

ZOOS EXPERT COMMITTEE: STRATEGIC WORK PLAN

Ongoing activities

1. Watching brief for issues for Defra/DAs to take into account in future revisions:
 - Zoo Licensing Act 1981;
 - Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice;
 - technical updates;
 - substantive additions; e.g. cetaceans, elephants;
 - supporting advice and guidance i.e. Government Circular 02/2003 and Zoos Forum Handbook.
2. Keep the operation of the zoo licensing system under review:
 - assist Defra/DAs with their performance management of Secretary of State zoo inspectors;
 - by providing advice on guidance which may be needed;
 - by supporting, developing and participation in training;
 - receive and consider reports from the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratory Agency on the operation of the zoo licensing system;
 - consider delivery of the zoo licensing system by local authorities and advise on what action might be appropriate.
3. Encourage the role of zoos in conservation, education and scientific research:
 - consider future priorities for guidance;
 - develop guidance as required.
4. Consider research needs and make recommendations to Government as appropriate.

Specific activities

1. Walk-through exhibits: keep a watching brief and develop a paper when appropriate.
2. Provide Defra/DAs with details of technical updates needed to the Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice.
3. Complete, or decide the way forward on, proposals for a chapter for the Zoos Forum Handbook on the licensing and inspection process.
4. Complete the review of Chapter 4 (animal welfare and its assessment in zoos) of the Zoos Forum Handbook.
5. Complete the review of Chapter 2 (conservation, education and research) of the Zoos Forum Handbook.

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