

63222 Dog Breeding Licensing and Enforcement

In which team or department does responsibility for animal activity licensing sit? For example: Environmental Health, Licensing, Legal, Trading Standards, Animal Health, or another team.

Licensing.

How many active dog breeding licences did your authority have as at 31 March 2026? If your authority records the number of licensed dog breeders separately from the number of active licences, please also provide that figure.

One.

Of the active dog breeding licences as at 31 March 2026, how many were issued for:

One year

One.

Two years

None.

Three years

None.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many new dog breeding licence applications were:

Received

None.

Approved

None.

Refused

None.

Withdrawn

None.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many dog breeding licence renewal applications were:

Received

One.

Approved

One.

Refused

None.

Withdrawn

None.

For any refused new or renewal applications, please provide the reason for refusal.

Not applicable.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many inspections were carried out in relation to:

New dog breeding licence applications

None.

Dog breeding licence renewal applications

One.

Interim, additional, unannounced or compliance inspections outside the grant/renewal process

None.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports did your authority receive relating to dog breeding?

Two.

Of these complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports, how many related to:

Alleged or suspected unlicensed dog breeding

Two.

Complaints or allegations about licensed dog breeders

None.

Other dog breeding-related concerns (for example, noise, sickness in puppy)

None.

How many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports resulted in a physical visit or inspection to a site or premises? Please split, where held, between:

Licensed dog breeders

None.

Alleged or suspected unlicensed dog breeders

Two.

How many complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports were investigated but did not result in a physical visit or inspection?

None.

Where complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports were investigated without a physical visit, please briefly describe the main method or methods used. For example: desktop review, online advert checks, telephone/email contact, review of licensing records, or liaison with another agency.

Checks carried out on intelligence databases, with adverts, our records, and key stakeholders.

Of the complaints, allegations, service requests or intelligence reports received, how many were recorded as:

Founded/substantiated

None.

Unfounded/unsubstantiated

None.

No further action

One.

Still under investigation at 31 March 2026

One.

How many alleged or suspected unlicensed breeders investigated during the period subsequently applied for a dog breeding licence?

None.

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, how many enforcement actions were taken in relation to dog breeding following complaints, allegations, visits, inspections, grant applications or renewal applications? Please provide numbers for:

Written warnings

None.

Improvement Notices

None.

Fixed Penalty Notices

None.

Licence variations

None.

Licence suspensions

None.

Licence revocations

None.

Prosecutions commenced

None.

Referrals/reports to the RSPCA, SSPCA, USPCA or another enforcement body

None.

How many prosecutions relating to dog breeding were undertaken or concluded during the period, and which team recorded or led those prosecutions? For example: Licensing, Legal, Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Animal Health, or another team.

None.

For each concluded prosecution, please provide, where held

Whether the case related to a licensed or unlicensed breeder

Not applicable.

Offence type

Not applicable.

Outcome

Not applicable.

Fine

Not applicable.

Costs awarded

Not applicable.

Disqualification order

Not applicable.

Proceeds of Crime Act/confiscation order, if applicable

Not applicable.

Does your authority undertake any online proactive monitoring of puppy adverts, dog breeding adverts or social media sales activity as part of dog breeding licensing or enforcement work? If yes, please state which platforms or sources are monitored, where held.

No, unless complaints increase within our geographical area.

How many full-time equivalent staff are involved in animal activity licensing work, and what are the job titles of officers undertaking dog breeding inspections, visits or complaint investigations? Please also state whether your authority has a dedicated animal welfare, animal health, animal licensing or equivalent officer post responsible for animal licensing and welfare work.

0.5FTE. We have several staff that have experience/training in animal health related work across Trading Standards and Licensing Enforcement. We have no dedicated animal health officer, although one person has a multi-discipline role across many areas including animal health and welfare.

For each officer undertaking dog breeding inspections, visits or complaint investigations, please provide:

The name of any OFQUAL-approved or other formal animal licensing training course completed

Five-day course in Animal Health & Welfare and various strategy group workshops with the local authority set up via the Scottish Government.

The course provider

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute.

A brief description of the practical element of the course, where held.

The aim of this training was to help students prepare for the DCATS Animal Health and Welfare Written Examination, covering all elements of the syllabus. This included a variety of learning methods including presentations, working groups and practical activity where possible. The training was held in Preston.