

# Determining the length of a licence and the star rating of a business:

## Assessing risk & standards

61. This guidance describes the risk-based system that must be used when issuing animal activities licences under the Regulations with the exception of “Keeping or Training Animals for Exhibition” where all licences are issued for 3 years. This system should be used to determine both the length of the licence and the star rating to award. Local authorities in England are expected to follow it in full.

62. The purpose is to ensure consistency in implementation and operation of the licensing system by local authorities, and to ensure that consumers can be confident that the star rating applied to businesses is an accurate reflection of both their risk level and the animal welfare standards that they adopt.

64. The model takes into account both the animal welfare standards adopted by a business as well as their level of risk (based on elements such as past compliance). This model should be used every time a licence is granted or renewed.

65. Businesses must be given a star rating, ranging from 1 star to 5 stars, based on this model, and the results of their inspection. This star rating must be listed on the licence by the issuing local authority officer. The system incorporates safeguards to ensure fairness to businesses. This includes an appeal procedure and a mechanism for requesting a re-inspection for the purposes of re-rating when improvements have been made.

66. In order to use this model to calculate the length of the licence and associated star rating, it is necessary to address the following questions, based on the inspection and on records of past compliance:

- (a) Does the business meet the minimum standards?
- (b) Does the business meet the higher standards?
- (c) Is the business low or higher risk?