

**Urgent Matters Report** - The Director for Communities and the Environment and the Vice Chair of Licensing Committee.

13<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### **Decision Notice – Ms Emily Sutcliffe**

Section 15 of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018 states A local Authority may, without any requirement of licence holders' consent, decide to suspend, vary or revoke a licence at any time on being satisfied that:

- (a) the licence conditions are not being complied with,
- (b) there has been a breach of these Regulations,
- (c) information supplied by the licence holder is false or misleading, or
- (d) it is necessary to protect the welfare of an animal.

A Local Authority can with immediate effect revoke a licence where poor welfare conditions are discovered, and it would otherwise benefit the welfare of the animals involved to be removed from the licensable activity.

The Director for Communities and the Environment" in consultation with the Vice Chair of Licensing Committee considered the Revocation Notice report presented to them.

The Director for Communities and the Environment and the Vice Chair of Licensing Committee were advised that Emily Sutcliffe of 80 Coastal Road, Hest Bank, was licensed under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018 and was last inspected on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021, when a 2-year licence was issued.

The Director for Communities and the Environment and the Vice Chair of Licensing Committee were advised that Emily Sutcliffe, in connection with the licensable activity has failed to meet the needs of the dogs and puppies involved in the activity of breeding, thereby also breaching his license conditions.

There is an apparent disregard for his animal's welfare and there are reasonable grounds to believe that she was out of the country for 6 days. From the observations outlined in the report it is clear she did not make sufficient and reliable provisions for the care and welfare of the dogs in his possession. It was advised that the reason this should take immediate effect was to ensure she does not have time to restart the business immediately using his remaining dogs or buying more.

### **The Director for Communities and the Environment and the Vice Chair of Licensing Committee Decision.**

A licence issued by the Council to a dog breeder is in effect the Council's seal of approval that the holder is a fit and proper person to breed dogs. The Director for Communities and the Environment and the Chair of Licensing Committee is satisfied on the information provided that Ms Emily Sutcliffe has not been complying with the conditions of their dog breeders licence, that they have been in breach of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018, the licence conditions are not being complied with, there has been a breach of these Regulations and it is necessary to protect the welfare of an animal.

The Director for Communities and the Environment and the Vice Chair of Licensing Committee therefore decided to revoke with immediate effect the Dog Breeders licence that had been granted to Ms Emily Sutcliffe.

In accordance with the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018 there is a right of appeal to the “First-tier Tribunal. This period within which an operator may bring such an appeal is 28 days beginning with the day following the date of the decision.

Signed.....

Councillor Guilding (Vice Chair of Licensing Committee)

Dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022.