



Zoo Licensing Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 37

Licences

1 Licensing of zoos by local authorities.

- (1) Subject to this section it is unlawful to operate a zoo to which this Act applies except under the authority of a licence issued under this Act by the local authority for the area within which the whole or the major part of the zoo is situated.
- (2) In this Act “zoo” means an establishment where wild animals (as defined by section 21) are kept for exhibition to the public otherwise than for purposes of a circus (as so defined) and otherwise than in a pet shop (as so defined) ^[F1]^[F2], and this Act applies to any zoo to which members of the public have access, with or without charge for admission, on more than seven days in any period of 12 consecutive months.]]
- ^[F3](2A) This Act applies to any zoo to which members of the public have access, with or without charge for admission, on seven days or more in any period of twelve consecutive months.
- (2B) This Act also applies in accordance with its terms to any zoo to which members of the public do not have such access if a licence is in force in respect of it or as otherwise provided (in particular, in sections 13 and 16C to 16G).
- (2C) In this Act—
- (a) a section of a zoo means—
 - (i) a particular part of the zoo premises;
 - (ii) animals of a particular description in the zoo; or
 - (iii) animals of a particular description which are kept in a particular part of the zoo premises; and
 - (b) references to the closure of a section of a zoo to the public mean—
 - (i) the closure to the public of a particular part of the zoo premises;
 - (ii) ceasing to exhibit animals of a particular description to the public; or
 - (iii) ceasing to exhibit animals of a particular description to the public in a particular part of the zoo premises.]

Status: Point in time view as at 01/04/2003. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) The local authorities for the purposes of this Act are—
- (a) in England ^{F4} . . . , the district councils, the councils of London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London;
 - [^{F5}(aa) in Wales, the councils of counties and county boroughs;]
 - (b) in Scotland, the [^{F6}councils constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994].
- (4) In relation to zoos in operation before the commencement of this Act this section and section 2 have effect subject to the provisions of section 20.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(2) omitted (E.) (8.1.2003) by virtue of S.I. 2002/3080, **regs. 1(1), 2, 4(a)**
- F2** Words in s. 1(2) omitted (S.) (1.4.2003) by virtue of The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (S.S.I. 2003/174), regs. 1(1), **4(a)**
- F3** S. 1(2A)-(2C) inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by S.I. 2002/3080, regs. 1(1), **2, 4(b)** (which insertion is extended (S.) (1.4.2003) by The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (S.S.I. 2003/174), regs. 1(1), **4(b)**)
- F4** Words in s. 1(3)(a) repealed (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 19, s. 66(6)(8), Sch. 16 para. 62(1), **Sch. 18** (with ss. 54(5)(7), 55(5), Sch. 17 paras. 22(1), 23(2)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 4, **Sch. 2**
- F5** S. 1(3)(aa) inserted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 19, s. 66(6), **Sch. 16 para. 62(1)** (with ss. 54(5)(7), 55(5), Sch. 17 paras. 22(1), 23(2)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 4, **Sch. 2**
- F6** Words in s. 1(3)(b) substituted (S.) (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 39, s. 180(1), **Sch. 13 para. 124**; S.I. 1996/323, **art. 4(1)(b)(c)**

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/04/2003. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, Section 1.