

Useful information available to zoo applicants:

Information about the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England Wales) Regulations 2002) is available from your Local Authority who are responsible for administering the Act or from Defra at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/zoos/>

Key guidance

Zoo Licensing Act 1981: Guide to the Act's provisions

The licensing and inspection of zoos is a matter for local authorities. This guidance document has been published to help local authorities carry out their duties. The guide brings together guidance and advice which had previously been published by the Zoos Forum. It also updates and replaces other parts of Circular 02/2003 which had become out-of-date. The document comes into effect on 1 November 2012.

- [Zoo Licensing Act 1981: Guide to the Act's provisions](#)

Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice

The Secretary of State specifies minimum Standards that zoos in England are expected to meet. The Standards have received a technical update and include a new standard on the keeping of elephants in zoos. The document comes into effect on 1 November 2012.

Defra's Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency is responsible for maintaining a list of Secretary of State Zoo Inspectors through its [Zoos Inspectorate](#). Inspectors are expected to refer to the Standards when carrying out inspections.

- [Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice](#)

Zoos Expert Committee Handbook

The Zoos Expert Committee Handbook supplements the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice. The Handbook replaces the Zoos Forum Handbook and contains two new chapters on the background to zoo legislation and zoonoses in zoos. The existing chapters on conservation, education and research and on animal welfare and its assessment in zoos have been updated.

- [Zoos Expert Committee Handbook](#)

The Zoos Expert Committee

The Zoos Expert Committee replaced the Zoos Forum in February 2011 and provides UK Ministers with independent and authoritative technical advice to support policies on zoo matters.

The Committee's key role is to provide advice and recommendations on measures to encourage the role of zoos in conservation, education and scientific research; and on the operation and implementation of the zoo licensing system in the UK. When required, the Committee will provide ad-hoc advice for UK Ministers, for example on correspondence received on zoo matters.

Documents relating to the Committee are the Terms of Reference; Strategic Work Plan; Annual report and minutes of meetings.

- [Terms of reference](#) (PDF 45KB)
- [Strategic Work Plan](#) (PDF 20KB)
- [Annual report February 2011-March 2012](#) (PDF)

Minutes of the Committee's meetings are available on request by emailing the Committee Secretariat at zoos.branch@defra.gsi.gov.uk or by telephoning 0117 372 3606.

Committee Members

- Anna Meredith (Chair)
- Brian Bertram
- Deborah Bradfield
- Sarah-Jane Brown
- Ros Clubb
- John Eddison
- David Field
- David Price
- Sharon Redrobe
- Cheryl Williams
- Stephen Woollard

Legislation

- [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981](#) sets out how zoos in Great Britain are inspected and licensed. This ensures that zoos are safe for the public to visit, that high standards of welfare are maintained and that zoos make a contribution to conservation of wildlife. It also implements European Council Directive 1999/22/EC in the UK.
- Vertebrate animals kept in zoos are subject to protection under the [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#) (PDF 280 KB).

Links and publications

- [The Scottish Government – Wildlife and Habitats in Scotland](#)
- [Welsh Government and zoos](#)
- [British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums \(BIAZA\)](#)
- [European Association of Zoos and Aquaria \(EAZA\)](#)
- [World Association of Zoos and Aquariums \(WAZA\)](#)
- [Applications for Article 60 certificates](#)
- [Managing health and safety in zoos \(Heath & Safety Executive\)](#)
- [Local Government Regulation](#)

For more information about zoos or the Zoos Expert Committee contact:

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Updated March 2013