

Welsh Government
Welsh Heads of Trading Standards
Animal Health and Welfare Partnership Delivery Plan 2016-17

The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 – Data Capture

Objective

The Minister responsible for the licensing of dog breeders has asked for a review of the above Regulations to ensure that they are fit for purpose. This follows the previous Minister, Alun Davies AM, commitment to carry out a review after a full year's implementation of the new legislation.

The project objective is to gather evidence from Welsh councils to help the Welsh Government establish baseline data relating to the commercial breeding of dogs in Wales. The information gathered will be useful to identify key changes in breeding practices since the introduction of the 2014 regulations such as:

- Has there been an increase in the number of licensed premises since the introduction of the 2014 regulations?
- How many breeders owning 3 or 4 breeding bitches are licensed?
- Have the welfare conditions at licensed premises improved under the new license conditions?
- When set, is the ratio being complied with? If not, are there any barriers to compliance?

The information will be scrutinised to identify if there is evidence to show that the welfare of puppies is compromised by restricting the attendant ratio to adult dogs only.

Action

The project entailed producing a questionnaire that would be sent to all local authorities in Wales with a request that they supply information about their dog breeders, how they administer the licensing service, how they look for unlicensed breeders and what issues they have encountered since the introduction of the new Regulations.

The questionnaire was produced from questions determined by Welsh Government Policy Leads in collaboration with the Project Manager for the Partnership Delivery Plan.

Project results

The project commenced at the start of January 2017 and finished on the 31 March 2017. Completed questionnaires were received from all but three local authorities (Conwy, Flintshire and Blaenau Gwent) across Wales. Blaenau Gwent did indicate that they did not have any licensed breeders.

The results indicate that there are 190 licensed breeders in Wales. Carmarthenshire had by far the most with 83 licensed breeders followed by Ceredigion with 31 breeders. There are four breeders across Wales that are licensed to keep over 101 dogs, the largest of these being licensed to keep 157 dogs. This premises employs 9 full and part time attendants.

The cost of a dog breeding license shows a wide variance across Wales. The lowest charge being £90.60 by Gwynedd council and the highest charge is made by Carmarthenshire at £748, although Carmarthenshire has a wide range of licensing charges.

Only two councils, Pembrokeshire and Monmouthshire, indicated that prior to the introduction of the 2014 Regulations it had licensed breeding establishments that breached the staff to dog ratio required by the new Regulations.

The tables below have highlighted a few questions asked in the questionnaire. A copy of all the returns are attached with this summary.

Survey result summary

North Wales Region

	No of breeders	Cost of a license	Size range of breeders	No of licensees where staff / dog ratio was exceeded before Regs	No of unlicensed breeders found in last 12 months	Enforcement action taken	Current investigations
Anglesey	0	£162.75	0	0	0	0	0
Conwy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denbighshire	4	£120	5-10 dogs - 3 11-20 dogs - 1	None	No information	None	No information
Flintshire	-	-		-	-	-	-
Gwynedd	1	£90.60	21-50 dogs - 1	None	None	None	No information
Wrexham	6	£202	11-20 dogs - 4 21-50 dogs - 1 51-100 dogs - 1	None	3	0	1

Mid Wales Region

	No of breeders	Cost of a license	Size range of breeders	No of licensees where staff / dog ratio was exceeded before Regs	No of unlicensed breeders found in last 12 months	Enforcement action taken	Current investigations
Ceredigion	31	£253 - £616	5-10 dogs – 3 11-20 dogs – 10 21-50 dogs – 14 51-100 dogs – 3 101 plus - 1	No	1	Yes – prosecution for unlicensed breeder	1

Powys	11	£195/ £204/ £213	5-10 dogs - 2 11-20 dogs - 4 21-50 dogs - 3	Information not available	None	Yes – Simple Caution and warning	None
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West Wales Region

	No of breeders	Cost of a license	Size range of breeders	No of licensees where staff / dog ratio was exceeded before Regs	No of unlicensed breeders found in last 12 months	Enforcement action taken	Current investigations
Carmarthenshire	83	Complex £262 - £748	5-10 dogs – 10 11-20 dogs – 19 21-50 dogs – 35 51-100 dogs – 12 101 plus dogs - 3	Information not available	11	Yes – warning letters	28
Pembrokeshire	13	£314	5-10 dogs - 1 11-20 dogs - 6 21-50 dogs - 5 51-100 dogs- 1	Yes - 5	3	No	1
Neath-Port Talbot	10	£350 / £280	Less than 5 - 1 5-10 dogs - 3 11-20 dogs - 3 21-50 dogs - 3	None	4	Warning	3
Swansea	15	£131+ vet fees	5-10 dogs – 3 11-20 dogs -6 21-50 dogs - 6	None	Not recorded	Yes - warning	2

South and East Wales Region

	No of breeders	Cost of a license	Size range of breeders	No of licensees where staff / dog ratio was exceeded before Regs	No of unlicensed breeders found in last 12 months	Enforcement action taken	Current investigations
Blaenau Gwent	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shared Regularly Services	Bridgend - 1 Cardiff - 1 Vale - 4	£200 £305 £200	5-10 dogs – 3 11-20 dogs – 1 21-50 dogs - 2	None	1	Yes – warning letter	1
Caerphilly	1	£138 / £231	5-10 dogs - 1	None	2	No	2
Merthyr Tydfil	1	£200	Less than 5 - 1	None	None – no resources	N/A	N/A
Monmouth	6	£106	Less than 5 – 1 11-20 dogs – 3 21-50 dogs - 2	Yes – 5	1	No	1
Newport	2	£104	5-10 dogs - 1 51- 100 dogs - 1	None	3	None	3
RCT	2	£99	5-10 dogs - 1 11-20 dogs - 1	None	1	None	1
Torfaen	0	Various	n/a	n/a	None	n/a	None

