



BBC Studioworks

Use of Animals in the Studio Arrangements

Health & Safety Arrangements

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1 Introduction

This guide applies to any animal brought in by a production for the purposes of filming in the studio or another designated filming location on a BBC Studioworks site. It does not include pets or any guide/assistance animals unless they are involved in filming.

2 Legislation

There are a number of regulations to be aware of that govern the use of animals within the entertainment industry. These include:

- ***The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (DWA)*** governs the issue of licenses by local authorities to those who wish to keep, handle, display and transport animals which come under the Act (listed in its Schedule)
- ***The Animal Welfare Act 2006*** places a duty of care on owners and handlers of animals to protect all aspects of their health and welfare
- ***The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018*** places a duty for animals involved in a 'performance' to be licensed.
- ***The Movement of Animals (Restrictions) (England) Order 2002*** - used to control and record the movement of animals in order to protect animal health, welfare, and for public safety.
- ***Zoo Licensing Act 1981*** is the primary legislation that regulates the operation of zoos to ensure animal welfare, public safety, conservation, and education standards are met.

3 Licensing Requirements

3.1 Small, domesticated animals – not licenced under the DWA

- Contributors who bring their own pets do not require a specific licence for filming, provided the animal does not require a licence to own and is not kept as part of a licensed activity or business.
- For small, domesticated animals from a business such as a pet shop, the owner must hold the relevant licence under the *Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations* issued by the Local Authority.
- Licensed animal handlers should have a licence under the *Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations* issued by the Local Authority. This will state the type and number of animals the handler is permitted to handle.

3.2 Small animals – licenced under the *DWA*

- If the animal required is listed within the *DWA*, ensure that the handler has a *DWA* licence with appropriate conditions i.e. to keep, display and transport the animal(s) in question as needed.

3.3 Zoo Animals – licenced under the *Zoo Licensing Act 1981*

- A Zoo Licence is issued by the Local Authority and will cover any movements or transfers of animals between locations that are part of the licensed operation and are governed by the *Zoo Licensing Act* and its specific conditions.
- A zoo includes any establishment where wild animals are kept for exhibition to the public.

3.4 Livestock/Farm animals

Certain animals from farms, small-holdings, sanctuaries and other similar premises are subject to strict controls regarding the movement of animals for the purposes of disease control.

3.4.1 Premises must hold a County Parish Holding (CPH) number for land and buildings used to keep the following livestock for any purpose:

- cattle, bison and buffalo (bovine animals)
- pigs
- goats
- sheep
- deer
- poultry (if there are 50 or more)

For holders of 49 or less poultry the owner must register with Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

3.4.2 Animal Movement Orders aid traceability in disease control (e.g., foot-and-mouth, bluetongue) and maintaining biosecurity in the agricultural sector. Keeping accurate records of where livestock move helps authorities respond to outbreaks and protect both animal and public health. They apply to the following livestock:

- Cattle
- Pigs
- Sheep
- Goats
- Deer (farm-reared)

The movement of sheep, deer and goats is reported via the Livestock Information Service (LIS)

The movement of cattle is reported via the Cattle Movement Service (BCMS)

The movement of pigs is reported by obtaining an AML2 licence

3.4.3 During a disease outbreak in the UK and/or internationally, restrictions may be placed on animal movements, and animals that would not normally require a movement licence may become subject to one (an example of this would be chickens during an outbreak of bird flu). In such an event, premises registered with the relevant governing body will be automatically notified along with any restrictions to be applied.

3.5 Licences, Insurance and Compliance

The Resource Manager must notify the BBC Studioworks Estate Manager as soon as they become aware that a production intends to bring an animal onto site, in order to verify the required documentation and confirm any specific health and safety considerations. All licences, movement orders and risk assessments must be submitted to the Estate Manager so they can be stored centrally for record-keeping purposes.

It is the handler's responsibility to obtain the relevant licence(s) and movement orders and notify the local authorities or government bodies via official reporting systems, as detailed in section 3.4.2 above, where applicable.

Any licences submitted must be checked to ensure they are valid and in date and that the handler has appropriate professional indemnity insurance, in case the animal was to cause harm to anyone. Once engaged, it is the handler's responsibility to provide an animal which is both fit and well, disease-free and of a temperament or properly contained/restrained as to be able to provide a safe performance.

4 Risk Assessment

4.1 Handler's (Animal Expert) Risk Assessment

Productions should provide a suitable and sufficient risk assessment to cover the handling of any animal on a BBC Studioworks site, both for the filming area and its holding area prior to any performance. The animal handler (animal expert) is best placed to understand the animal's behaviour, welfare requirements and any dangers it may pose and should provide a risk assessment to include the following:

- risks the animal poses to others;
- welfare requirements for the animal;
- containment required;
- first aid arrangements required in event of bite/sting;
- personal protective equipment required;
- how it may be safely filmed
(for example, this may include shooting through a screen to protect the camera operator).

4.2 Production Risk Assessment

The handler's risk assessment should be suitably incorporated into the production risk assessment. Key areas that should be covered include:

4.2.1 Scope of activity

The scope of the activity must detail and provide control measures for the intended use of the animal, including who will handle it (for example, presenters or children), and confirm that all handlers are suitable and able to follow the animal expert's instructions, taking into account any phobias or other factors that may affect safe handling. It must also identify whether a familiarisation period is required prior to handling. Any location specific risks must be assessed, including access restrictions, travel distance, and whether overnight accommodation is required for the handler and animal.

4.2.2 Holding Area

Productions must, in agreement with the Resource Manager, designate a suitable location for holding any animals prior to appearing in the filming location. The handler's risk assessment should help define the measures needed to safeguard the welfare of the animal. This will include such factors as: the air temperature, presence of unusual stimuli for the animal such as bright lights and loud noises, the time it is on display or handled, and access to food/water.

4.2.3 Hygiene and Allergies

Prior to the animal coming onto site, the production must check that no-one in the team who may handle it has an allergy to the animal or its venom.

Where contact with the animal or its droppings/urine presents risks associated with viral or bacterial infection, ensure all crew observe strict hygiene practices before eating, drinking or smoking i.e. thoroughly washing skin surfaces with antibacterial soaps/gels. Also, any droppings/urine or other material associated with the animal must be thoroughly cleaned up. The production must detail who will carry this out and how it will be done safely.

4.2.4 Safety Briefing

A Safety Briefing should be given by the handler prior to the animal being displayed or handled. It should cover all the key points of the risk assessment. Ensure the production team and, if necessary, any audience or members of the public who are present, are advised on what they should and should not do to prevent stressing or alarming the animal, including avoidance of loud noises, bright lights or sudden movements.

4.2.5 Accidents

The unpredictable nature of some animals mean that they can get spooked or feel threatened and strike out. Adequate first aid arrangements must be put in place - for some particularly venomous animals, this may mean knowing which hospital a casualty should be taken to for specialised anti-venom treatment, or arranging for this treatment option to be available at a more local hospital.

4.2.6 Animal Escape

There must be an emergency plan including clear lines of communication in case the animal escapes. If the animal is particularly dangerous, this may include evacuating the venue (without causing panic) and/or notifying the police.