

AMENDMENT TO LICENCING CONDITIONS DOG BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Submitted by Head of Environmental Services

Portfolio Environment & Recycling

Ward(s) affected All

Purpose of the Report

To seek Committee approval to make a minor amendment to licencing conditions for Dog Boarding Establishments, as a result of new microchipping regulations

Recommendations

That the requested amendment to licencing conditions is approved

Reasons

To ensure that proprietors of licenced dog boarding establishments promote the requirement for dogs to be microchipped

1. Background

Anyone who provides accommodation for other people's dogs is required to hold a licence from the borough council (Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963)

The authority is required to inspect licenced sites annually to: ensure that dogs are being kept in suitable accommodations; provided with adequate food; drink and bedding; exercised regularly; safeguarded in emergencies; and protected from infectious diseases.

The authority adopted its present licencing conditions in 1999. These remain fit for purpose, however, it is now proposed to add further clauses, reflecting new regulations

2. Issues

The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015, comes into force on 6th April 2016 and requires all owners of dogs to have their pet implanted with a chip, and up-to-date details maintained on a register. Owners face prosecution if they do not comply.

Best practice guidance suggests that any business which deals with dogs (e.g. boarding kennels, vets etc.) should check that it has been chipped, and that registered details remain valid.

It is therefore proposed to add the following text to the licencing conditions:

Microchipping of Dogs

- a) Proprietors should establish whether a boarded dog has a microchip. Where no chip is present they should remind owners of their obligations.

- b) Where practical, proprietors should assist owners to have an unchipped dog microchipped and registered whilst it is boarded with them.
- c) Where a dog is returned unchipped to an owner, the proprietor should inform the borough council, providing details of the owner's name, address and description of their dog.

3. Legal and Statutory Implications

Authorised officers from the borough council and the police have powers to seize unchipped dogs and have a chip implanted, or to prosecute owners. Adding the proposed clauses places a duty on proprietors to share appropriate information.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no differential equality impacts identified within this report

5. Financial and Resource Implications

None

6. Financial and Resource Implications

None