

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL****LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**  
**26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2009****Policy and Advice to Applicants on the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animal(s)**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Head of Planning Health and Environment
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<b>APPENDICES:</b>	Appendix 1 Consultee responses Appendix 2 Policy and Advice to Applicants on the keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals.

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To adopt policy guidance published in a leaflet relating to the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animal(s) under the provisions of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (the DWA Act 1976).

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Committee is asked to recommend to Council:**

- 2.1 **to agree the policy guidance to the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals, as set out in Appendix 2 of the Report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals is governed by the DWA Act 1976.
- 3.2 The primary aim of this Act is to ensure that, where private individuals keep dangerous wild animals, they do so in circumstances which minimise the risk to the public, i.e. on grounds of safety, nuisance or other matters of public interest.

#### **4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 The Council has no adopted policy on Dangerous Wild Animals.
- 4.2 On the 26 October 2008 the Licensing and Environmental Committee directed that a period of consultation should take place with interested parties.
- 4.3 The period of consultation was concluded on the 9 January 2009 and the responses have been considered (Copy at Appendix 1)
- 4.4 The final draft of the “Policy Guidance to the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals” is attached. (Copy at Appendix 2)

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications in introducing the policy

#### **6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The DWA Act 1976 only regulates the keeping of certain species of animal that are set out in the Schedule (last amended by the DWA 1976 (Modification) Order 1984).
- 6.2 The Schedule gives both the scientific and common names and is largely made up of exotic species that are not indigenous to the British Isles.
- 6.3 Exceptions exist for zoos, circuses,(including their winter quarters), pet shops, and establishments required for performing animal experiments (under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986).
- 6.4 Every application must be judged on its own merits.
- 6.5 If the Council considers the premises suitable, it may grant a licence subject to mandatory conditions detailed in the DWA Act 1976 and any other discretionary conditions.
- 6.6 The Council can vary or revoke a Dangerous Wild Animal Licence and prosecute for breaches of licence conditions.
- 6.7 The Licensing Authority may seize the Dangerous Wild Animal and keep the animal, destroy it, or otherwise dispose of it without having to compensate the owner and may recover its costs from these parties.

**7. CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 It is important to provide clear information to current and potential Applicants with a view to minimising cost and time spent by both the Council and the Applicant for Dangerous Wild Animal Licences.
- 7.2 The introduction of this policy will enable a transparent, objective and consistent approach to all.

**8. CONSULTEES**

- 8.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services
- 8.2 Director of Wildlife, West Midland Safari Park
- 8.3 Townsend Veterinary Practice
- 8.4 Dangerous Wild Animal Licensees operating within Wyre Forest District.

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 None