

The potential use of kennelling facilities at premises in Herefordshire – A statement by Paul Nicholas, Acting Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards, Herefordshire Council

29th April 2009

On Friday 24th April last I was approached by three people in connection with a letter they (and others) had received from Mr Ironside dated 15th April 2009. I was approached because the people believed that premises referred to in the letter are/were located in Herefordshire and, there was reference to the “Head of the dept. of Environmental Health for the region” – I am the Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards for Herefordshire Council.

The nature of the approaches were ones of concern that premises described in the letter (and in particular their condition) were being considered for the temporary accommodation of dogs rescued by Greyhound Rescue Wales.

Until July/August 2008, Herefordshire Council used certain premises in the south west of the County for the temporary accommodation of stray dogs. A review of that relationship resulted in the Council using alternative premises since then pending the culmination of a tendering process.

These premises/units were not, and have never been, part of the licensed Animal Boarding Establishment. I am reliably informed by my inspectors that these premises/units are not the ones being considered by Greyhound Rescue Wales. The premises/units used to accommodate strays are adjacent to but separate from the licensed premises and are distant from newer premises/units that have been partly finished. The premises/units formerly used to accommodate stray dogs are not being used as accommodation.

A visit was made to the premises on the afternoon of Friday 24th April by an inspector in order to ascertain what the current situation was with respect to conditions, usage etc. There was no evidence that the accommodation formerly used for stray dogs was currently being used or had been used for some time. The licensed premises were satisfactory apart from some minor matters which have been raised with the licensees.

A further visit has been made today to discuss the potential use of other premises/units (located a kilometre or so away from the licensed premises) and, in particular, the need to obtain a licence if the licensees are to want those premises to be used to accommodate any dogs (or cats). Should anyone want to bring these premises/units into use then they will require the benefit of a conditioned licence.

On Monday 27th April I was contacted by Penny Hard, Chair of Greyhound Rescue Wales. We discussed the aforementioned letter and other matters relating to the possible use of kennels including the visit by my inspector.

I hope that the above summary clarifies certain matters associated with Mr Ironside’s letter and the subsequent telephone calls I have dealt with.

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