



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Licensing Committee

Date 4th August 2026

Report No ENV939

Report of Councillor: Phillip Knowles,
Cabinet Member for Corporate
Governance and Licensing

Primate Animal Licensing fees

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Purpose of Report

This report proposes new fees to be charged following the introduction of legislation requiring the licensing of primates and is brought to the Licensing Committee for information only.

Recommendations

That Committee considers the report and recommends to Cabinet the approval of the new primate licensing fees.

Decision Information	
Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities? (<i>delete as appropriate</i>)	Healthy and strong communities
Which wards are impacted?	All Wards

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 Under the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, Local authorities can charge a fee in respect of any granting of a new application, renewal or variation to an existing primate licence. Licence fees should be calculated on cost recovery and will be reviewed annually to ensure they are set at the right level.
- 1.2 Table 3.3 sets out the proposed fees for the remainder of the financial year based on the current licencing fees cost recovery model for 2026/27. It is anticipated there won't be a significant number of applications for this specific type of licence.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer.

Legal and Governance

- 1.2 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 have been made under section 13 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and place powers and responsibilities on the Council in respect of the licensing of those that keep primates in their area.

Completed by: (Emma Powley – Interim Democratic Services Manager)

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 In 2024, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), through Regulations made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, introduced the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024. The Licensing Authority for the purposes of these Regulations is the local authority in whose area the premises at which a primate is kept or is to be kept are situated. Two such premises will require a primate license at the time of writing this report.
- 2.2 The Regulations introduce a licensing scheme, setting strict rules to ensure that only private keepers, who can provide zoo-level welfare standards, will be able to keep primates.
- 2.3 Primates include:
- Marmosets
 - Tamarins
 - Squirrel Monkeys
 - Spider Monkeys
 - Capuchin Monkeys
 - Lemurs
 - Lorisidae (also known as bush babies)
- 2.4 From 6 April 2026 it became an offence to keep a primate in England without a licence. The only exemptions to the requirement to hold a licence will be where the primates concerned are being kept in a licensed zoo or a place specified in a licence under section 2C of the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.
- 2.5 The Regulations set out the application process and the conditions that must be placed on the licence if granted. Further conditions may be stipulated in the Statutory Guidance.
- 2.6 An inspection must be carried out prior to an application being determined, and a further inspection is required on at least one occasion during the duration of the licence. These inspections must be conducted by a “suitable person” which is defined by the regulations as being:
- a) A veterinarian (Vet); or
 - b) Any other person who, in view of the local authority, is suitably qualified and competent to carry out the inspection.
- 2.7 A licence must be granted for a period of three years or where the applicant has requested a licence for a period of less than three years, for such shorter period that the applicant has requested.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 There are also provisions in the regulations for the holder of a primate licence to request to vary or surrender the licence as well as provisions for the licensing authority to revoke or vary the primate licence.
- 3.2 An application fee may be charged, and a fee can be charged in respect of any inspections. The proposed fees in the table estimates the cost recovery of undertaking this licensing function - as this is new legislation, the fee is a best consideration of the time requirement and input.
- 3.3 Proposed fees:

Application for the grant and renewal of a licence (as the same process is followed) <i>*this calculation includes processing application, inspection visit & admin, mid-term visit and admin, travel costs</i>	£350.00
Application for variation of a licence (with inspection)	£230.75
Application for variation of licence (without inspection)	£66.00
Inspection Fees	Vet fees that are incurred will be recharged to the applicant

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 The committee could decide to recommend that no fee is implemented. This is not the recommended option for reasons set out in the report.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 5.1 To enable a charge to be levied following the introduction of the primate licensing legislation. With the fees being calculated on a cost recovery basis.