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Primate Licensing: Applicant Guidance Notes

(Guidance for applicants on the process to complete Primate Licence Application Form)

Introduction

These guidance notes explain how to apply for a licence to keep primates under the ***Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024***.

From **6 April 2026**, it will be illegal to keep a primate in England without a licence issued by a local authority, unless an exemption applies.

The regulations aim to ensure that primates are kept in environments that meet their complex welfare needs. Primates require specialist care, accommodation and veterinary support, and the licensing regime helps ensure these standards are met.

If you currently keep primates or intend to keep primates, you must apply for a licence from the Council.

The information below corresponds to the numbered sections of the application form and provides additional guidance to help you complete each section.

1. Persons who cannot apply

An application for a licence cannot be made by an individual who is under the age of 18 or who is disqualified from keeping primates under any of the following:

- section 34(2) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006;
- section 1 of the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954;
- section 40(1) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006; or
- section 33(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

2. Licence commencement

Licences will normally take effect immediately following a decision by the Council to grant the application.

However, if you would like the licence to take effect at a later date, you may specify this when making your application.

The requirement to hold a licence to keep primates takes effect on **6 April 2026**. Therefore, the earliest date that the Council will grant a licence to take effect is **6 April 2026**.

3. Licence duration

Licences will normally be granted for a period of three years.

However, if you wish the licence to be granted for a shorter period, you may request this when making the application.

Please note: the application fee depends on the duration of the licence issued. Fees for a one-year licence and a three-year licence are different.

For a full list of current primate licence fees, please refer to the Council's [Fees & Charges document](#)

4. Named veterinarian

The primate(s) must be registered with a veterinarian who has agreed to provide the following:

5. routine visits at an appropriate frequency to assess the health, condition and welfare of each primate;
6. carry out or supervise the treatment of a sick primate;
7. administer or supervise the administration of medicines, vaccines, parasite control, disease surveillance and contraception where appropriate;
8. monitor the health and welfare of each primate; and
9. provide advice and assistance in an emergency.

5. How to pay the application fee

For information on how to pay the application fee please call 01706 217777 or email licensing@rossendalebc.gov.uk.

6. How to submit your application

Please send your completed application form together with the relevant supporting documents and payment receipt for the application fee by email to:

licensing@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can post or deliver these to:

Public Protection (Licensing) Team
Rossendale Borough Council
Futures Park
Bacup
OL13 0BB

Applications will not be processed until the completed application form, supporting documents and application fee have been received.

7. What happens after the application is received?

Once an application is received, the Council will arrange for a suitable person to inspect the premises specified in the application. The purpose of the inspection is to determine whether the licence conditions are likely to be met if the application were granted.

Following the inspection:

- If the Council is satisfied that the licence conditions are likely to be met, the application will be granted and a licence will be issued.
- If the Council is not satisfied that the licence conditions are likely to be met, the application will be refused.

8. Request for reconsideration and appeals

If your application is refused, you will be provided with information on how you can make representations to the Council and request that the decision be reconsidered.

If, following reconsideration, the decision to refuse the application is maintained, you will be provided with information on how you can make a formal appeal against the Council's decision to the First-tier Tribunal.

9. Conditions of licence

All licences will be issued subject to the conditions set out in **Schedule 1 of the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024**.

Licence holders must ensure that all licence conditions are complied with at all times.

10. Inspections of licensed premises

The Council may, at any reasonable hour during the licence period, arrange for a suitable person to inspect the premises specified in the licence to determine whether the licence conditions are being complied with.

11. Offences

From 6 April 2026, it will be an offence under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to keep a primate without a licence.

This offence carries a maximum penalty of:

- imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks, or
- an unlimited fine, or
- both.

From 6 April 2026, it will also be an offence to breach any condition of a licence issued authorising a person to keep primates.

This offence carries a maximum penalty of an unlimited fine.

12. Revocation or variation of a licence

The Council may revoke or vary a licence if it is satisfied that the licence holder has failed to:

- comply with a licence condition;
- allow access for an inspection; or
- pay any fees required in connection with a licence application (including veterinary fees).

The Council may vary a licence by:

- reducing the number of primates authorised to be kept; or
- removing a species of primate specified in the licence.

Key Contacts

Public Protection (Licensing) Team

Rossendale Borough Council

Email: licensing@rossendalebc.gov.uk

Telephone: 01706 217777

Useful References and Links

The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2023

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348255423/note>

Guidance: Licence conditions for primate keepers (Schedule 1)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/licence-conditions-for-primate-keepers-schedule-1>