

ANIMAL WELFARE LICENCE INTERIM INSPECTIONS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report reviews the working of the Council's inspection policy for unannounced interim inspections of licensed riding establishments, animal boarding establishments, pet shops, dog breeders and dangerous wild animal premises.
- 1.2 All premises inspected were either in a satisfactory condition or only required minor works. There were no overcrowding, dirty or unhygienic conditions and all records were being maintained.
- 1.3 Access to some of the premises was only possible after several non-effective visits.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At a meeting of this Committee on 8 June 1999, Members resolved the policy and required its review after six months. (Minute 223/99)
- 2.2 The policy confirmed an existing, longstanding practise of inspecting premises at renewal of their licences by appointment and introduced unannounced interim inspections.

3 RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS

- 3.1 During August and September last year, an officer and a veterinarian carried out unannounced inspections of three of the five licensed establishments. Two establishments were not inspected because they were imminently due for an announced licence renewal inspection. An unannounced interim inspection of these premises will therefore be carried out later this year.
- 3.2 Entry to one premises was refused and a formal complaint was received from its licensee, because the licensee objected to the inspection being unannounced and the attitude of the consultant veterinary surgeon. Shortly after the formal complaint was answered, an application to renew the licence was received and an announced inspection was arranged. Consequently, the unannounced inspection was postponed and will be carried out later this year.
- 3.3 Access to the other two premises was gained, but only after two attempts to one of them.
- 3.4 Of the two premises inspected, one had ceased trading and the licensee of the other was required to carry out minor work.

4 ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

- 4.1 During July and August last year, an officer carried out an unannounced inspection of all thirteen licensed establishments.
- 4.2 Entry to one premises was gained only after three attempts.
- 4.3 Six premises were in a satisfactory condition and minor requirements were made at the other seven premises.

5 PET SHOPS

- 5.1 During July and August last year, an officer carried out unannounced inspections of all seven licensed premises.
- 5.2 Access to all of the premises was gained at the first attempt.
- 5.3 One premises was satisfactory and minor works were required at the other six premises.

6 DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS

- 6.1 During August and September last year, an officer carried out unannounced inspections of the three licensed premises.
- 6.2 Access to one of the premises was gained only at the third attempt.
- 6.3 One premises had ceased trading and the other two were in a satisfactory condition.

7 DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL PREMISES

- 7.1 During September last year, an officer carried out unannounced inspections of the two licensed premises.
- 7.2 Three visits to each premises was necessary before access was gained.
- 7.3 One licensee was no longer keeping the animal and the other was required to carry out minor works.

8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Staff were diverted from low risk food and health and safety inspections in order to carry out these interim animal welfare inspections.
- 8.2 The cost of carrying out this work was approximately £200 for veterinary charges and sixteen man days.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to continue with the current animal welfare licence renewal and interim inspection policy.

Graham Woolhouse

Head of Housing, Health & Community Care

Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact Robert Peacey on (01702) 318053