



DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS ACT 1976

CONDITIONS

1. While any animal is being kept under the authority of the Licence:
 - (i) the animal shall be kept by no person other than the person or persons specified on the Licence
 - (ii) the animal shall normally be held at such premises as are specified on the Licence
 - (iii) the animal shall not be moved from those premises (except in the following circumstances, namely,).
 - (iv) the person to whom the Licence is granted shall hold a current insurance policy which insures him and any other person entitled to keep the animal under the authority of the Licence against liability for any damage which may be caused by the animal, the terms of such policy being satisfactory in the opinion of the authority.
2. The species and number of animals of each species that may be kept under the authority of the Licence shall be restricted to those specified in the Schedule relating to the Licence.
3. The person to whom the Licence is granted shall at all reasonable times make available a copy of the Licence to any person entitled to keep any animal under the authority of the Licence.
- A. No alterations may be made in respect of the quarters in which the animal is accommodated.
- B. Any animal kept under authority of the Licence shall be accommodated in quarters that are:
 - (a) Sufficiently secure to prevent the animal's escape
 - (b) Suitable as regards: construction, size, ventilation, lighting, temperature, drainage and cleanliness
 - (c) Sufficient for the animal to take adequate exercise
 - (d) So constructed as to prevent interference with the animal by unauthorised persons.
- C. The animal(s) shall be provided with adequate and suitable food and drink and, where necessary, visited at suitable intervals.
- D. The quarters shall be cleaned out as often as may be necessary.

- E. The animal shall be kept so as not to give rise to a nuisance or to be prejudicial to health.
- F. Reasonable precautions shall be taken at all times to prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases.
- G. There shall be displayed in a conspicuous position (to the satisfaction of the Licensing authority) the name, address and telephone number of a reasonable person who can be contacted in an emergency (in the event of the absence of the keeper). The person should hold a set of keys for the premises.
- H. Suitable precautions shall be taken, to the satisfaction of the Licensing authority, to secure the animal's safety in the event of a fire.
- I. Any excreta, soiled bedding or other waste shall be disposed of to the satisfaction of the Council.
- J. Any authorised officer of the council may at any reasonable time enter the premises named on the Licence for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not a Licence should be granted or varied or whether an offence has been or is being committed against the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS

Re: OSTRICHES

ENCLOSURES

1. Perimeter hedging or fencing surrounding paddocks must be such as to prevent the escape of birds from the farm and prevent access by unauthorised persons or domestic pets eg dogs. Hedging may need to be reinforced with meshing.

Paddock fences should be designed and constructed so as to prevent birds from becoming trapped in it or being injured. It should incorporate some form of high visibility meshing or markers at the higher levels in order to prevent collisions by birds when running fast and should be strong enough but elastic enough to withstand a birds collision without causing injury.

2. The fence must be a minimum of 5'6" (1.7m) high but a recommended height of 6'6" (2m) is advised for adult birds. A suitable gap must be maintained at the bottom of the fence in order to provide a "roll out" escape route for the bird handlers.
3. Fence posts must be of solid construction and embedded in concrete at their base or otherwise soundly fixed to prevent movement when impacted upon by a full-grown ostrich. A fence post must be provided at least every 4 metres around the paddock.

Escape proof fencing must be provided to any paddocks used for chicks and immature birds, such fencing must prevent the risk of damage or entanglement to the birds.

4. Paddocks containing adult birds should be separated by an intervening space with enough distance between them to avoid disturbances or intergroup rivalry between the birds. Loading areas should be fitted with secondary fencing to the above standard to prevent escape of birds during loading and unloading operations.
5. The number of male birds and the maximum number of birds to be kept in each paddock should reflect good husbandry practice or the advice of a suitably qualified veterinary surgeon.
6. Signs should be affixed to the fence at regular interval on all boundaries. The sign should read in large capital letters "**DANGEROUS ANIMALS – KEEP AWAY**" or similar suitable wording. A similar sign should be erected at the main entrance to the premises.
7. Enclosures should be checked daily to ensure that there are no foreign objects which could be swallowed by the birds.

SHELTERS

1. Shelters must be available for the birds at all times which should be dry, well ventilated and draught free. For adult birds, the height of the shelters shall be not less than 3m so that the birds can stand freely without crouching. The shelter should be enclosed on 3 sides and include a closing mechanism on the fourth side to allow the male to be isolated. The width of the opening to the shelter should be not less than 1.5m.
2. The use of bedding material is recommended for maintenance of plumage of birds over 3 weeks old. The bedding should be a thin layer of absorbent material not attractive to the birds such as sand, sawdust or cut straw.
3. The minimum size of the shelter to be provided is related to the number and age of the group of birds and should reflect good husbandry practise or the advice of a suitably qualified veterinary surgeon.

4. Where long periods of sub-zero temperatures may occur, additional heating will be required to maintain the temperature of the shelter to a minimum of 5°C.
5. For young birds, indoor rearing quarters should be provided to the following standard:
 - a) All accommodation must be built on a concrete base with a damp proof course to Building Regulation Standards.
 - b) All floors (internal and external) must be laid to a fall of 1 in 80 with a drainage channel outside the quarters leading to the main drain.
 - c) The interior surfaces of the walls of the accommodation must be constructed of concrete or other building blocks and the final surface must be smooth, impervious and easy to clean.
 - d) The roof must be suitably insulated and have a ceiling which is smooth and easy to clean.
 - e) The doors should be strong and fitted with locks.
 - f) Any window openings must be protected by wire mesh or reinforced glass.
 - g) A competent electrician must properly fit all electric lighting and sockets. All fittings should be exterior quality and water-resistant. The entire system must be fitted with a residual current circuit breaker. All equipment should not be accessible to the ostriches.
 - h) A suitable storage area should be provided for the storage and preparation of food, all materials should be stored in rodent-proof containers.
 - i) Suitable washable bedding matting must be provided in the rearing pens.

Heating, Lighting and Ventilation (Ostriches under 3 months indoors)

- j) The bedding/sleeping accommodation must be maintained at a temperature above 7°C. (45°F).
- k) The accommodation should be insulated against extremes of heat and cold.
- l) The accommodation must be illuminated by a source of daylight with adequate supplementary artificial light to allow the proper working and cleaning of the compartments, and to allow for a light regime equivalent to 12 – 14 hours of daylight conditions.
- m) Ventilation should be provided to maintain the atmosphere of the accommodation clean, without the creation of excessive localised draughts in sleeping/bedding areas.

SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT

1. Ostriches must be inspected at least twice daily. Any ostriches that are sick or injured shall be segregated from other birds.
2. Birds over 3 months old must be given access to outside areas daily except in severe adverse weather.
3. Chicks over 3 days old must be encouraged to exercise at least 4 times daily.

FEEDING

1. All birds must have access to adequate and suitable feed each day and have adequate supplies of water of potable quality at all times.
2. Birds over a few weeks old should be given access to grit or stones to aid digestion.
3. Adult ostriches must have access to natural grazing. In adverse weather conditions where this is not possible, forage should be provided which should be chopped into 30 – 50mm lengths.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

1. Appropriate steps must be taken for the protection of animals in the case of fire or other emergency. In particular, the licensee or designated key holder must at all times be within a reasonable distance of the premises.
2. An emergency telephone number and address must be displayed at the front of the premises.
3. A list of key holders must be lodged with the local Police and Fire Brigade. A proper emergency plan and fire warning procedure must be drawn up and posted on the premises. This must include arrangements for the evacuation of the animals.
4. The licensee/applicant must procure fire prevention advice from the local Fire Prevention Officer and implement such advice.
5. Fire fighting equipment must be provided in accordance with any guidance given by the Fire Prevention Officer.
6. Heating appliances must not be sited in a location or manner where they may present a risk of fire.
7. Entrances and exits must be clear of obstructions at all time.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The maximum number of ostriches to be kept at one time will be stated on the Licence and must not be exceeded.
2. A copy of the Licence must be suitably displayed on the premises in a position prominent to the public. If displayed externally, it should be protected from the weather.
3. Adequate insurance indemnity should be arranged and maintained at all times to cover the maximum number of ostriches boarded.
4. A plan must be submitted to the Local Authority outlining the actions to be taken in the event of birds escaping from the paddocks or farm premises.