

FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES – D. MICHAEL

12th May 2015

SECTION A - MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED: Neath North

1.0 LICENCE TO KEEP A PET SHOP

An application for the grant of a pet shop licence has been received as follows:

Premises	Applicant	Details
Reggae Reptiles 30 Queen Street Neath SA11 1DL	Ms Angela Cottam	Pet Shop Licence

1.1 Background

No person shall keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted in accordance with the provisions of the Pet Animals Act 1951.

The applicant currently has a pet shop in Neath and needs to move to a bigger premises hence this application.

1.2 Officer Report

The applicant currently holds a pet shop licence for Reggae Reptiles at 46 The Parade, Neath. This application is to enable to shop relocate to bigger premises at 30 Queen Street, Neath.

The premises was inspected by a veterinary surgeon on 24th March 2015, a copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.

The Veterinary Surgeon has confirmed that the conditions attached to the existing licence should also be imposed on the new licence.

1.3 Recommendation

That where members consider approval of the application the following conditions should be attached to the licence.

- The premises must comply at all times with the requirements of the Model Standards for Pet Shops (1999) published by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.
- No more than two (2) of any of the below specimens of the following species shall be held at any one time:-
 1. Cuvier's Dwarf Caimen (paleosuchus palpebrosus)
 2. Spectacled Caimen (caimen crocodylus)
 3. West African Dwarf Crocodile (osteolaemus tetraspis)
- These numbers include animals owned by or subject of any boarding service offered to customers by the applicant.
- 20 Tortoises (Non CITES & Exemption Certificated Hermann's Tortoises)
- 180 Snakes & Lizards (Non CITES or Venomous)
- 40 Invertebrates incl. Spiders, Scorpions, Insects, Amphibians & Turtles (Non CITES or Venomous)
- The door to the crocodile area must be kept locked and the doors out of the adjacent room must have automatic closers to ensure a double door system. The back door of the premises must be kept locked or only openable as a fire escape.

1.4 List of Background papers

Licence Application
Veterinary Officer's Report

1.5 Wards Affected

Neath North

1.6 Officer Contact

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Report on Inspection of Pet Shop : to be read in conjunction with the relevant parts of previous reports dated 22/11/11, 24/4/12, 26/7/12 and its addendum, 9/8/12, copies of which are attached.

2. On March 24th and April 10th 2015, at the request of Neath Port Talbot CBC, I inspected the proposed pet shop at Reggae Reptiles, 30 Queen Street, Neath, SA11 1DL, the proprietor being Ms. Angela Cottam, 15 Gelligron Road, Pontardawe, SA8 4LU. The business previously occupied 46 The Parade, Neath and was licensed at those premises. The new premises are larger.

At the earlier visit, the new premises were being converted ready for the start of business as a pet shop and there were no animals or indeed cages present at that visit. On April 10th, the shop was fitted out with containers stocked with various animals as listed below.

All measurements used below are approximate.

The premises consist of a ground floor and shop front of 45ft x 18ft + an area of 8ft x 8ft and a kitchen area of 15ft x 12ft, a toilet and an outside yard with some parking. The first floor has a landing of about 6ft x 6ft and three rooms of 15ft x 10ft, 12ft x 12ft and 12ft x 12ft. Rooms on both floors have appropriate windows and good lighting with headroom of about 8-9ft. The second floor of 18ft x 12ft is a room in the roof space with partly reduced headroom and only artificial light.

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On April 10th, the following vivaria (or similar) were present on the ground floor (the containers are made from glass, melamine, wood, plastic or mesh as appropriate) :

1. 8ft x 4ft x 6ft with a 4 year old Asian Water Monitor
2. 5 no. 3ft 6ins x 18ins x 18ins with 3 no. bearded dragons in one container, 2 no. boa constrictors in another and one boa constrictor in each of the other containers. Each snake is about 4 years old and 6ft long.
3. 9 no. 2ft 6ins x 18ins x 18ins separately containing :
 - a. 2 x golden tegus
 - b. 1 x blue tegu
 - c. 4 x baby bearded dragons
 - d. 1 year old reticulated python
 - e. Madagascan hognose
 - f. Leopard gecko
 - g. Green anaconda
 - h. 3 x tortoises
 - i. One tortoise being boarded on holiday
4. 5 no. 18ins x 18ins x 18ins separately containing :
 - a. 2 x Royal pythons
 - b. 2 x golden geckos
 - c. 1year old Burmese python
 - d. Corn snake

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- e. 3 x 1 year old Royal Pythons
5. Other various containers, empty.
6. A central stand of food supplies for sale including live food such as locusts.
7. 3ft x 15ins x 3ft high glass case containing jars of spiders
8. 2 no. 15ins x 15ins x 18ins separately containing a Tokay Gecko and several crested geckos.
9. 3ft 6ins x 18ins x 3ft - 3 x reticulated pythons
10. 3ft x 18ins x 15ins – speckled caiman
11. 3ft 6ins x 2ft x 3ft - 15 x Chinese water dragons (young)
12. 3ft x 15ins x 2ft – 2 x blue-tongued skinks
13. Pond area (separate locked enclosure) – 2 x West African Dwarf Crocodiles, adult about 3ft long and not for sale.
14. 15ins x 15ins x 15ins – horned dragon
15. 15ins x 15ins x 15ins – young bearded dragons
16. 18ins x 18ins x 15ins – leopard gecko
17. 18ins x 18ins x 15ins – 2 x spiny tailed iguana
18. 3ft 6ins x 18ins x 18ins – empty
19. 2ft 6ins x 2ft 6ins x 18ins – 2 x chamaeleon
20. 3ft x 18ins x 18ins – 5 x Horsefield Tortoises
21. 3ft x 18ins x 18ins – 3 x Leopard Tortoises
22. 2ft x 2ft x 3ft 6ins – sugar glider , not for sale
23. 2 connected containers each 3ft x 18ins x 18ins – olive python approx.. 10ft long.

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24. Several 3ft x 18ins x 18ins containing a variety of young snakes
25. 3ft x 18ins x 18ins – 4 x butterfly lizards
26. 4 no. 18ins x 18ins x 18ins separately containing :
 - a. Adult leopard gecko
 - b. Tortoise
 - c. Royal python
 - d. Masked gecko
27. It is proposed to have an enclosure of 6ft x 2 ft x 3ft 6ins containing 2 x meerkats – whilst maintaining an adequate environment for these, it would be essential that they are not within sight of their prey or predators. They would not be for sale.
28. 3 no. 15ins x 15ins x 15ins but only one occupied by a chamaeleon
29. 12ins x 12ins x 12ins – crested gecko
30. 12ins x 12ins x 15ins – Timor monitor
31. 18ins x 18ins x 2ft 6ins – chamaeleon
32. 2ft x 2ft x 3ft 6ins – Quince`s monitor
33. Open tank of 18ins x 15ins x 12ins – musk turtle.
34. Possibly to be brought to the shop – 4 ft x 2ft x 6ft container with one parrot – not for sale.

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▲ All the vivaria/containers have heating and lighting appropriate to their occupants. Food and water are supplied as required. The kitchen is adequate for any food preparation but this must be kept separate from any use of the kitchen for humans.

Suitable “furniture” was present in the vivaria – a balance is required between sufficient stimulation for the occupants without crowding the container or making the occupants invisible. Such furniture should be changed from time to time, to increase the stimulus for long-term inhabitants. It is advised that any animals that are present in the shop for a long period should be moved to a different position or different vivarium or have their furniture changed to provide variety. Whilst it is accepted that some of the larger snakes are kept in what appear to be small vivaria, this should not be taken to extremes where overly large snakes are cramped in too-small containers for long periods. The use of two connected vivaria (as for the Olive Python) is a good idea and should be used frequently, for other species too , even if this means a reduction in overall numbers.

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At the moment, the upper floors are reserved for privately-owned animals and office space. There must be at least one suitably-equipped area kept for isolation, both of new arrivals and (separately) of any ill individuals.

Nearly all the containers have methods of individually supplying the required environment of the inhabitants. However, the general shop environment must be closely monitored to avoid excess heat or cold at certain times of the year.

The security of each and every vivarium/container is paramount to avoid escape. In particular, the door to the crocodile area must be kept locked and the doors out of the adjacent room i.e. the kitchen area, must have automatic closers to ensure a double-door system (the back door of the premises must be kept locked or , at least, only openable as a fire escape).

Advice from the Fire Department must be obtained, acted upon and kept in written form for inspection. The name, address and telephone number of the keyholder must be given to the police and must be displayed on the front of the premises.

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Records must be kept of the origin , length of stay and destination of all animals that are bought and sold.

If staff are employed, they must be made aware of the dangers of handling the various species and of escapes . All aspects of health and safety and employment law must be encompassed.

Information for each species must be easily available for customers. It is advised that short descriptions are attached to each container so that the public can appreciate the features of the container and its inhabitants e.g this species is nocturnal and lives in branches etc.etc. – would explain why a container is not brightly lit. A map of the world showing places of origin and other details, without obscuring the actual occupant, provides good information for prospective buyers.

More detailed information must be provided for purchasers. The proprietor has a duty of care to the animals being sold and should ensure, as much as possible, that buyers are suitably equipped to cope.

The maximum numbers of animals to be kept on the premises must be displayed. The actual numbers kept must be reasonable and must take into account the size of each animal particularly where the size of an individual can change significantly e.g. snakes. The environment of each animal must

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not be compromised by overstocking because some animals have become too big.

The opening times will be : Mon – Sat 9.30am – 5.30pm
Sun 10am – 4pm.

I would advise that the council revisits the premises within one month to verify that :

- a. Advice has been obtained from the Fire Department (arranged for April 13th, 2015)
- b. Name and address and telephone number have been notified to the police and displayed on the front of the premises
- c. The licence is displayed.

Signed : *John Peter Dale B.V.Sc. M.R.C.V.S.*

Date : 13/4/15

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