
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations provide for the licensing of persons involved in the breeding of dogs. Part 2 of the Regulations specifies dog breeding for the purposes of section 13(1) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (c.45) (“the Act”). The consequence of this specification is that, subject to qualifying criteria, any person wishing to breed dogs in Wales must obtain a licence from their local authority under these Regulations. This requirement replaces the requirement to obtain a licence under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 in Wales.

A person who breeds dogs in Wales without a licence under these Regulations commits an offence under section 13(6) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and is liable to imprisonment for a term of up to 6 months, a fine or both. Under section 30 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 local authorities may prosecute for any offence under the Act.

Part 3 of the Regulations sets out how a person may apply to the local authority for a licence and sets out matters in respect of which a local authority must be satisfied when considering the granting and renewing of a licence. It provides for a local authority to charge fees to cover any reasonable expenses incurred in performing this function and for monitoring compliance with these Regulations. It requires a local authority to have regard to guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers in carrying out their functions under these Regulations.

Part 4 sets out circumstances in which a licence maybe suspended, varied or revoked. Part 5 provides for appeals against licensing decisions by local authorities.

Part 6 provides that a breach of a condition of a licence granted under these Regulations is an offence. It provides powers for inspectors to take samples and enter premises and applies relevant post conviction powers contained in the Act. It provides for local authorities to enforce the Regulations. It provides that licences granted under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 continue to have effect as if granted under these Regulations.

Schedule 1 to these Regulations sets out compulsory licence conditions which must be included on each licence granted by a local authority.

Schedule 2 to these Regulations amends the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 and amends references to it in 4 Acts consequential upon the repeal of section 1(1) of that Act in relation to Wales.

The Welsh Ministers’ Code of Practice on the carrying out of Regulatory Impact Assessments was considered in relation to these Regulations. As a result, a Regulatory Impact Assessment has been prepared as to the likely costs and benefits of complying with these Regulations. A copy can be obtained from Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ.