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ANIMALS AND BIRDS ACT 1965

ANIMALS AND BIRDS
(LICENSING AND CONTROL OF CATS AND DOGS)
RULES 2024

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In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 59 and 80 of the Animals and Birds Act 1965, the Minister for National Development makes the following Rules:

PART 1
GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules are the Animals and Birds (Licensing and Control of Cats and Dogs) Rules 2024 and come into operation on 1 September 2024.

Definitions

2. In these Rules —

“animal infirmary” means any veterinary centre licensed under section 54 of the Act, or any premises designated by the Director-General to be used for the keeping or treatment of animals;

“keep”, in relation to the keeping of a cat or dog as a pet, includes the keeping of the cat or dog for the purpose of fostering, or arranging for the adoption of, the cat or dog;

“licence” means a licence issued by the Director-General under these Rules, and includes a licence issued under the revoked Rules which is valid under these Rules;

“licence fee” means the fee mentioned in rule 15;

“licensed animal” means —

(a) a cat in respect of which a licence is issued under these Rules; or

(b) a dog in respect of which a licence is issued under these Rules or the revoked Rules;

“licensed breeding premises” means any premises for the purpose of breeding cats or dogs for reward that is used in accordance with a licence issued or treated as issued under rule 4 of the Animals and Birds (Licensing of Premises for Pet Shop and Other Purposes) Rules (R 2);

“licensed pet shop” means any premises used as a pet shop in accordance with a licence issued or treated as issued under

rule 4 of the Animals and Birds (Licensing of Premises for Pet Shop and Other Purposes) Rules;

“licensed premises” means any licensed breeding premises or licensed pet shop;

“licensee” includes a transferee who is issued a licence under rule 5(5)(a);

“microchip” means a microchip that conforms with the standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO);

“periodic licence”, in respect of a cat or dog, means a licence with a validity period of one year, 2 years or 3 years;

“perpetual licence”, in respect of a cat or dog, means a licence that is valid for the lifetime of the cat or dog (as the case may be) unless the licence is earlier revoked or cancelled;

“revoked Rules” means the Animals and Birds (Dog Licensing and Control) Rules (R 1) as in force immediately before 1 September 2024;

“specified course on pet ownership” means the course at the Internet website accessible at <https://go.gov.sg/petownershipcourse>;

“specified dog” means a dog of any breed specified in the First Schedule.

PART 2

LICENSING OF CATS AND DOGS

Division 1 — Keeping of cats and dogs as pets

Restrictions on keeping of cats and dogs as pets in any premises

3.—(1) Subject to the requirement for a licence in paragraph (2), and paragraph (3), a person is only permitted to keep as pets in any premises —

(a) up to 3 cats (without any dog);

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- (b) up to 3 dogs (without any cat), of which only one dog is permitted to be a specified dog; or
 - (c) cats and dogs, the aggregate of which must not exceed 3, and of which only one dog is permitted to be a specified dog.

(2) A person must not keep any cat or dog as a pet in any premises unless the person has a licence which permits the keeping of the cat or dog (as the case may be) in the premises.

(3) The Director-General may, in any particular case, issue, vary or renew a licence under these Rules in respect of a cat or dog which permits the licensee to keep that cat or dog in any premises in excess of any restriction specified in paragraph (1).

(4) This rule does not affect any prohibition or restriction in relation to the keeping of a cat or dog in any premises that is imposed —

- (a) by or under the authority of the Housing and Development Act 1959, the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act 2004 or any other written law; or
- (b) by or under any agreement or licence relating to the use of the premises.

Application for and issue of licence

4.—(1) A person who intends to keep a cat or dog as a pet in any premises must submit an application for a licence in accordance with this rule.

(2) The application under paragraph (1) —

- (a) in the case where the cat or dog (as the case may be) is sterilised — may be for a perpetual licence or a periodic licence; or
- (b) in any other case — must be for a periodic licence.

(3) The application must be —

- (a) made to the Director-General and in the form and manner required by the Director-General; and

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- (b) accompanied by —
- (i) proof that the cat or dog (as the case may be) is implanted with a microchip; and
 - (ii) the particulars, information and documents required by the Director-General.
- (4) The application must also be accompanied by proof that the applicant has successfully completed the specified course on pet ownership if —
- (a) in the case of an application for a licence in respect of a cat —
 - (i) the application is the applicant's first application for a licence in respect of a cat under these Rules; and
 - (ii) the applicant has not, at any time before the application, applied for a licence in respect of a dog under these Rules; or
 - (b) in the case of an application for a licence in respect of a dog —
 - (i) the application is the applicant's first application for a licence in respect of a dog under these Rules;
 - (ii) the applicant has not, at any time before the application, applied for a licence in respect of a cat under these Rules; and
 - (iii) the applicant —
 - (A) does not hold at the time of the application; and
 - (B) has not held at any time before the application, a licence in respect of any dog issued under the revoked Rules.
- (5) The Director-General may, before deciding on the application, require the applicant (not being an applicant to whom paragraph (4) applies) to —
- (a) undergo the specified course on pet ownership in relation to the application (whether or not the applicant has

previously completed the course in relation to any previous application under these Rules); and

- (b) provide (within the time the Director-General requires) proof that the applicant has successfully completed the course.

(6) The Director-General may —

- (a) on payment of the appropriate licence fee, issue a licence permitting the applicant to keep the cat or dog (as the case may be) in the premises and for the duration specified in the licence; or
- (b) refuse the application.

(7) If the Director-General refuses the application under paragraph (6)(b), the Director-General must, if requested to do so by the applicant, state in writing the reasons for the refusal.

Transfer of licence

5.—(1) A licensee (called in this Part the transferor) may apply to transfer to another person (called in this Part the transferee) a licence in respect of a cat or dog which permits the keeping of the cat or dog (as the case may be) as a pet.

(2) An application under paragraph (1) (called in this Part the transfer application) must be —

- (a) made to the Director-General in the form and manner required by the Director-General; and
- (b) accompanied by the particulars, information and documents required by the Director-General.

(3) The application must also be accompanied by proof that the transferee has successfully completed the specified course on pet ownership if —

- (a) in the case of a transfer application in respect of a cat, the transferee has not, at any time before the application, applied for a licence in respect of a dog under these Rules; or

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- (b) in the case of a transfer application in respect of a dog —
- (i) the transferee has not, at any time before the application, applied for a licence in respect of a cat under these Rules; and
 - (ii) the transferee —
 - (A) does not hold at the time of the application; and
 - (B) has not held at any time before the application, a licence in respect of any dog issued under the revoked Rules.
- (4) The Director-General may, before deciding on the transfer application, require the transferee (not being a transferee to which paragraph (3) applies) to —
- (a) undergo the specified course on pet ownership in relation to the transfer application (whether or not the transferee has previously completed the course in relation to any previous application under these Rules); and
 - (b) provide proof (within the time the Director-General requires) that the transferee has successfully completed the course.
- (5) The Director-General may —
- (a) subject to paragraphs (6), (7) and (8), approve the transfer application by issuing to the transferee a licence permitting the transferee to keep the cat or dog (as the case may be) in the premises and for the duration specified in the licence; or
 - (b) refuse the application.
- (6) A licence issued to the transferee under paragraph (5)(a) in respect of the cat or dog (as the case may be) is —
- (a) where a perpetual licence is held by the transferor in respect of the cat or dog (as the case may be) — a perpetual licence; or

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- (b) in any other case — valid for the remaining duration of the licence held by the transferor in respect of the cat or dog, as the case may be.

(7) The issue of a licence under paragraph (5)(a) to the transferee is not subject to the payment of a licence fee, except for the case specified in paragraph (8).

(8) The issue of a licence under paragraph (5)(a) to the transferee in respect of a cat or dog (*X*) is subject to the transferee paying the appropriate licence fee to the Director-General if, at the time of the transfer application —

- (a) the transferor is holding a perpetual licence in respect of *X*;
and
- (b) the transferee keeps at the premises at which *X* is to be kept (if the transfer application is successful) —
- (i) 3 or more cats (without any dog);
 - (ii) 3 or more dogs (without any cat); or
 - (iii) cats and dogs, the aggregate of which is 3 or more.

Conversion to perpetual licence — sterilised cats

6.—(1) If —

- (a) a licence with a validity period of 3 years is issued in respect of an unsterilised cat, which permits the keeping of the cat as a pet;
- (b) the cat is sterilised before the expiry of the licence; and
- (c) the licensee provides, before the expiry of the licence, evidence of the sterilisation, in the form and manner required by the Director-General,

the licence is converted to a perpetual licence with effect from the date on which the licensee provides the evidence of the sterilisation in accordance with sub-paragraph (c).

(2) If —

- (a) a licence with a validity period of 3 years is issued in respect of an unsterilised cat (*X*), which permits the keeping of *X* as a pet;
- (b) a transfer application in respect of the licence is made in accordance with rule 5, and a licence in respect of *X* is issued to the transferee under rule 5(5)(a);
- (c) the transferee, at the time of the transfer application, keeps at the premises at which *X* is to be kept (if the transfer application is successful) —
 - (i) not more than 2 cats (without any dog);
 - (ii) not more than 2 dogs (without any cat); or
 - (iii) a cat and a dog;
- (d) *X* is sterilised before the expiry of the licence issued to the transferee; and
- (e) the transferee provides, before the expiry of the licence issued to the transferee, evidence of the sterilisation, in the form and manner required by the Director-General,

the licence is converted to a perpetual licence with effect from the date on which the transferee provides the evidence of the sterilisation in accordance with sub-paragraph (e).

(3) If —

- (a) a licence with a validity period of one year or 2 years is issued in respect of an unsterilised cat before 1 September 2026, which permits the keeping of the cat as a pet;
- (b) the cat is sterilised before 1 September 2026; and
- (c) the licensee provides, before 1 September 2026, evidence of the sterilisation, in the form and manner required by the Director-General,

the licence is converted to a perpetual licence with effect from the date on which the licensee provides the evidence of the sterilisation in accordance with sub-paragraph (c).

(4) If —

- (a) a licence with a validity period of one year or 2 years is issued in respect of an unsterilised cat (*Y*), which permits the keeping of *Y* as a pet;
- (b) a transfer application in respect of the licence is made in accordance with rule 5, and a licence in respect of *Y* is issued to the transferee under rule 5(5)(a), before 1 September 2026;
- (c) *Y* is sterilised before 1 September 2026; and
- (d) the transferee provides, before 1 September 2026, evidence of the sterilisation, in the form and manner required by the Director-General,

the licence is converted to a perpetual licence with effect from the date on which the transferee provides the evidence of the sterilisation in accordance with sub-paragraph (d).

Conversion to perpetual licence — sterilised dogs

7.—(1) If —

- (a) a licence with a validity period of 3 years is issued in respect of an unsterilised dog on or after 1 September 2024, which permits the keeping of the dog as a pet;
- (b) the dog is sterilised before the expiry of the licence; and
- (c) the licensee provides, before the expiry of the licence, evidence of the sterilisation, in the form and manner required by the Director-General,

the licence is converted to a perpetual licence with effect from the date on which the licensee provides the evidence of the sterilisation in accordance with sub-paragraph (c).

(2) If —

- (a) a licence with a validity period of 3 years is issued in respect of an unsterilised dog (*A*) on or after 1 September 2024, which permits the keeping of *A* as a pet;

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- (b) a transfer application in respect of the licence is made in accordance with rule 5, and a licence in respect of *A* is issued by the Director-General to the transferee under rule 5(5)(a);
 - (c) the transferee, at the time of the transfer application, keeps at the premises at which *A* is to be kept (if the transfer application is successful) —
 - (i) not more than 2 cats (without any dog);
 - (ii) not more than 2 dogs (without any cat); or
 - (iii) a cat and a dog;
 - (d) *A* is sterilised before the expiry of the licence issued to the transferee; and
 - (e) the transferee provides, before the expiry of the licence issued to the transferee, evidence of the sterilisation, in the form and manner required by the Director-General,

the licence is converted to a perpetual licence with effect from the date on which the transferee provides the evidence of the sterilisation in accordance with sub-paragraph (e).

(3) If —

- (a) a licence with a validity period of 3 years is issued in respect of an unsterilised dog under the revoked Rules;
- (b) the licence is valid under these Rules;
- (c) the dog is sterilised (whether before, on or after 1 September 2024) before the expiry of the licence; and
- (d) the licensee provides, on or after 1 September 2024 but before the expiry of the licence, evidence of the sterilisation, in the form and manner required by the Director-General,

the licence is converted to a perpetual licence with effect from the date on which the licensee provides the evidence of the sterilisation in accordance with sub-paragraph (d).

(4) If —

- (a) a licence with a validity period of 3 years is issued in respect of an unsterilised dog (*B*) under the revoked Rules and the licence is valid under these Rules;
- (b) a transfer application in respect of the licence is made in accordance with rule 5, and a licence in respect of *B* is issued to the transferee under rule 5(5)(a);
- (c) the transferee, at the time of the transfer application, keeps at the premises at which *B* is to be kept (if the transfer application is successful) —
 - (i) not more than 2 cats (without any dog);
 - (ii) not more than 2 dogs (without any cat); or
 - (iii) a cat and a dog;
- (d) *B* is sterilised before the expiry of the licence issued to the transferee; and
- (e) the transferee provides, before the expiry of the licence issued to the transferee, evidence of the sterilisation, in the form and manner required by the Director-General,

the licence is converted to a perpetual licence with effect from the date on which the transferee provides the evidence of the sterilisation in accordance with sub-paragraph (e).

Renewal and cancellation of licence, etc.

8.—(1) Except where paragraph (2) applies, a licensee must, before the expiry of a licence issued under rule 5(5)(a) (or treated as issued under these Rules) in respect of a licensed animal, renew the licence by —

- (a) paying to the Director-General the appropriate licence fee; and
- (b) providing to the Director-General the particulars, information and documents required by the Director-General.

(2) If a licensed animal —

- (a) has died or is missing; or
- (b) is no longer being kept by the licensee for any other reason,

the licensee must, within the time specified in the licence conditions, notify the Director-General.

(3) If paragraph (2)(b) applies in respect of a licensed animal, the licensee must also provide to the Director-General the particulars of the person who is keeping the licensed animal.

(4) A licence issued under rule 5(5)(a) (or treated as issued under these Rules) in respect of a licensed animal is cancelled —

- (a) where the licensee informs under paragraph (2)(a) that the licensed animal has died or is missing — upon the licensee providing documentary proof of that fact under that provision; or
- (b) where the licensee informs under paragraph (2)(b) that the licensee is no longer keeping the licensed animal for any other reason — when the licensed animal becomes the subject of another licence issued under these Rules.

Licensee's obligations for dog

9.—(1) A licensee with a licence for a dog must not allow the dog to be in a public place unless, at all times —

- (a) the dog is kept on a leash; and
- (b) the dog is securely fitted with a muzzle that is sufficient to prevent the dog from biting any individual if —
 - (i) the dog is a specified dog; or
 - (ii) in the case of any other dog — a licence condition requires the dog to be fitted with a muzzle when the dog is in a public place.

(2) A licensee with a licence for a specified dog which is of any breed of dogs specified in Part 1 of the First Schedule must, within the period specified in the licence conditions —

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- (a) if the dog is above 6 months of age — have the dog sterilised;
 - (b) have in force a policy of insurance approved by the Director-General for an amount of not less than \$100,000 to cover any injury to individuals or animals, or damage to property, that may be caused by the dog;
 - (c) provide to the Director-General security in the form of a banker's guarantee for \$5,000; and
 - (d) subject the dog to undergo applicable training.

(3) A licensee with a licence for a specified dog which is of any breed of dogs specified in Part 2 of the First Schedule must, within the period specified in the licence conditions —

- (a) have in force a policy of insurance approved by the Director-General for an amount of not less than \$100,000 to cover any injury to individuals or animals, or damage to property, that may be caused by the dog;
- (b) provide to the Director-General security in the form of a banker's guarantee for \$2,000; and
- (c) subject the dog to undergo applicable training.

(4) Paragraph (2)(d) or (3)(c) does not apply in respect of a specified dog if the licence in respect of the dog is issued under the revoked Rules before 15 November 2010.

(5) The Director-General may forfeit the security provided by a licensee under paragraph (2)(c) or (3)(b) in respect of a specified dog if —

- (a) the licensee contravenes any requirement in paragraph (1)(a) or (b)(i); or
- (b) the dog is reported as missing.

(6) The Director-General may give a direction to any licensee who is permitted to keep any dog that is not a specified dog to comply with all or any of the requirements specified in paragraph (2) or (3)(b).

(7) For the purposes of paragraph (6), a reference to a specified dog in paragraphs (2) and (3) is a reference to the dog mentioned in paragraph (6).

(8) A licensee who is given a direction by the Director-General under paragraph (6) must comply with the direction within the period specified in the direction.

(9) If a licensee is given a direction under paragraph (6) to provide security to the Director-General, the Director-General may forfeit the security if —

(a) the licensee contravenes any requirement in paragraph (1)(a) or (b)(ii); or

(b) the dog is reported as missing.

(10) In this rule, “applicable training” means any type of training regimen specified by the Director-General and set out at the Internet website accessible at <https://go.gov.sg/dogtraining>.

Division 2 — Keeping of cats and dogs for purpose of breeding or sale

Restrictions on keeping of cats and dogs for purpose of breeding or sale

10. A person must not keep any cat or dog, any number of cats or dogs, or any number of cats and dogs, in any premises for the purpose of breeding or sale, unless —

(a) the premises are licensed premises; and

(b) the person has a licence which permits the person to do so.

Application for and issue of licence

11.—(1) An application for a licence mentioned in rule 10(b) must be —

(a) made to the Director-General and in the form and manner required by the Director-General; and

(b) accompanied by the particulars, information and documents required by the Director-General.

(2) On receipt of an application under paragraph (1), the Director-General may —

(a) on payment of the appropriate licence fee, issue a licence to the applicant permitting the keeping, in the licensed premises specified in the licence, of not more than the maximum number of cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, specified in the licence; or

(b) refuse the application.

(3) The licence issued by the Director-General under paragraph (2)(a) is valid for the duration specified in the licence.

(4) If the Director-General refuses the application under paragraph (2)(b), the Director-General must, if requested to do so by the applicant, state in writing the reasons for the refusal.

Licensee's obligations

12.—(1) This rule applies to and in relation to a licensee that holds a licence issued under rule 11(2)(a).

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), a licensee with a licence that permits the keeping of cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, in any licensed premises for the purpose of sale must not, at any point in time, keep in the licensed premises for that purpose —

(a) more than 200 cats (if the premises does not have any dog);

(b) more than 200 dogs (if the premises does not have any cat);
or

(c) more than 200 cats and dogs.

(3) Paragraph (2) does not allow the licensee to keep cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, in excess of the maximum number of cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, permitted by the licence to be kept in the licensed premises for the purpose of sale.

(4) The licensee must ensure that each cat or dog kept in the licensed premises is implanted with a microchip.

(5) The licensee must notify the Director-General of any change in the particulars of the cats or dogs included in the licence within 14 days after the occurrence of the change.

(6) Without limiting paragraph (5), the licensee must notify the Director-General that any cat or dog included in the licence —

(a) has died or is missing; or

(b) is no longer being kept by the licensee for any other reason.

(7) Paragraph (5) does not apply to any change of address of the licensed premises.

(8) After considering the change mentioned in paragraph (5) and any additional information provided by the licensee under paragraph (11), the Director-General may update the particulars of the cats or dogs included in the licence.

(9) If the number of cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, kept in any licensed premises exceeds the maximum number of cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, permitted by the licence to be kept in the licensed premises, the licensee must apply to the Director-General to vary the licence within 14 days after the occurrence of the change.

(10) After considering an application under paragraph (9) and any additional information provided by the licensee under paragraph (11), the Director-General may vary the licence issued to the licensee in relation to the licensed premises, subject to the payment of an additional fee by the licensee, the amount of which is —

(a) the difference between the licence fee paid for the licence to be varied and the licence fee which would be payable if a new licence were to be issued in respect of the number of cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, kept at the licensed premises after the change mentioned in paragraph (9); and

(b) adjusted pro-rata according to the proportion that the remaining validity period (rounded to the nearest month) of the licence to be varied bears to the total validity period of that licence.

(11) The Director-General may, in relation to a notification under paragraph (5) or an application under paragraph (9), require the

licensee to provide any additional information the Director-General requires.

Renewal of licence

13. A licensee that holds a licence issued under rule 11(2)(a) may renew the licence before the expiry of the licence by —

- (a) paying to the Director-General the appropriate licence fee; and
- (b) providing to the Director-General the particulars, information and documents required by the Director-General.

Division 3 — Miscellaneous

Licence conditions

14.—(1) The Director-General may issue, renew or vary a licence under these Rules subject to any condition that the Director-General thinks fit.

(2) The Director-General may, at any time, vary, substitute or revoke any existing condition of a licence or impose any new condition.

(3) A licensee must comply with any condition of the licence.

Licence fees

15.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the licence fee payable for the issue of a licence, or renewal of a licence issued, under rule 4(6)(a), or rule 5(5)(a) read with rule 5(8), to keep a cat or dog as a pet in any premises is specified in Part 1 of the Second Schedule.

(2) The licence fee payable during the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026 (both dates inclusive) for the issue of a licence under rule 4(6)(a), or rule 5(5)(a) read with rule 5(8), to keep a cat as a pet in any premises is specified in Part 2 of the Second Schedule.

(3) The licence fee payable for the issue of a licence, or renewal of a licence issued, under rule 11(2)(a) to keep any cat or dog, any number

of cats or dogs, or any number of cats and dogs, in any licensed breeding premises for the purpose of breeding is specified in Part 3 of the Second Schedule.

(4) The licence fee payable for the issue of a licence, or renewal of a licence issued, under rule 11(2)(a) to keep any cat or dog, any number of cats or dogs, or any number of cats and dogs, in any licensed premises for the purpose of sale is specified in Part 4 of the Second Schedule.

(5) The Director-General may, in any particular case, waive or refund, wholly or in part, any licence fee payable or paid under these Rules.

Change of premises where cats and dogs kept, etc.

16.—(1) In the case of a licence which permits the keeping of any cat or dog as a pet in any premises, the licensee must not keep the animal, or cause or permit the animal to be kept, in any other premises (except an animal infirmary) for a period longer than the time specified in the licence conditions, without the prior written approval of the Director-General.

(2) If the cat or dog mentioned in paragraph (1) is kept in an animal infirmary for a period longer than the time specified in the licence conditions, the licensee must, as soon as it is practicable to do so, inform the Director-General.

(3) In the case of a licence which permits the keeping of any cat or dog, any number of cats or dogs, or any number of cats and dogs, in any licensed premises for the purpose of breeding or sale, the licensee must not keep any cat or dog included in the licence in any other licensed premises for the purpose of breeding or sale without the prior written approval of the Director-General.

(4) The licensee mentioned in paragraph (1) or (3) must apply, in writing and within the time specified in the licence conditions, to the Director-General for approval of the change of the premises specified in the licence for the keeping of the cat or dog, as the case may be.

(5) Where the Director-General refuses to approve the change of premises under paragraph (4), the Director-General must, if requested to do so by the licensee, state in writing the reasons for the refusal.

Change of licensee's address

17.—(1) A licensee must inform the Director-General in writing of any change in the licensee's address as stated in the licence within 28 days after the change.

(2) Where the licensee's address stated in the licence is the licensee's residential address, and the licensee has made a report of the change of his or her residential address under section 10 of the National Registration Act 1965, the licensee is deemed to have complied with paragraph (1) in respect of the change in the licensee's residential address.

Revocation of licence

18.—(1) If a licence which permits the keeping of any cat or dog as a pet in any premises, is revoked under section 62 of the Act, the licensee must, within 7 days after the date on which the revocation takes effect —

- (a) surrender to the Director-General the cat or dog to which the licence relates; or
- (b) with the prior written approval of the Director-General, transfer the custody of the cat or dog to another person.

(2) If a licence which permits the keeping of any cat or dog, any number of cats or dogs, or any number of cats and dogs, in any licensed premises for the purpose of breeding or sale, is revoked under section 62 of the Act, the licensee must, within 7 days after the date on which the revocation takes effect —

- (a) surrender to the Director-General any cat or dog included in the licence; or
- (b) with the prior written approval of the Director-General, transfer the custody of the cat or dog to another person.

(3) If a licensee fails to comply with paragraph (1) or (2), the Director-General may impound any cat or dog mentioned in that paragraph and dispose of it in any manner the Director-General thinks fit.

PART 3

CONTROL OF CATS AND DOGS

Definition of this Part

19. In this Part, “owner”, in relation to a cat or dog, has the meaning given by section 41 of the Act and includes an owner of a cat or dog which is not a licensed animal.

Protection of cat or dog

20. The owner of a cat or dog must take reasonable steps —

- (a) to ensure that the cat or dog (as the case may be) is kept in a safe environment that minimises the risk of death or serious injury to the cat or dog (as the case may be);
- (b) to prevent the cat or dog (as the case may be) from being in any place which exposes the cat or dog (as the case may be) to the risk of falling from height (whether from within the premises where it is kept by the owner or elsewhere); and
- (c) to prevent the cat or dog (as the case may be) from leaving the premises where it is kept by the owner, except under the physical control of the owner or any individual permitted by the owner to have control of the cat or dog, as the case may be.

Bite cases

21.—(1) If an individual makes a report to the Director-General that he or she was bitten by a cat or dog, the Director-General may require the individual to provide a medical report relating to his or her injury for the purposes of investigation.

(2) If an individual makes a report to the Director-General that an animal belonging to the individual, or under the individual’s charge or

care, was bitten by a cat or dog, the Director-General may require the individual to provide a veterinary report relating to the animal's injury for the purposes of investigation.

(3) The Director-General or an authorised officer may, by written notice, direct the owner of any cat or dog that is reasonably believed to have bitten any individual or another animal to deliver to an authorised examiner at the time and place specified in the notice —

- (a) the cat or dog, as the case may be; and
- (b) the whole or any sample of any article or substance which has been in contact with that cat or dog.

(4) The Director-General may, having regard to all the circumstances of the case and the severity of the injury caused to any individual or animal as a result of being bitten by a cat or dog, direct the owner of the cat or dog involved —

- (a) to secure the premises where the cat or dog (as the case may be) is kept by the owner, and prevent the cat or dog (as the case may be) from leaving the premises except under the physical control of the owner or any individual permitted by the owner to have control of the cat or dog (as the case may be); and
- (b) in the case of a dog, to comply with all or any of the requirements specified in rule 9(2) or (3)(b).

(5) The owner of a cat or dog who is given a direction under paragraph (3) or (4) must comply with that direction.

(6) If the owner is given a direction under paragraph (4)(b) to provide to the Director-General security under rule 9(2)(c) or (3)(b) in respect of a dog, the Director-General may forfeit the security provided if —

- (a) the owner contravenes any requirement in rule 9(1)(a) or (b)(ii); or
- (b) the dog is reported as missing.

(7) For the purposes of paragraphs (4)(b) and (6), a reference in rule 9(2) and (3) —

-
-
- (a) to a licensee is a reference to the owner of the dog mentioned in paragraph (4); and
 - (b) to a specified dog is a reference to the dog mentioned in paragraph (4).
- (8) This rule applies to —
- (a) cases of a cat bite occurring on or after 1 September 2024; and
 - (b) cases of a dog bite occurring before, on or after 1 September 2024.

Cat or dog at large, etc.

22.—(1) A cat (whether or not licensed) may be seized, impounded, destroyed or otherwise dealt with in any manner that the Director-General thinks fit if the cat —

- (a) is found at large; or
- (b) is found in a public place other than under the physical control of the individual in charge of the cat at the time.

(2) A dog (whether or not licensed) may be seized, impounded, destroyed or otherwise dealt with in any manner that the Director-General thinks fit if —

- (a) the dog is found at large;
- (b) the dog is found in a public place other than on a leash and under the control of the individual in charge of the dog at the time; or
- (c) where the dog is —
 - (i) a specified dog; or
 - (ii) a dog (other than a specified dog) in respect of which the Director-General has imposed a licence condition requiring the dog to be fitted with a muzzle when the dog is in a public place,

the dog is found in a public place without being securely fitted with a muzzle sufficient to prevent the dog from biting any individual.

(3) The owner of —

- (a) any cat that is found under any situation mentioned in paragraph (1)(a) or (b); or
- (b) any dog that is found under any situation mentioned in paragraph (2)(a) or (b),

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

(4) The owner of any dog that is found under the situation mentioned in paragraph (2)(c) (unless this is an offence under rule 9(1) read with rule 27) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 and, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000.

Examination or observation of cat or dog

23.—(1) The Director-General may give a direction to the owner of a cat or dog to produce the cat or dog for examination or observation at an animal infirmary within 7 days after the date the direction was given.

(2) The owner of a cat or dog who is given a direction by the Director-General under paragraph (1) must comply with the direction.

(3) If the owner mentioned in paragraph (1) does not comply with a direction given under that paragraph, the Director-General may impound the cat or dog (as the case may be), and produce the cat or dog (as the case may be) for examination or observation at an animal infirmary.

(4) A cat or dog produced for examination or observation at an animal infirmary may be —

- (a) treated as needed or until the cat or dog (as the case may be) is cured;
- (b) subject to paragraph (5), released to its owner after treatment, if any; or
- (c) destroyed at the Director-General's discretion, if the veterinary surgeon attending to the cat or dog considers

its condition to be incurable or that the keeping of the cat or dog entails suffering amounting to cruelty to the cat or dog.

(5) If a cat or dog is impounded by the Director-General under paragraph (3), the Director-General may, instead of releasing the cat or dog (as the case may be) to its owner under paragraph (4)(b), dispose of it in any manner the Director-General thinks fit.

Treatment of cat or dog

24.—(1) A cat or dog that is found to be, or is suspected to be, suffering from any injury or is in poor physical condition —

(a) may be impounded and taken to an animal infirmary; and

(b) may be —

(i) treated in the animal infirmary as needed or until cured and released to its owner after treatment; or

(ii) destroyed at once, or at any time while under treatment in the animal infirmary.

(2) A cat or dog may be impounded at any animal infirmary or police station and detained at that place pending the Director-General's instructions if —

(a) the cat or dog is suffering from any injury or is in poor physical condition; and

(b) its owner is not known or cannot after reasonable efforts be ascertained.

Release of seized or impounded cat or dog

25.—(1) A cat or dog that has been seized or impounded under these Rules may, at the Director-General's discretion, be released to its owner.

(2) The Director-General may notify the owner by writing to the owner's last known address to claim a cat or dog seized or impounded under these Rules.

(3) If the owner of a cat or dog that has been seized or impounded under these Rules fails to claim the cat or dog within the period (which must be not less than 7 days) stipulated in the notice

mentioned in paragraph (2), the Director-General may dispose of the cat or dog as he or she thinks fit.

(4) The owner of a cat or dog seized or impounded under these Rules is liable to pay all expenses for the treatment, feeding and caring of the cat or dog, and any other expenses reasonably incurred by the Director-General.

(5) The Director-General may require the owner of a cat or dog seized or impounded under these Rules to pay the expenses mentioned in paragraph (4) before the cat or dog (as the case may be) is released to the owner under paragraph (1).

Removal of stray cats or dogs from premises

26.—(1) The Director-General may give a direction to the owner of any premises —

- (a) to remove any stray cat or dog found in the premises; and
- (b) to take such measures as may be necessary to prevent any stray cat or dog from entering, or having shelter or breeding in, the premises.

(2) The owner of any premises who is given a direction by the Director-General under paragraph (1) must comply with the direction.

(3) In this rule —

“owner” has the meaning given by section 2(1) of the Building Maintenance and Strata Management Act 2004, and includes any person for the time being in occupation of any premises;

“premises” does not include any housing estate built on any land vested in or held in trust for the Housing and Development Board established under the Housing and Development Act 1959.

PART 4
MISCELLANEOUS

Offence

27. A person who contravenes rule 3(2), 8(2) or (3), 9(1), (2), (3) or (8), 10, 12(4) or (5), 14(3), 16(1) or (3), 17(1), 18(1) or (2), 20, 21(5), 23(2) or 26(2) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000.

Revocation

28. Revoke the Animals and Birds (Dog Licensing and Control) Rules (R 1).

Transitional provisions — cats kept as pets

29.—(1) Rule 3(1) does not apply in respect of any cat which a person keeps as a pet in any premises in excess of the restrictions specified in that rule (being a cat which the person kept immediately before 1 September 2024) —

(a) until 1 September 2026; or

(b) if the person obtains, before 1 September 2026, a licence in respect of that cat — for so long as the licence is not revoked or cancelled, or is renewed and is not subsequently revoked or cancelled.

(2) Rule 3(2) does not apply to a person during the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026 (both dates inclusive) in respect of any cat which the person keeps as a pet during that period in any premises.

(3) Rule 5(8) does not apply in relation to the issue of a licence under rule 5(5)(a) to a transferee in respect of any cat if the transfer application in relation to the cat is made during the period from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026, both dates inclusive.

Transitional provisions — cats kept for purpose of breeding or sale

30. Rule 10 does not apply to a person during the period from 1 September 2024 to 28 February 2025 (both dates inclusive) in relation to the keeping of any cat (whether or not in combination with any dog) in any licensed premises for the purpose of breeding or sale.

Saving and transitional provisions — dogs kept as pets

31.—(1) Despite the revocation of the revoked Rules, every licence issued under the revoked Rules —

- (a) which permits the keeping of any dog in any premises (not being a dog farm or a pet shop); and
- (b) which is valid immediately before 1 September 2024,

is, unless revoked or cancelled and so far as it is not inconsistent with these Rules —

- (c) to continue as if, and is to be treated as, a licence issued under these Rules permitting the keeping of the dog as a pet in the premises;
- (d) subject to the terms and conditions specified in that licence; and
- (e) to expire on, and be renewable before, the date the licence would have expired if these Rules had not been made.

(2) Where —

- (a) an application for a licence is made under rule 4 of the revoked Rules before 1 September 2024 in respect of a dog that is to be kept as a pet; and
- (b) the application is pending on 1 September 2024,

the following applies:

- (c) the application is to be treated as an application made in accordance with rule 4 of these Rules in respect of the dog, except that rule 4(4)(b) does not apply to the application; and

- (d) if the Director-General decides to issue a licence to the applicant, the licence is to be issued under rule 4(6)(a), but the Director-General may fix the start of the licence on a date before 1 September 2024.

(3) In this rule and rule 32, “dog farm” and “pet shop” have the meanings given by rule 2 of the revoked Rules.

Saving and transitional provisions — dogs kept for purpose of breeding or sale

32.—(1) Despite the revocation of the revoked Rules, every licence issued under the revoked Rules —

- (a) which permits the keeping of dogs in a dog farm for the purpose of breeding; and
- (b) which is valid immediately before 1 September 2024,

is, unless revoked or cancelled and so far as it is not inconsistent with these Rules —

- (c) to continue as if, and is to be treated as, a licence issued under these Rules permitting the keeping of the dogs included in the licence in the licensed premises specified in the licence for the purpose of breeding;
- (d) subject to the terms and conditions specified in that licence; and
- (e) to expire on, and be renewable before, the date the licence would have expired if these Rules had not been made.

(2) Despite the revocation of the revoked Rules, every licence issued under the revoked Rules —

- (a) which permits the keeping of dogs in a dog farm or a pet shop for the purpose of sale; and
- (b) which is valid immediately before 1 September 2024,

is, unless revoked or cancelled and so far as it is not inconsistent with these Rules —

- (c) to continue as if, and is to be treated as, a licence issued under these Rules permitting the keeping of the dogs

included in the licence in the licensed premises specified in the licence for the purpose of sale;

- (d) subject to the terms and conditions specified in that licence; and
- (e) to expire on, and be renewable before, the date the licence would have expired if these Rules had not been made.

(3) Where —

- (a) an application for a licence is made under rule 4 of the revoked Rules before 1 September 2024;
- (b) the application is made in respect of —
 - (i) the keeping of dogs in a dog farm for the purpose of breeding; or
 - (ii) the keeping of dogs in a dog farm or a pet shop for the purpose of sale; and
- (c) the application is pending on 1 September 2024,

the following applies:

- (d) the application is to be treated as an application made in accordance with rule 10 of these Rules for a licence to keep dogs, or cats and dogs (the total number of which is to be the same as the number of dogs specified in the application), in the licensed premises specified in the application for the purpose of breeding or sale, as the case may be; and
- (e) if the Director-General decides to issue a licence to the applicant, the licence is to be issued under rule 11(2)(a), but the Director-General may fix the start of the licence on a date before 1 September 2024.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Rules 2 and 9(2) and (3)

BREEDS OF SPECIFIED DOGS

PART 1

1. Pit Bull, which for the purposes of these Rules includes American Pit Bull Terrier (also known as American Pit Bull or Pit Bull Terrier), American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Bulldog and any cross between any 2 or more Pit Bull breeds or a Pit Bull breed and any other dog breed
2. Akita
3. Neapolitan Mastiff
4. Tosa
5. Dogo Argentino
6. Fila Brasileiro
7. Boerboel
8. Perro De Presa Canario
9. Crosses of any 2 or more breeds in items 1 to 8

PART 2

1. Bull Terrier
2. Doberman Pinscher
3. Rottweiler
4. German Shepherd Dog and its related breeds such as the Belgian Shepherd Dog and the East European Shepherd Dog
5. Mastiffs, including Bull Mastiff, Cane Corso and Dogue De Bordeaux
6. Crosses of any 2 or more breeds in items 1 to 5

 SECOND SCHEDULE

Rule 15(1) to (4)

LICENCE FEES

PART 1

 LICENCE FEES IN RESPECT OF KEEPING OF CATS AND DOGS
 AS PETS, OTHER THAN CATS MENTIONED IN PART 2

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>	<i>Third column</i>
<i>Type of licence</i>	<i>Validity period of licence</i>	<i>Licence fee for each animal</i>
1. Licence issued under rule 4(6)(a) in respect of a cat or dog that is —	1 year	\$15
(a) not sterilised;		
(b) younger than 5 months of age; and		
(c) kept in any Type 1 premises		
2. Licence issued under rule 4(6)(a), or renewed under rule 8(1), in respect of a cat or dog that is —	(i) 1 year	\$90
	(ii) 2 years	\$165
	(iii) 3 years	\$230
(a) not sterilised;		
(b) 5 months of age or older; and		
(c) kept in any Type 1 premises		

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>	<i>Third column</i>
<i>Type of licence</i>	<i>Validity period of licence</i>	<i>Licence fee for each animal</i>
3. Licence issued under rule 4(6)(a) or 5(5)(a) (read with rule 5(8)), or renewed under rule 8(1), in respect of a cat or dog that is —	(i) 1 year	\$15
	(ii) 2 years	\$25
	(iii) perpetual	\$35
(a) sterilised; and		
(b) kept in any Type 1 premises		
4. Licence issued under rule 4(6)(a), or renewed under rule 8(1), in respect of a cat or dog that is —	(i) 1 year	\$180
	(ii) 2 years	\$325
	(iii) 3 years	\$460
(a) not sterilised; and		
(b) the fourth or subsequent licensed animal kept in any Type 2 premises		

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>	<i>Third column</i>
<i>Type of licence</i>	<i>Validity period of licence</i>	<i>Licence fee for each animal</i>
5. Except where item 6 applies, licence issued under rule 4(6)(a) or 5(5)(a) (read with rule 5(8)), or renewed under rule 8(1), in respect of a cat or dog that is —	(i) 1 year	\$180
	(ii) 2 years	\$325
	(iii) perpetual	\$460
(a) sterilised; and		
(b) is the fourth or subsequent licensed animal kept in any Type 2 premises		
6. Licence issued under rule 4(6)(a) or 5(5)(a) (read with rule 5(8)), or renewed under rule 8(1), in respect of a cat or dog that is to be kept in any Type 2 premises, where the cat or dog —	(i) 1 year	\$15
	(ii) 2 years	\$25
	(iii) perpetual	\$35
(a) is the fourth licensed animal to be kept in those premises; and		
(b) is of a local mixed breed, and is obtained from an animal welfare organisation specified by the National Parks Board that is involved in the rehoming of animals		

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

In this Part —

“Type 1 premises” —

- (a) in relation to a cat, means any premises at which either of the following are kept:
 - (i) not more than 3 cats;
 - (ii) a combination of cats and dogs, the aggregate of which is not more than 3; or
- (b) in relation to a dog, means any premises at which either of the following are kept:
 - (i) not more than 3 dogs;
 - (ii) a combination of cats and dogs, the aggregate of which is not more than 3;

“Type 2 premises” —

- (a) in relation to a cat, means any premises at which either of the following are kept:
 - (i) more than 3 cats;
 - (ii) a combination of cats and dogs, the aggregate of which is more than 3; or
- (b) in relation to a dog, means any premises at which either of the following are kept:
 - (i) more than 3 dogs;
 - (ii) a combination of cats and dogs, the aggregate of which is more than 3.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 2

LICENCE FEES IN RESPECT OF KEEPING OF CATS AS PETS
WHERE LICENCE ISSUED BETWEEN 1 SEPTEMBER 2024 AND
31 AUGUST 2026 (BOTH DATES INCLUSIVE)

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>	<i>Third column</i>
<i>Type of licence</i>	<i>Validity period of licence</i>	<i>Licence fee for each animal</i>
1. Licence issued under rule 4(6)(a) between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025 (both dates inclusive) in respect of a cat that is not sterilised	2 years	\$0
2. Licence issued under rule 4(6)(a) between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026 (both dates inclusive) in respect of a cat that is not sterilised	1 year	\$0
3. Licence issued under rule 4(6)(a) or 5(5)(a) (read with rule 5(8)) between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2026 (both dates inclusive) in respect of a cat that is sterilised	Perpetual	\$0

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 3

ANNUAL LICENCE FEE IN RESPECT OF KEEPING OF CATS OR DOGS
OR CATS AND DOGS IN LICENSED BREEDING PREMISES
FOR PURPOSE OF BREEDING

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Number of cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, kept for purpose of breeding</i>	<i>Licence fee per annum</i>
1. More than 300 cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$3,500
2. More than 200, but not more than 300, cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$1,700
3. More than 100, but not more than 200, cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$1,100
4. 100 or fewer cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$650

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 4

ANNUAL LICENCE FEE IN RESPECT OF KEEPING OF CATS OR DOGS
OR CATS AND DOGS IN LICENSED PREMISES FOR
PURPOSE OF SALE

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Number of cats or dogs, or cats and dogs, kept for purpose of sale</i>	<i>Licence fee per annum</i>
1. More than 100, but not more than 200, cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$1,000
2. More than 50, but not more than 100, cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$500
3. More than 20, but not more than 50, cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$250
4. More than 10, but not more than 20, cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$100
5. 10 or fewer cats or dogs, or cats and dogs	\$50

Made on 28 August 2024.

OW FOONG PHENG
Permanent Secretary,
Ministry of National Development,
Singapore.

[ND 202/01-071; AG/LEGIS/SL/7/2020/2]

(To be presented to Parliament under section 80(4) of the Animals and Birds Act 1965).