

ZOO LICENSING ACT 1981

LICENCE TO OPERATE A ZOO

Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council being a local authority responsible for licensing zoos under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended)

HEREBY LICENSE

Name of licence applicant:

The North of England Zoological Society

To operate the premises known as:

Chester Zoo,

Caughall Road,

Caughall, Chester, Cheshire CH2 1LH

Situated within (or the major part of which is within) the area of the said authority, subject to the conditions attached to this licence.

This licence is issued in accordance with the Act for a period of

six years from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2031

Issue date: 27th March 2025

Signed:



Name: Nicki Rose

Office held: Animal Health and Welfare Team Leader

On behalf of Cheshire West and Chester Council

CONDITIONS OF ZOO LICENCE

SCHEDULE ONE: MANDATORY CONDITIONS FOR ALL ZOOS & AQUARIA

The zoo must, as required by the Zoo Licensing Act (1981) and its subsequent amendments:

1. Participate in at least one of the following:
 - i. research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals;
 - ii. training in relevant conservation skills;
 - iii. the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals;
 - iv. where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity;
 - v. where appropriate, the repopulation of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals.
2. Promote public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by providing information about the species of wild animals kept in the zoo and their natural habitats.
3. Accommodate the zoo's animals under conditions which aim to satisfy the biological and conservation requirements of the individual species to which they belong, including:
 - i. providing each animal with an environment well adapted to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of the species to which it belongs; and
 - ii. providing a high standard of animal husbandry with a developed programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition.
4. Prevent the escape of animals and put in place measures to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release of animals.
5. Introduce practical measures designed to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the premises of the zoo.
6. Keep up-to-date records of the zoo's collection appropriate to the species, including records of the numbers of different animals, acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes, causes of death and the health of the animals.
7. Keep information to show how it has complied with these conditions and supply said information to the local authority upon request.

SCHEDULE TWO: ADDITIONAL STANDARD CONDITIONS

Additional conditions to ensure the proper conduct of the zoo in all other respects, during the period of the licence:

Secretary of States Standards for Modern Zoo Practice (SSSMZP)

8. The zoo licence holder must ensure that the Standards of Modern Zoo Practice are complied with at all times. This is currently outlined in the Secretary of States Standards for Modern Zoo Practice (2012) but will be replaced by the Standards for Modern Zoo Practice for Great Britain (2024) (SMZPGB) during this licence period.

Insurance

9. The zoo licence holder must have insurance cover which covers them and every other person under a contract of service or acting on their behalf, against liability for any damage or injury which may be caused by any of the animals or by other factors, whether inside or outside the zoo, including during transportation to other premises. Any upper limit on the sum insured must be set at an adequate but realistic level. Within one month of the date of renewal, where applicable, a copy of the zoo's current public liability insurance policy must be sent to the licensing authority.

Hazardous Animals

10. The licensing authority is to be notified in writing, at least one month in advance, of the proposed addition of any animal listed in category one of the Hazardous Animal Categorisation (see relevant Appendix of the current Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice), which is from a taxonomic Family of which Category 1 species have not previously been kept in the Zoo.
11. The zoo license holder shall notify the licensing authority before the temporary removal from the zoo (other than for veterinary attention or internal zoo movements) of any mammal listed in category one of the Hazardous Animal Categorisation.
 - a. Notification will be given as early as possible and, in any case, no later than 12 hours before the removal
 - b. When giving notification, details of the destination, method of transportation of the animal(s) and of the arrangements for its well-being, as well as for the safety of the public whilst it is away from the zoo, shall be provided
 - c. The period specified within 11(b) relating to notification period may be a shorter period if mutually agreed by both the licensing authority and zoo operator

Escapes

12. In the event of any non-domestic animal escaping from the confines of the zoo (an escape), or within the confines of the zoo (near miss), notification shall be made to the licensing authority as soon as possible, and, in any case, not later than 24 hours following the escape.

13. The zoo licence holder must ensure that all members of staff are familiar with emergency procedures when animals escape. In particular, emergency animal escape drills must be carried out at least four times a year, recorded and regularly reviewed, this must include at least two drills involving the escape of a category one species (where present) as stipulated in the relevant Appendix of the current Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice.

Stock Records

14. An annual stocklist of all animals must be kept and a copy must be forwarded to the local authority before the 1st April of the year following that to which it relates. This must be in, or similar to, the format stipulated in Section 9.6 of the current Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice and cover the period from the 1st January until the 31st December.

Display of the licence

15. The zoo licence holder is required to display publicly the current Zoo licence and Conditions or a copy of it at each public entrance to the zoo.

SCHEDULE THREE: ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS FOLLOWING ZOO LICENCE INSPECTION

None.

NOTE: The zoo licence does not imply that the requirements of any other legislation have been met.

END CONDITIONS