dog.

Signed	Date
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**Office use only**

Fee Paid	
Licence number	
Signed	Date
<b>Issuing Officer</b>	
<b>Issuing Officer:</b>	

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012. (See end of Document for details)

## SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 4(2)

### Dog Licence

**The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983**

**Dog Licence**

<b>Licence Number</b>	
Title (Mr, Mrs, etc)	Forename/s Surname
Address	Postcode
Contact telephone number	
Email address (if available)	
is hereby authorised, having paid the fee of £ (where appropriate) to keep the dog described below up to and including (insert date)	
<b>Description of Dog</b>	
Colour	Breed Male or Female Sterilised? Yes/No
Age	Distinguishing marks (if any)
Microchip number	
Name of dog (if any)	
Issued by/on behalf of district council	
Signed Date	
Issuing Officer	
<b>NOTE: Any permanent change of address should be notified to the district council Office. WARNING: Maximum penalty for failure to produce this licence when required to do so under the above Order - Level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500).</b>	
<b>Office use only</b>	
<b>Control conditions</b>	
Is a notice in force attaching control conditions under Article 30A(2) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 to this licence?	
Serial number of notice	Yes/No
Effective from	
Review date	Result of review Confirmed Modified Cancelled
Appeal date(s)	Result of appeal Confirmed Modified Cancelled
<b>Exemption for prohibited types</b>	
Is the dog above subject to a contingent destruction order under Article 25C(4) or Article 33(1B) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983?	
Serial number of exemption certificate	Yes/No

## SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 4(3)

### Transfer Certificate

**The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983**

**Transfer Certificate**

This is to certify that Licence No. held by—

Title (Mr, Mrs, etc)	Forename/s Surname
Address	Postcode
Contact telephone number	
Email address (if available)	
is hereby transferred to the dog described below.	
<b>Description of Dog</b>	
Colour	Breed Male or Female Sterilised? Yes/No
Age	Distinguishing marks (if any)
Microchip number	
Name of dog (if any)	
This certificate shall remain in force until	
Signed Date	
Issuing Officer	

**NOTE: Any permanent change of address should be notified to the district council Office.**

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the *The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012*. (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULE 4

Regulation 4(4)

Application for a refund of dog licence fee

**The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983**  
**Application for a refund of dog licence fee**

**Details of applicant (Please use BLOCK LETTERS)**

Title (Mr, Mrs etc)	Forename/s	Surname
Address		Postcode
Contact telephone number		
Email address (if available)		

I return herewith my current dog licence and licence identification and I apply for a refund of the licence fee.

I declare that within 30 days of the date of the issue of the licence to me (*delete as applicable*)—

(a) I did not take possession of a dog;  
 (b) I disposed of the dog in respect of which the licence was issued;  
 (c) The dog in respect of which the licence was issued died.

Signed	Date
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**Office use only**

License number	refund approved
Sum of £	received in respect of licence refund
Signed	Date

**Issuing Officer**

Issuing Officer:

**WARNING:** Any person who keeps a dog without the appropriate licence, unless permitted to do so under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983, shall be guilty of an offence and prosecuted accordingly.

F3 SCHEDULE 5

Regulation 4(5)

Application for a Block Licence

**F3** Sch. 5: the words “not less than three unsterilized bitches which are not kept under a breeding establishment licence.” substituted for “(a) not less than three unsterilized bitches any of which is used for breeding purposes; or” (1.4.2013) by [The Welfare of Animals \(Dog Breeding Establishments and Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2013 \(S.R. 2013/43\)](#), regs. 1, 22

**The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983**  
**Application for a Block Licence**

**Details of Applicant (Please use BLOCK LETTERS)**

Title (Mr, Mrs etc)	Forename/s	Surname
Address		Postcode
Contact telephone number		
Email address (if available)		
Premises at which dogs are to be kept (if different from above)		
The number of dogs kept at the time of application for the licence		
Date of expiry of previous licence (if any)		

I declare that the information given above is correct, that I am not under 16 years of age, that I have not been disqualified from keeping a dog, that all dogs on the premises have been microchipped and that I keep on the above premises (*delete where not applicable*)—

(a) not less than three unsterilized bitches any of which is used for breeding purposes; or  
 (b) not less than three dogs which are registered with the Kennel Club, Irish Coursing Club, Masters of Fox Hounds Association, Masters of Hares and Beagles Association, the Northern Ireland Masters of Hound Association, the International Sheep Dog Society; or  
 (c) being the premises of guard dog kennels in respect of which I am registered under Article 10, not less than three dogs which are used as guard dogs elsewhere.

Signed	Date
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**NOTE:** Certificates of registration must, where appropriate, be produced in support of this application.

**Office use only**

Eligibility checked?	
License number issued	
Signed	Date

**Issuing Officer**

Issuing Officer:



**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012. (See end of Document for details)

SCHEDULE 6

Regulation 4(6)

Block Licence

**The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983**  
**Block Licence**

<b>Licence Number</b>		
Title (Mr, Mrs etc)	Forename/s	Surname
Address		Postcode
Contact telephone number		
Email address (if available)		
Premises at which dogs are kept (if different from above)		

The above-named, having paid a fee of £... and having satisfied the conditions laid down in Article 8(1) of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983, is hereby granted a block licence in respect of the above premises.  
This licence shall remain in force until (insert date)

Issued by/on behalf of	district council
on (date)	
Signed	Date
<b>Issuing Officer</b>	

**NOTE:** Any permanent change of address should be notified to the district council Office.  
**WARNING:** Maximum penalty for failure to produce this licence when required to do so under the above Order – Level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500).

SCHEDULE 7

Regulation 5(1)

Particulars to be contained in a register of dog licences and block licences kept by district councils:

1. The licence holder's surname, forename/s, and address;
2. The premises at which the dog/s is/are kept if different from the licence-holder's address;
3. Type of licence;
4. In the case of block licences only – the number of dogs kept at the time of application for the licence;
5. Licence number;
6. Date of issue of licence;
7. Date until which the licence is valid;
8. Any control conditions which the licence of the dog is subject to; and
9. In the case of a dog licence only – the microchip number in respect of the dog.

SCHEDULE 8

Regulation 7(2)

LICENCE IDENTIFICATION

<i>Period during which licence is issued</i>	<i>Shape</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Colour</i>
From 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2011 up to and including 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2011	Oval	Major axis not more than 3.5 cms and not less than 3 cms. Minor axis not more than 2.5 cms and not less than 2cms.	Orange

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the *The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012*. (See end of Document for details)

From 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2012 up to and including 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2012	Oval	Major axis not more than 3.5 cms and not less than 3 cms. Minor axis not more than 2.5 cms and not less than 2cms.	Green
From 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2013 up to and including 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013	Oval	Major axis not more than 3.5 cms and not less than 3 cms. Minor axis not more than 2.5 cms and not less than 2cms.	Yellow
From 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014 up to and including 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014	Oval	Major axis not more than 3.5 cms and not less than 3 cms. Minor axis not more than 2.5 cms and not less than 2cms.	Blue

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations revoke and remake the Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011. They prescribe the various forms to be used in relation to licensing of dogs under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983.

The forms prescribed are—

- (a) application for a dog licence;
- (b) the dog licence;
- (c) application for a block licence;
- (d) the block licence;
- (e) the certificate transferring an existing licence in respect of a dog which has died to a new dog; and
- (f) application for a refund of a dog licence in certain circumstances.

The Regulations also provide—

- (a) that a dog licence or block licence shall remain in force for a period of one year (regulation 3);
- (b) for the wearing by dogs (other than dogs used by the police, prison service or the armed forces in a public order role and dogs kept by a licensed pet shop) of a collar with the name and address of the keeper of the dog inscribed on the collar or on a plate or badge attached to it (regulation 6);
- (c) for the wearing by dogs of a coloured licence tag attached to their collars (regulation 7).

The last two provisions do not apply in respect of a dog which is a member of a pack of hounds or while it is being judged at a competition, or while it is being used for sporting purposes, the capture or destruction of vermin or for the purposes of driving or tending sheep or cattle.

The Regulations prescribe the particulars to be contained on a register of licences kept by a district council (regulation 5).

The Regulations prescribe that subject to listed exceptions on application for a block licence all dogs on the premises shall be microchipped within 12 weeks from the date these Regulations come into operation until 31 December 2012 and from 1 January 2013 within 8 weeks. An

exemption to microchipping of dogs kept under a block licence applies to greyhounds until 1 January 2013 and where a veterinary surgeon signs a certificate indicating implantation would have an adverse effect (regulation 8). Regulation 9 prescribes the technical specifications of the microchip. The powers of officers are prescribed on regulation 10 whilst the information and record keeping required and which must be recorded by the holder of a block licence are prescribed in regulation 11.

Contravention of the provisions under regulations 6, 7, 8 and 11 is an offence under Article 31(2) of the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 for which a penalty on summary conviction is a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Dogs (Licensing and Identification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.