

**Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment)
(England and Wales) Regulations 2002**

Inspection Report

Date Report completed: 29/01/2011



Name of applicant or
current licence holder:

The Blue Reef Aquarium (Blue Reef Leisure Ltd)

Name and address of zoo

The Blue Reef Aquarium,
Grand Parade,
Tynemouth

Postcode NE30 4JF

Telephone number (incl. national dialling code)

0191 258 1031

Fax number (incl. national dialling code)

0191 257 2116

Licence Number

Date of last inspection

10/09/2010

Type of last inspection

informal

Timing of next inspection

Feb 2012

Type of next inspection

Informal

Type of inspection Statutory composition of inspection team

Please tick appropriate box

Section 10:

Full renewal

2 Defra nominees, 1 LA vet. Option of up to 2 more from LA

☐

Full periodical

2 Defra nominees, 1 LA vet. Option of up to 2 more from LA

☐

Section 11:

Special

Any number of competent LA authorised appointees

☐

Section 12:

Informal

One competent LA authorised appointee

☐

Section 14(1)(b) dispensation:

Informal

One competent LA authorised appointee

☐

Section 14(2) dispensation:

Renewal application

Defra nominee(s)

☒

Periodical

Defra nominee(s)

☐

Please use Appendix 11A (form ZOO 3) for Licence inspections under Section 4(1A) and Significant change inspections under Sections 16(2B) or 16(3A) of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended).

Names and designations of Inspectors	Name(s) of zoo representative(s)
1 list Inspector	Operations Manager.
Mr Paul Tyrie Animal Health Inspector N. Tyneside Council	Biological Manager.
	Aquarium Manager.
	FRCVS Vet. Consultant IZVG.

Copies: Original to local authority, 1st copy to applicant/operator, 2nd copy to Defra, 3rd copy to inspectors

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Useful information available to applicants

Information about the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002)

Where to find it – available from your local authority who are responsible for administering the Act or from Defra at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/index.htm> or 0117 372 8209.

Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice

Where to find it - available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/index.htm> or from your local authority who are responsible for administering the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended). A limited number of hard copies are still available from Defra.

Government Circular Guidance 02/2003 on the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002)

Where to find it – available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/zoo.htm#circular>

Alternatively hard copies can be obtained by contacting:

Tom Adams,

Defra,

1/16 Temple Quay House,

2 The Square,

Temple Quay,

Bristol BS1 6EB

Tel: 0117 372 8209

E-mail: zoos.branch@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Zoos Forum Handbook

Where to find it – hard copies of available chapters can be obtained from Tom Adams at the above address (while stocks last). Electronic versions can be downloaded from <http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/zoosforum/index.htm>.

Preamble to inspectors' report

The current aquarium management has been in place since 2001. The Building housing the exhibit is of relatively modern construction and is thus well suited to the design and management of an aquatic exhibit. A small primate exhibit has been added to the collection since the last licence renewal. Attendance is in the region of 135-155K persons per annum and an educational programme is effectively delivered to approximate 15K schoolchildren per annum. Other demonstrations, talks and displays are also provided by the managers. The exhibit is sited at a sea front location with easy access and adequate parking.

The Pre - inspection Audit was exceptionally comprehensive and well presented and indicates a high degree of commitment by the Management in preparation for the inspection.

Notes for Local Authority:

1. Visits to the aquarium have taken place annually since the interim inspection and have successfully monitored the collection. It is important that these informal inspections are maintained.
2. The Local authority is requested to ensure that a hard copy of the inspection report and any Licence granted is forwarded to the appropriate department of DEFRA at Bristol BS1 6 EB. An electronic copy of the report will be forwarded by the Inspector.

NOTES FOR DEFRA:

1. An electronic copy of the report form will be forwarded to DEFRA and the Local Authority will forward a hard copy (signed) of the final report.
- All other DEFRA enquiries are answered in a separate attachment.

Assessment of the Pre-Inspection Audit

Part	Assessment (tick one box)	Comments
A. Details of Institution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	As noted the complete PIA was to a very high standard. Some updates are already in process to reflect current situations.
B. Animal records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	
C. Animal husbandry and veterinary care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	
D. Health and safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	It was noted that although risk assessments for the primates in the collection may have been completed these were not included in the PIA information.
E. Security	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	
F. Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	
G. Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	
H. Staff training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	
I. Research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	
J. Ethical considerations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete <input type="checkbox"/> Incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	

Findings at inspection

Marking Key

Score YES or NO or N/A (i.e. not applicable) as appropriate. YES scores may also be graded (if considered appropriate) in the 'YES' column as follows:
1 = Excellent. 2 = Good. 3 = Adequate. 4 = Barely acceptable.

	YES & grade if used	NO	N/A	Notes
1. Provision of food and water				
Directive Condition 1A(c)(ii):	YES			Food storage and preparation area was well conducted and cleanliness apparent.
1. Is each animal provided with a high standard of nutrition?				
2. Is food and drink appropriate for the species/individual supplied?	YES			Diet sheets provided
3. Are supplies of food and water:	YES			As appropriate in an aquatic environment.
(a) kept hygienically?	YES			Food for non aquatics was kept and prepared to appropriate standards.
(b) prepared hygienically?	YES			
(c) supplied to the animal hygienically?	YES			
4. Has natural feeding behaviour been adequately considered to ensure that all animals have access to food and drink?	YES			
5. Are feeding methods safe for staff and animals?	YES			See note re risk assessments primates
6. Is feeding by visitors permitted?	select	✓		
(a) if YES, is it properly controlled?	select		✓	
2. Provision of suitable environment				
Directive Condition 1A(c)(i):	YES			Considerable effort had been made on environmental enrichment for both fish and other animals. Some additional enrichment for primates may be considered.
1. Is each animal provided with an environment well adapted to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of the species to which it belongs?	YES			
2. Are the following environmental parameters appropriate:	YES			
(a) temperature?	YES			
(b) ventilation?	YES			
(c) lighting?	YES			
(d) noise levels?	YES			
(e) any other environmental parameters?	YES			
3. Do animal enclosures have sufficient shelter?	YES			
4. Do animal enclosures provide sufficient space?	YES			Review Stocking density where advised.
5. Are backup facilities for life support systems adequate?	YES			Spare generator "in house."
6. Is the cleaning of the accommodation satisfactory?	YES			To a high standard" back & Front of house".
7. Is the standard of maintenance adequate for:	YES			
(a) the buildings?	YES			
(b) the fences?	YES			
8. Is all drainage effective and safe?	YES			

	YES & grade if used	NO	N/A	Notes
3. Provision of animal health care				
Directive Condition 1A(c)(ii):				To a high standard.
1. Is each animal provided with a high standard of animal husbandry?	YES			
2. Do all animals on display to the public appear to be in good health?	YES			
3. Are observations of condition and health made and recorded?	YES			Good reporting procedures. Comprehensive day diary.
4. Do all animals receive prompt and appropriate attention when problems are noted?	YES			
5. Are enclosures designed and operated in such a way that social interaction problems are avoided?	YES			
<i>On-site facilities</i>				
6. Are catch-up and restraint facilities adequate?	YES			Appropriate for the variety of animals kept. See note re primates.
7. Is darting equipment satisfactory?	select		✓	
8. Are on-site veterinary facilities adequate?	YES			
<i>Veterinary care</i>				
Directive Condition 1A(c)(ii):				Provided by specialist veterinarians on a company-wide basis with back up locally. (see below).
9. Is each animal provided with a developed programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	YES			
10. Is a satisfactory programme of preventative and curative veterinary care established and maintained?	YES			Managed on a group wide basis but with local autonomy where appropriate
11. Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	YES			Done as part of the routine Vet visits.
12. Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	YES			
13. Are medicines correctly kept?	YES			
14. Are controlled drugs used and recorded satisfactorily?	select		✓	None kept at the collection.
15. Are appropriate antidotes available?	select		✓	
16. Are post mortem examination arrangements satisfactory?	YES			Staff trained sampling/P.M of fish.
<i>Isolation and containment</i>				
17. Is adequate reserve accommodation available for isolation of animals for:	YES			Isolation only is available for primates, but full quarantine should not be required.
(a) assessment?				
(b) treatment?	YES			
(c) recovery?	YES			
(d) quarantine (where required)?	YES			only for fish &hibia.
<i>Sanitation and control of disease</i>				
Directive Condition 1A(e):				Regular contracted out controls.
18. Are satisfactory measures in place to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises?	YES			
19. Does it appear that general sanitation and pest control are effective?	YES			

	YES & grade if used	NO	N/A	Notes
4. Provision of an opportunity to express most normal behaviour 1. Does accommodation appear adequately to meet the biological and behavioural needs of the animals?	YES			Much thought is given to enrichment. See note re primates.
5. Provision of protection from fear and distress 1. Are the animals handled only by or under the supervision of appropriately experienced staff?	YES			Most animal staff are qualified aquarists or science based graduates. See note re primate management.
2. Is physical contact between animals and the public consistent with the animals' welfare?	YES			
3. Are interactions between the animals such that they are not excessively stressful?	YES			
6. Transportation and movement of live animals 1. Can the zoo demonstrate an awareness of the regulations covering transportation of animals and provide copies of certificates to show compliance when transportation has occurred?	YES			
2. Is transport and movement equipment in good order?	YES			
3. Are facilities suitable for lifting, crating and transportation of all the types of animals kept within the zoo to destinations both inside and outside the zoo readily available?	YES			Where appropriate equipment is not available, outside contractors are consulted.
4. Do the catching and transportation techniques take account of the animal's temperament and escape behaviour in order to minimise injury, damage and distress?	YES			
5. Is adequate provision made for the animal's and the public's safety and well being while the animal is being transported or kept away from the zoo?	YES			
7. Conservation, Education and Research Directive Condition 1A(a): 1. Is the zoo participating in at least one of the following:	YES			Research is more extensive than at the last inspection & adequate for the collection, by the encouragement of and assistance to, outside bodies to undertake relevant non-invasive research which meets the requirement of the Act. Much of the Conservation contribution also includes aspects of research as well as spin offs in the form of acquisition of conservation skills. Breeding is controlled under veterinary advice. Repopulation is not directly carried out as a consequence of ethical and legislative restraints, but specific efforts to support population conservation are undertaken by support for selected approved projects.
(i) research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals?				
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	YES			
(iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals?	YES			
(iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity?	YES			
(v) where appropriate, the repopulation of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals?	YES			

	YES & grade if used	NO	N/A	Notes
7. Conservation, Education and Research (cont.) Directive Condition 1A(b): 2. Is the zoo promoting public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by providing information about the species of wild animals kept in the zoo and their natural habitats?	YES			Signage is comprehensive and effective. Educational talks assist delivery of public information. Schoolroom talks are well delivered and relevant to the age group being addressed. The educational delivery has grown considerably in numerical terms since the last inspection and is high for a collection of this size.
3. Where appropriate are animals managed (including accommodation) in a way consistent with the conservation needs of the species?	YES			
4. Are on-site education facilities commensurate with the collection?	YES			
(a) are they adequate for the purposes?	YES			
5. Are the conservation efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	YES			
6. Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	YES			Within the limits previously indicated.
7. Is captive breeding properly managed?	select		✓	
8. Public safety Directive Condition 1A(d): 1. Are there satisfactory measures in place to prevent the escape of animals?	YES			
2. Are there satisfactory measures in place to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release of animals?	YES			Written protocols in place and practised.
3. Will the perimeter deter unauthorised entry and aid the confinement of zoo stock?	YES			
4. Do stand-off barriers appear adequate?	YES			
5. Are adequate warning signs provided?	YES			
6. Are prohibited areas appropriately signed?	YES			
7. Are exits clearly marked and accessible?	YES			
8. Does maintenance of buildings appear adequate?	YES			
9. Do public areas and walkways appear safe?	YES			
10. Are trees regularly inspected and appropriate remedial action taken?	select		✓	
11. Are the special safety requirements for walk-through or drive-through exhibits adequately met?	select		✓	
9. Records Directive Condition 1A(f): 1. Are there up-to-date records of the zoo's collection, including records of:	YES			The record keeping system for stock control and assessment has just been redesigned and updated to give a more comprehensive picture.
(i) the numbers of different animals?				
(ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals?	YES			
(iii) the causes of any such deaths?	YES			
(iv) the health of the animals?	YES			

	YES & grade if used	NO	N/A	Notes
9. Records (cont.)				
2. Are daily diaries maintained?	YES			quite comprehensive in content.
(a) do they contain appropriate information?	YES			
3. Are animal stock records clear and up-to-date?	YES			See note re updates at end
4. Are annual inventories maintained and submitted to the Local Authority?	YES			
5. Are animal source and destination records kept?	YES			
6. Are archived records secure?	YES			
10. Miscellaneous				To a high standard.
1. Do staff numbers and training of staff appear adequate?	YES			
2. Is the management structure adequate for the proper care and well-being of the animals and the safety of the visiting public and zoo staff?	YES			Good structure and co-operative personnel
3. Are effective risk assessments carried out where appropriate?	YES			To be reviewed to include primates.
4. Has an ethical review process been established?	YES			Effective committee in place but centrally.
5. Are public toilet facilities adequate and serviced?	YES			
6. Are parking facilities adequate?	YES			
7. Is a First Aid Policy in effect and is it adequate?	YES			
11. Associated legislation				
1. Is electrical equipment routinely serviced?	YES			
2. Have fire precautions been agreed and implemented?	YES			
3. Is refuse disposed of correctly?	YES			
4. Are the required needs of disabled visitors met?	YES			
5. Is an accident reporting and recording system in use?	YES			
12. Compliance check				
1. Is the current licence or a copy on public display at each public entrance?	YES			
2. Is adequate Public Liability Insurance current?	YES			
3. Have existing licence conditions been met?	YES			
4. On summary inspection, does the zoo appear to be in compliance with CITES legislation?	select		✓	This question is no longer applicable.

Additional space

The following space is provided for:

- additional notes and comments on the answers to the earlier questions;
- recommendations (other than in respect of grant or refusal of a licence and any specific conditions recommended for a licence – see overleaf); and
- any general remarks which the inspecting team may wish to record.

The Aquarium is a well designed and thoughtfully laid out display with a considerable educational content and plenty of conservational information supplied by way of signage and keeper talks etc. The fish and other animals displayed appear in good health and their welfare is thoughtfully catered for. The management and staff are well qualified and enthusiastic in maintaining high standards. Attendances are fairly consistent and quite high for a display of this size and type and a considerable proportion of visitors (15%), are catered for in the formal educational section of the aquarium. The information supplied in the pre-inspection audit was concise yet comprehensive and relevant and certainly facilitated the inspection process on the day. Although the seven column system of record keeping is in use, only part of the record was supplied for the PIA. It should be ensured that complete records are included in future.

Recommendations:

1. Although all risk assessments and ensuing protocols appeared complete, I would advise revision to ensure that any issues with regard to the addition of primates to the collection have been included in the assessments made.
2. A catching net should be in place in each of the entry areas to the primate pens in case of escape from the enclosure of any of the occupants.
3. I advise a peep hole or other mechanism in the door, by which the primate enclosures can be viewed prior to entry by staff, to ensure the likelihood of escape or trapping of the animals on entry is minimised.
4. Recording of emergency drills should be undertaken and information supplied with the future PIAs.
5. The ethical arrangements are mainly undertaken centrally as a group function. It would however be a useful exercise to introduce a more local structure within the facility inspected so that both major and minor issues at the local level could be identified and resolved promptly.
6. The introduction of primates to a collection which has been primarily "aquatic centred" and the staff of which have been mainly if not exclusively trained in care of aquatic species raises the issue of knowledge and competence for the care of the new species. Some training has taken place but no formal or managerial assessment of competence is apparent. It is advised that training in the care of the new species is recorded and that managerial assessments of the trained staff are undertaken and competence is recorded in a transparent manner.
7. The current arrangements for contact with animals by the public is limited to the "schoolroom experience". At present this is not entirely effective in ensuring disinfection of hands etc., soon after animal contact. I advise the current procedures be reviewed and where necessary revised to meet safety requirements.

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Inspecting team's recommendation to the local authority _____

Having inspected (name of zoo) The Blue Reef Aquarium, Tynemouth

on

28/01/2011


the inspecting team make the following recommendation:

Please tick appropriate box

- it is recommended that a licence be refused ☐
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the Act subject to the Directive Conditions ☒
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the Act subject to the Directive Conditions and the following Additional Conditions..... ☐
- it is recommended that the following alterations be made to the above collection's licence conditions ☐

Additional conditions (if appropriate)

This inspection was a renewal inspection. No extra previous conditions were placed on the licence at the last inspection. The exhibit is to a high standard and no new or supplementary conditions other than the Standard Conditions are proposed at present.

Inspector(s) signature(s)	Date signed
	31/1/2011

The Data Protection Act 1998

This form is intended for use by local authorities in England for administering the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002. Completed forms held by public authorities are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and

the Data Protection Act 1998. Copies of forms may be supplied to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for the purpose of providing information on the administration of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002.

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Inspection Report

Date of inspection: 13/03/2014 Date report completed: 28/04/2014

Name of applicant or current licence holder: Blue Reef Aquarium, Aspro Leisure, [REDACTED]

Name and address of zoo: Blue Reef Aquarium
Grand Parade
Tynemouth
Postcode: NE30 4JF

Tel no: 0191 258 1030 Licence Number: 11/00001/ZOO

Date of last formal inspection: 10/09/2010 Type of last formal inspection: Renewal

Timing of next formal inspection: July 2014 Type of next formal inspection: Interim

Type of inspection **Statutory composition of inspection team** *Please tick appropriate box*

Section 10 Periodical: 2 Defra/Welsh Government nominees; 1 LA vet; option of up to 2 more from LA.. ☐

Section 11 Special: Any number of competent LA authorised appointees ☒

Section 14(1)(b) dispensation renewal under section 6(1A)(a) (where a direction has been made that section 10 shall not apply):

Defra/Welsh Government nominee/s..... ☐

Section 14(2) dispensation Periodical:

Defra/Welsh Government nominee/s..... ☐

For a licence inspection (Section 4(1A)(b)) and a significant change inspection (Section 9A(8)) please use the inspection form at Appendix 11A of the Standards.

Name and designation of inspector(s)	Name of zoo representative(s)
Mr Paul Tyrie, Animal Health Inspector.	[REDACTED]

When this form has been completed and signed the original must be sent to the local authority. If the zoo is owned by the local authority, the local authority must send a copy of the completed form to Defra where the zoo is situated in England or to the Welsh Government, where the zoo is situated in Wales.

Preamble to inspectors' report

Information and guidance about the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (ZLA) is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/species-protection> and <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/zoos/?lang=en>

Preamble to inspectors' report*, including any comments about the current dispensation status, if applicable.

The last informal inspection included the newly established veterinary unit which was still under construction, this is now complete and provides an important addition to the zoo in terms of an examination and isolation unit and the subsequent Balai approval.

Having a good understanding of the day to day management of the zoo, I have no issues with the ethics or the routine of the general management apart from staffing levels, and have some concerns of the recorded documentation.

*this might include general background about the zoo (type of collection, size etc) and any relevant information or comments from the pre-inspection audit

Findings at inspection

Guidance note: Where possible a Yes, No or Not Applicable (N/A) answer should be given. Where not all criteria are met for a particular question, comments and clarification should be made indicating where any deficits occur. If appropriate, means of correction or improvement should be included as Conditions or Recommendations under 'Additional conditions' or 'Additional space' towards the end of the form.

1. Provision of food and water	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:		
1.1. Are animals provided with a high standard of nutrition?	Yes	
1.2. Is food and drink that is supplied appropriate for the species/individual?	Yes	
1.3. Are supplies of food and water:		
(a) kept hygienically?	Yes	
(b) prepared hygienically?	Yes	
(c) supplied to the animal hygienically?	Yes	
1.4. Has natural feeding behaviour been adequately considered to ensure that all animals have access to food and drink?	Yes	
1.5. Are feeding methods safe for staff and animals?	Yes	
1.6. Is feeding by visitors permitted?	No	
(a) if 'yes', is it properly controlled?	N/A	
2. Provision of suitable environment		
Section 1A(c)(i) ZLA 1981:		
2.1. Are the animals provided with an environment well adapted to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of the species to which they belong?	Yes	
2.2. Are the following environmental parameters appropriate:		
(a) temperature?	Yes	
(b) ventilation?	Yes	
(c) lighting?	Yes	
(d) noise levels?	Yes	
(e) any other environmental parameters?	Yes	

2. Provision of suitable environment (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
2.3. Are there satisfactory measures in place to safely confine the animals?	Yes	
2.4. Do animal enclosures have sufficient shelter and refuge areas?	Yes	
2.5. Do animal enclosures provide sufficient space?	Yes	
2.6. Are backup facilities for life support systems adequate?	Yes	
2.7. Is the cleaning of the accommodation satisfactory?	Yes	
2.8. Is the standard of maintenance adequate for: (a) the buildings?	Yes	
(b) the fences?	Yes	
2.9. Is all drainage effective and safe?	Yes	
3. Provision of animal health care		
Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:		
3.1. Are the animals provided with a high standard of animal husbandry?	Yes	
3.2. Do animals on display to the public appear in good health?	Yes	Cod on display with cataracts
3.3. Are observations of condition and health made and recorded?	Yes	
3.4. Do animals receive prompt and appropriate attention when problems are noted?	Yes	
3.5. Are enclosures designed and operated in such a way that social interaction problems are avoided?	Yes	
On-site facilities		
3.6. Are catch-up and restraint facilities adequate?	Yes	
3.7. Is darting equipment satisfactory?	N/A	
3.8. Are on-site veterinary facilities adequate?	Yes	

3. Provision of animal health care (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Veterinary care Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981: 3.9. Are the animals provided with a documented and maintained programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	Yes	
3.10. Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	Yes	
3.11. Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	Yes	
3.12. Are medicines kept and disposed of correctly?	Yes	As per VMD
3.13. Are controlled drugs used and recorded satisfactorily?	Yes	As per VMD
3.14. Are appropriate antidotes available?	N/A	
3.15. Are <i>post mortem</i> examination arrangements satisfactory?	Yes	
Isolation and containment 3.16. Is adequate reserve accommodation available for isolation of animals for: (a) assessment?	Yes	Balai approval plus annual inspection
(b) treatment?	Yes	
(c) recovery?	Yes	
(d) quarantine (where required)?	Select	
Sanitation and control of disease Section 1A(e) ZLA 1981: 3.17. Are satisfactory measures in place to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises?	Yes	External contract in place
3.18. Does it appear that general sanitation and pest control are effective?	Yes	

4. Provision of an opportunity to express most normal behaviour	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
4.1. Do the accommodation and management regimes encourage normal behaviour patterns and minimise any abnormal behaviour, taking into account current enrichment and husbandry guidelines?	Yes	Appropriate environmental enrichment provided for individual species
4.2. Are animals of social species normally maintained in compatible social groups?	Yes	
5. Provision of protection from fear and distress		
5.1. Are the animals handled only by or under the supervision of appropriately experienced staff?	Yes	
5.2. Is physical contact between animals and the public consistent with the animals' welfare?	N/A	
5.3. Are interactions between the animals such that they are not excessively stressful?	Yes	
6. Transportation and movement of live animals		
6.1. Can the zoo demonstrate a knowledge of, and compliance with, the regulations covering transportation of animals, and provide copies of certificates to show compliance when transportation has occurred?	Yes	AHVLA transporter authorisation in place
6.2. Can the zoo demonstrate that: i) transport and movement equipment is in good order?	Yes	Contracted out when necessary
ii) facilities suitable for lifting, crating and transportation of all the types of animals kept within the zoo to destinations both inside and outside the zoo are readily available?	Yes	
iii) catching and transportation techniques take account of the animal's temperament and escape behaviour in order to minimise injury, damage and distress?	Yes	
iv) adequate provision is made for the animal's and the public's safety and well-being while the animal is being transported or kept away from the zoo?	Yes	

7. Conservation, education and research	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(a) ZLA 1981: 7.1. Is the zoo participating in at least one of the following: (i) research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals?	Yes	
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	Yes	
(iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals?	Yes	
iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity?	N/A	
(v) where appropriate, the repopulation of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals?	N/A	
Section 1A(b) ZLA 1981: 7.2. Is the zoo promoting public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by providing information about the species of wild animals kept in the zoo and their natural habitats?	Yes	Above and beyond that required by the Secretary of States Standards of Modern Zoo Practice
7.3. Where appropriate are animals managed in a way consistent with the conservation needs of the species, (such as exchange between zoos, accommodation to encourage natural behaviour and breeding etc)?	Yes	
7.4. Are on-site education facilities adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	Daily staff talks and exhibition of exhibits, ample signage and additional information provided. School parties catered for with educational classroom sessions
7.5. Are the conservation efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	
7.6. Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	
7.7. Is captive breeding properly managed?	N/A	

8. Public safety	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(d) ZLA 1981:		
8.1. Are there satisfactory measures in place to prevent the escape of animals?	Yes	
8.2. Are there satisfactory measures in place to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release of animals?	Yes	
8.3. Are escape drills carried out four times a year, recorded and regularly reviewed (at least two drills should include the escape of a Category 1 animal where present)?	Yes	
8.4. Will the perimeter deter unauthorised entry and aid the confinement of zoo stock?	Yes	
8.5. Do stand-off barriers appear adequate?	Yes	
8.6. Are adequate warning signs provided?	Yes	
8.7. Are prohibited areas appropriately signed?	Yes	
8.8. Are exits clearly marked and accessible?	Yes	
8.9. Do public areas, walkways and buildings appear safe?	Yes	
8.10. Are trees regularly inspected and appropriate remedial action taken?	N/A	
8.11. Have appropriate risk assessments for direct contact by the public with animals been carried out?	Yes	
8.12. Are the special safety requirements for walk-through or drive-through exhibits adequately met?	Yes	

9. Records	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(f) ZLA 1981:		Annual records provided to LA
9.1. Are there up-to-date records of the zoo's collection, including records of:		
(i) the numbers of different animals?	Yes	
(ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals?	Yes	
(iii) the causes of any such deaths?	Yes	
(iv) the health of the animals?	Yes	
9.2. Are daily diaries maintained, and do they contain appropriate information?	Yes	
9.3. Are animal stock records clear and up-to-date?	Yes	
9.4. Are annual stock records completed in the correct format and submitted to the local authority?	Yes	
9.5. Are animal source and destination records kept?	Yes	
9.6. Are archived records secure?	Yes	
10. Miscellaneous		
10.1. Do staff numbers and training of staff appear adequate?	No	Records of qualifications and CPD not recorded
10.2. Is the management structure and organisation of staff adequate to ensure compliance with the Standards at all times?	No	Staff levels at a minimum at certain times, records of qualifications and CPD not recorded
10.3. Are effective risk assessments carried out where appropriate?	Yes	
10.4. Has an ethical review process been established and implemented?	Yes	Regular group ethical reviews undertaken
10.5. Are public toilet facilities adequate and serviced?	Yes	
10.6. Are parking facilities adequate?	Yes	
10.7. Is a First Aid policy and accident reporting and recording system in place?	Yes	

11. Associated legislation	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
11.1. Is electrical equipment routinely serviced?	Yes	
11.2. Have fire precautions been agreed and implemented?	Yes	
11.3. Is refuse and clinical waste disposed of correctly?	Yes	
11.4. Are the required needs of disabled visitors met?	Yes	
12. Compliance check including licence conditions		
12.1. Is the current licence or a copy on public display at each public entrance?	Yes	
12.2. Is adequate Public Liability Insurance current?	Yes	
12.3. Have any Additional licence conditions been met?	N/A	

Additional space

The following space is provided for:

- additional notes and comments on the answers to the earlier questions
- recommendations (other than in respect of grant or refusal of a licence and any specific conditions recommended for a licence) including those based on comments already made to earlier questions
- any general remarks which the inspecting team may wish to record

Staff and Staff Training.

Records of staff training and qualifications required to be kept. Individual staff records of daily maintenance and tasks not signed off by competent member of staff in compliance with the Secretary of States Standards of Modern Zoo Practice.

Inspecting team's recommendation to the local authority

Having inspected (name of zoo)

on:

the inspecting team make the following recommendation:

Please tick appropriate box

- it is recommended that a licence be refused ☐
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the ZLA 1981 subject to the conservation measures in section 1A ☐
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the ZLA 1981 subject to the conservation measures in section 1A and the following Additional Conditions (N.B Additional Conditions must be clearly worded so as to be enforceable and a timescale applied for compliance) ☐
- it is recommended that the following alterations be made to the above collection's licence conditions ☐

Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

Inspector(s) signature(s)

Date signed

The Data Protection Act 1998 – Fair Processing Notice

The purpose of this Fair Processing Notice is to inform you of the use that will be made of your personal data, as required by the Data Protection Act 1998.

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Inspection Report

Date of inspection:

25/01/2017

Date report completed:

30/01/2017

Name of applicant or current
licence holder:

Name and address of zoo:

Blue Reef Aquarium,
Grand Parade,
Tynemouth,
Tyne & Wear

Postcode: NE30 4JF

Tel no:

0191 258 10 31

Licence Number:

Date of last formal inspection:

28/07/2014

Type of last formal inspection:

periodic

Timing of next formal inspection:

Jan 2020

Type of next formal inspection:

Periodic

Type of inspection Statutory composition of inspection team

Please tick appropriate box

Section 10 Periodical: 2 Defra/Welsh Government nominees; 1 LA vet; option of up to 2 more from LA .. ☐

Section 11 Special: Any number of competent LA authorised appointees ☐

Section 14(1)(b) dispensation renewal under section 6(1A)(a) (where a direction has been made that section 10 shall not apply):
Defra/Welsh Government nominee/s..... ☐

Section 14(2) dispensation Periodical:
Defra/Welsh Government nominee/s..... ☒

For a licence inspection (Section 4(1A)(b)) and a significant change inspection (Section 9A(8)) please use the inspection form at Appendix 11A of the Standards.

Name and designation of inspector(s)	Name of zoo representative(s)
[redacted] Sec of States List Part 1 Insp.	[redacted] Collection Curator U.K.
Mr.P.Sanderson-Read, Senior Environmental Health	[redacted], Blue Reef Tynemouth
Officer North Tyneside Council.	[redacted] Displays Supervisor.
	[redacted] VS Expert Veterinary Consultant

When this form has been completed and signed the original must be sent to the local authority.
If the zoo is owned by the local authority, the local authority must send a copy of the completed form to Defra where the zoo is situated in England or to the Welsh Government, where the zoo is situated in Wales.

Preamble to inspectors' report

Information and guidance about the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (ZLA) is available at
<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/protecting-biodiversity-and-ecosystems-at-home-and-abroad/supporting-pages/species-protection> and
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/zoos/?lang=en>

Preamble to inspectors' report*, including any comments about the current dispensation status, if applicable.

This is a RENEWAL Inspection.

The collection is contained in a building of relatively modern construction which has been added to by extension for additional exhibits over several years. The Aquarium is operated by an international group, with aquariums and leisure facilities worldwide. This aquarium is situated in a prominent seafront position on the Grand Parade in Tynemouth. Although under central direction the aquarium/zoo is allowed a considerable degree of autonomy in day to day operations but major policy decisions and collection content are largely under group control. The centre enjoys a considerable footfall for a small unit having served over 90k members of the public in the previous year of operation. It offers a range of visual displays, educational & recreational facilities. The collection includes some primates, amphibians, small mammals, marine mammals, as well as the (predominant) numbers of fish.

It was noted that the pre-inspection audit and the additional information supplied in advance was extremely comprehensive and assisted in the effectiveness of the inspection.

Items for Note by the Licensing Authority:

1. The authority should inform the appropriate department of AHVLA (DEFRA) of any changes or variations to any licence issued.
2. The Authority must ensure that the annual informal inspections take place as required prior to the next formal inspection.
3. The collection is currently classified under a Section 14 para (2) dispensation, and the Authority is advised that in the inspector's opinion the current dispensation under Section 14 (2) of the Act is appropriate.

*this might include general background about the zoo (type of collection, size etc) and any relevant information or comments from the pre-inspection audit

11. Associated legislation	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
11.1. Is electrical equipment routinely serviced?	Yes	Carried out routinely by skilled group-selected engineers, with appropriate knowledge of the special circumstances pertaining to aquariums.
11.2. Have fire precautions been agreed and implemented?	Yes	
11.3. Is refuse and clinical waste disposed of correctly?	Yes	It should be ensured that any waste bins which may hold animal by-products or other biological waste have properly fitting closures/lids.
11.4. Are the required needs of disabled visitors met?	Yes	
12. Compliance check including licence conditions		
12.1. Is the current licence or a copy on public display at each public entrance?	Yes	Any Conditions annexed to the licence should also be displayed.
12.2. Is adequate Public Liability Insurance current?	Yes	On a company wide policy.
12.3. Have any Additional licence conditions been met?	Yes	

9. Records	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(f) ZLA 1981:		The current system is electronically based and designed for the ASPRO (Blue Reef centres) specifically.
9.1. Are there up-to-date records of the zoo's collection, including records of:		
(i) the numbers of different animals?	Yes	
(ii) acquisitions, births, deaths, disposals and escapes of animals?	Yes	
(iii) the causes of any such deaths?	Yes	
(iv) the health of the animals?	Yes	
9.2. Are daily diaries maintained, and do they contain appropriate information?	Yes	Notable items are transferred and held electronically. Day Sheets have now been introduced which give a wider range of information for eventual electronic archiving.
9.3. Are animal stock records clear and up-to-date?	Yes	
9.4. Are annual stock records completed in the correct format and submitted to the local authority?	Yes	
9.5. Are animal source and destination records kept?	Yes	All are sourced either from ethically approved suppliers or from within the group resource.
9.6. Are archived records secure?	Yes	Backed up to national server.
10. Miscellaneous		
10.1. Do staff numbers and training of staff appear adequate?	Yes	High proportion of qualified / degree-level staff.
10.2. Is the management structure and organisation of staff adequate to ensure compliance with the Standards at all times?	Yes	Local management is competent and is monitored within the group systems.
10.3. Are effective risk assessments carried out where appropriate?	Yes	
10.4. Has an ethical review process been established and implemented?	Yes	National group-based committee which has representatives from the various centres. Minutes were provided with PIA.
10.5. Are public toilet facilities adequate and serviced?	Yes	
10.6. Are parking facilities adequate?	Yes	Adequate parking adjacent to the building, but not operated by the company.
10.7. Is a First Aid policy and accident reporting and recording system in place?	Yes	

8. Public safety	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(d) ZLA 1981: 8.1. Are there satisfactory measures in place to prevent the escape of animals?	Yes	As appropriate in an aquarium. The primates are in glazed internal enclosures, the marine mammals fenced round the pool. The perimeter fence is adequate.
8.2. Are there satisfactory measures in place to be taken in the event of any escape or unauthorised release of animals?	Yes	
8.3. Are escape drills carried out four times a year, recorded and regularly reviewed (at least two drills should include the escape of a Category 1 animal where present)?	Yes	Escape/ emergency drills are carried out on a regular basis and outcomes recorded.
8.4. Will the perimeter deter unauthorised entry and aid the confinement of zoo stock?	Yes	The perimeter is defined by the building's walls, and the fencing surrounding the rear exhibit and service area.
8.5. Do stand-off barriers appear adequate?	Yes	Mostly provided by tank fronts or by wall and fence in outside exhibits. (See comment on marine mammals).
8.6. Are adequate warning signs provided?	Yes	
8.7. Are prohibited areas appropriately signed?	Yes	
8.8. Are exits clearly marked and accessible?	Yes	
8.9. Do public areas, walkways and buildings appear safe?	Yes	
8.10. Are trees regularly inspected and appropriate remedial action taken?	N/A	
8.11. Have appropriate risk assessments for direct contact by the public with animals been carried out?	Yes	Rarely required.
8.12. Are the special safety requirements for walk-through or drive-through exhibits adequately met?	N/A	The "walk-through" is simply the normal flow direction for viewing the display and is not in the context of an animal contact area.

7. Conservation, education and research	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(a) ZLA 1981:		
7.1. Is the zoo participating in at least one of the following: (i) research from which conservation benefits accrue to species of wild animals?	Yes	Participation in national and international projects is encouraged and is ongoing at group level. Locally the facility for non invasive research is offered to Colleges and Universities and copies of some of the publications have been presented. Local involvement in Research and Conservation is commended for the size of the facility.
(ii) training in relevant conservation skills?	Yes	Staff opportunities for conference attendance and distance learning are available.
(iii) the exchange of information relating to the conservation of species of wild animals?	Yes	
iv) where appropriate, breeding of wild animals in captivity?	Yes	With selected species only.
(v) where appropriate, the repopulation of an area with, or the reintroduction into the wild of, wild animals?	Yes	Usually by support of outside agencies or under international & group initiatives. Seal rehab temporary accomodation is a positive contribution .
Section 1A(b) ZLA 1981:		
7.2. Is the zoo promoting public education and awareness in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, in particular by providing information about the species of wild animals kept in the zoo and their natural habitats?	Yes	Signage is concise but relevant and clear and is now much better lit . Educational talks are relevant, informative and follow agreed formats and may be offered formally in the schoolroom facility and commonly in the display areas throughout the collection.
7.3. Where appropriate are animals managed in a way consistent with the conservation needs of the species, (such as exchange between zoos, accommodation to encourage natural behaviour and breeding etc)?	Yes	On a group and international basis.
7.4. Are on-site education facilities adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	One classroom can be available for formal delivery.
7.5. Are the conservation efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	The group undertakes/supports major conservation projects internationally, and individual centres are encouraged to initiate or participate in local projects where possible.
7.6. Are the research efforts adequate for the resources of the collection?	Yes	Copies of some research papers included with PIA.
7.7. Is captive breeding properly managed?	Yes	For selected species .

4. Provision of an opportunity to express most normal behaviour	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
4.1. Do the accommodation and management regimes encourage normal behaviour patterns and minimise any abnormal behaviour, taking into account current enrichment and husbandry guidelines?	Yes	Displays are mostly well designed to meet these requirements. Serious consideration should be given to relocation of the indoor otter facility for outdoor access for these animals and also for the small primates.
4.2. Are animals of social species normally maintained in compatible social groups?	Yes	The otters are now paired.
5. Provision of protection from fear and distress		
5.1. Are the animals handled only by or under the supervision of appropriately experienced staff?	Yes	A high proportion of staff are formally qualified aquarists and training is given to ensure any unqualified personnel are competent.
5.2. Is physical contact between animals and the public consistent with the animals' welfare?	Yes	The only allowed contact is in the marine mammal display, which is monitored, minimal, and indirect.
5.3. Are interactions between the animals such that they are not excessively stressful?	Yes	
6. Transportation and movement of live animals		
6.1. Can the zoo demonstrate a knowledge of, and compliance with, the regulations covering transportation of animals, and provide copies of certificates to show compliance when transportation has occurred?	Yes	The Zoo is also BALAI registered.
6.2. Can the zoo demonstrate that:	Yes	Where major moves take place these will normally involve outside contractors supervised by experienced staff.
i) transport and movement equipment is in good order?		
ii) facilities suitable for lifting, crating and transportation of all the types of animals kept within the zoo to destinations both inside and outside the zoo are readily available?	Yes	
iii) catching and transportation techniques take account of the animal's temperament and escape behaviour in order to minimise injury, damage and distress?	Yes	
iv) adequate provision is made for the animal's and the public's safety and well-being while the animal is being transported or kept away from the zoo?	Yes	

3. Provision of animal health care (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Veterinary care Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981: 3.9. Are the animals provided with a documented and maintained programme of preventative and curative veterinary care and nutrition?	Yes	Expert veterinary services are provided by a partnership practice which is involved with all UK and European centres and co-ordinates specialist care. This is backed up by co-operation with a local Veterinary practice for minor items. Veterinary services include some training of staff in P.M. procedures, zoonotic risks, with regular quarterly visits and clinical reviews.
3.10. Is there a system for the regular review of clinical and pathological records?	Yes	Electronically maintained records and practice are reviewed twice yearly.
3.11. Are appropriate veterinary records kept?	Yes	Locally and centrally.
3.12. Are medicines kept and disposed of correctly?	Yes	Minimal amounts kept as any required medicines can be supplied from the consultants or by the local veterinary service.
3.13. Are controlled drugs used and recorded satisfactorily?	Yes	If required these are always supplied only with the consent and supervision of the expert consulting vets. None kept on premises.
3.14. Are appropriate antidotes available?	Yes	As above
3.15. Are <i>post mortem</i> examination arrangements satisfactory?	Yes	Training of personnel is given to carry out basic p.m., sampling and further investigation, histology etc is encouraged when relevant.
Isolation and containment 3.16. Is adequate reserve accommodation available for isolation of animals for: (a) assessment?	Yes	Tanks of various capacity are available for isolation/ quarantine/ treatment of all the fish contained in the collection. Reserve accommodation for otter, monkeys is limited and useful short term only. The isolation unit for the marine mammals is now operated separately from the rescue facility for seals which is a much better policy. If approved by the BALAI authority.
(b) treatment?	Yes	
(c) recovery?	Yes	
(d) quarantine (where required)?	Yes	
Sanitation and control of disease Section 1A(e) ZLA 1981: 3.17. Are satisfactory measures in place to prevent the intrusion of pests and vermin into the zoo premises?	Yes	Specialist contractors used.
3.18. Does it appear that general sanitation and pest control are effective?	Yes	

2. Provision of suitable environment (contd.)	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
2.3. Are there satisfactory measures in place to safely confine the animals?	Yes	Confined by tank perimeters in the case of fish and enclosure fencing or screens in the case of other animals. Screen around the seal area has been improved.
2.4. Do animal enclosures have sufficient shelter and refuge areas?	Yes	
2.5. Do animal enclosures provide sufficient space?	Yes	Disposal of the sea lions has improved the space available for the resident seals.
2.6. Are backup facilities for life support systems adequate?	Yes	Emergency electric power is available and protocols for action in case of crisis in life support systems are present.
2.7. Is the cleaning of the accommodation satisfactory?	Yes	Front of house was clean and rear service areas clear and free of obstruction.
2.8. Is the standard of maintenance adequate for: (a) the buildings?	Yes	The maintenance of the building structure appears adequate, but some public areas need consideration for refurbishment. Some of the galvanised metal internal structure supports are corroded adjacent to the tops of tanks and should be reviewed. Contained completely by the main site limits.
(b) the fences?	Yes	
2.9. Is all drainage effective and safe?	Yes	
3. Provision of animal health care		
Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:		
3.1. Are the animals provided with a high standard of animal husbandry?	Yes	Qualified and experienced aquatic staff present. Most middle and senior staff have higher relevant qualifications. These are mainly in the aquatic field and it must be assured that skills for any other species held are also adequate.
3.2. Do animals on display to the public appear in good health?	Yes	Minor items noted but no significant health issues. All are under veterinary advice.
3.3. Are observations of condition and health made and recorded?	Yes	Recorded in day diary and transferred to computer, for archiving.
3.4. Do animals receive prompt and appropriate attention when problems are noted?	Yes	Well practiced routines. Expert Veterinary consultants are backed up by local veterinary co-operation.
3.5. Are enclosures designed and operated in such a way that social interaction problems are avoided?	Yes	
On-site facilities		
3.6. Are catch-up and restraint facilities adequate?	Yes	Major captures or moves may involve other centres contractors and veterinary personnel if appropriate.
3.7. Is darting equipment satisfactory?	N/A	
3.8. Are on-site veterinary facilities adequate?	Yes	These are minimal but adequate for the species held at present. There are now crush facilities for the marine mammals, which appear adequate.

Findings at inspection

Guidance note: Where possible a Yes, No or Not Applicable (N/A) answer should be given. Where not all criteria are met for a particular question, comments and clarification should be made indicating where any deficits occur. If appropriate, means of correction or improvement should be included as Conditions or Recommendations under 'Additional conditions' or 'Additional space' towards the end of the form.

1. Provision of food and water	Marking Yes No N/A	Comments/clarification
Section 1A(c)(ii) ZLA 1981:		
1.1. Are animals provided with a high standard of nutrition?	Yes	Diets are constructed on a sound scientific basis and reviewed with veterinary and other advice where necessary.
1.2. Is food and drink that is supplied appropriate for the species/individual?	Yes	As appropriate in an aquatic environment. The food preparation for the marine mammals and primates is distinct from that of the fish where necessary.
1.3. Are supplies of food and water:		As appropriate in a mainly aquatic environment. All food preparation areas were clean and tidy.
(a) kept hygienically?	Yes	
(b) prepared hygienically?	Yes	
(c) supplied to the animal hygienically?	Yes	
1.4. Has natural feeding behaviour been adequately considered to ensure that all animals have access to food and drink?	Yes	This is planned particularly in mixed exhibits and monitored and appears to be effective.
1.5. Are feeding methods safe for staff and animals?	Yes	
1.6. Is feeding by visitors permitted?	No	
(a) if 'yes', is it properly controlled?	N/A	
2. Provision of suitable environment		
Section 1A(c)(i) ZLA 1981:		
2.1. Are the animals provided with an environment well adapted to meet the physical, psychological and social needs of the species to which they belong?	Yes	Displays are well thought out and provide good enrichment and a stable environment for the fish species exhibited. The indoor enclosures for primates are now looking dated and there is no outdoor access for these nor for the otter.
2.2. Are the following environmental parameters appropriate:		
(a) temperature?	Yes	As required in an aquatic environment.
(b) ventilation?	Yes	
(c) lighting?	Yes	
(d) noise levels?	Yes	Use of LED in some areas much enhances effect of the displays.
(e) any other environmental parameters?	Yes	Considerable thought is given to design, & enrichment in the aquarium Tanks and appears effective. That for the Primates and Otter is adequate(see later) .

Inspecting team's recommendation to the local authority

Having inspected (name of zoo)

The Blue Reef Aquarium, Tyneside

on:

25th January 2017

the inspecting team make the following recommendation:

Please tick appropriate box

- it is recommended that a licence be refused ☐
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the ZLA 1981 subject to the conservation measures in section 1A ☐
- it is recommended that the above collection be licensed in accordance with the ZLA 1981 subject to the conservation measures in section 1A and the following Additional Conditions (N.B Additional Conditions must be clearly worded so as to be enforceable and a timescale applied for compliance) ☒
- it is recommended that the following alterations be made to the above collection's licence conditions ☐

Additional Conditions (if appropriate)

No Additional conditions are considered necessary at this renewal, all previous conditions having been addressed. However if the major recommendations made at this inspection are not reasonably addressed by the time of the next formal inspection, some may be considered as possible conditions at that time.

Inspector(s) signature(s)



Date signed

31/01/2017

09/02/2017



Additional space

The following space is provided for:

- additional notes and comments on the answers to the earlier questions
- recommendations (other than in respect of grant or refusal of a licence and any specific conditions recommended for a licence) including those based on comments already made to earlier questions
- any general remarks which the inspecting team may wish to record

The Aquarium is a compact development which, uses the space available within the building effectively, to produce an interesting, varied and educative display. Signage is now much improved clear and concise with better lighting and positioning. The gradual extension of the use of LED lighting in many areas also enhances the public perception of the displays.

Management systems appear well structured and effective.

The staff are well qualified, well trained, appear enthusiastic and highly motivated.

The pre-inspection audit was very comprehensive and provided useful and relevant information, which assisted in the process of inspection.

School formal visits contribute approximately 10% of the footfall which is an encouraging figure for this size of collection, and the operator is working to increase this figure.

The inspectors were pleased to note that in the development plan the otters will be provided with access to the outdoors.

The plans for improvement and extension of the quarantine facilities are to be commended and it should be the aim of the operator to complete this work prior to the next formal inspection.

The inspectors commend the decision of the operator to rationalise the content of the collection in that the Degu and poultry have been removed and the sea lions moved on to allow further space and development of the Seal display. The mid-term decision to phase out the primates for more relevant development of that area is also in line with keeping the collection water oriented in nature.

Although the displays are well kept and the welfare of the animals is well catered for, some public areas of the building are looking a little tired and the operators are encouraged to consider further capital investment to update and modernise such areas, to enhance the public experience.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Inspectors STRONGLY recommend that the proposed development of the quarantine extension be prioritised and set for completion prior to the next formal inspection.
2. The inspectors recommend that each tank holding venomous species should be marked at the rear of the tanks in the service areas with the numbers, type and species of the occupant/s, so that all personnel working in that area are aware of which animals and the numbers present in that enclosure.
3. The inspectors recommend that the freezer used for holding p.m. carcasses be marked with a label on the freezer as well as on the adjacent wall so that no confusion may arise. Other materials such as staff personal items, cutlery or any staff foodstuffs should be removed from this area.
4. In the public area at the approach to the anenome tank there is a step up to view the display. Although lit from above the step is not easily noticed when several people are in that area. We recommend either additional lighting at floor level or the use of fluorescent safety tape to highlight the step or fall.
5. The inspectors recommend that in co-operation with the Licensing Authority the operators undertake a complete H&S review in the service areas to include access ladders to the ocean tank, multiway electrical sockets, and any other relevant items.
6. Cleanliness and hygiene standards are good, but it should be ensured that all bins holding biological materials or waste should have appropriate closures or lids in place.
7. The galvanised metal infrastructure supporting some tanks and the architectural features in the displays is showing corrosion in some areas adjacent to tanks or water areas. Although this should not affect the structural integrity of the building we recommend a review of such areas to ensure safety.

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Where the zoo, to which this inspection report applies, is owned by the local authority, the local authority must send a copy of the completed form to Defra (in accordance with section 13(2) of the ZLA) where the zoo is situated in England, or to the Welsh Government where the zoo is situated in Wales. Defra or the Welsh Government (as the case may be) may use the information contained in the form to ensure that local authorities are carrying out their duties correctly in accordance with the ZLA.

Defra and the Welsh Government are also subject to the EIRs and the FOIA and so may be required to release information, including personal data and commercial information, on request. However, as above, Defra and the Welsh Government will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality nor act in contravention of their obligations under the DPA.



North Tyneside Council

Chief Executive's Office
Consumer Protection Group

Environmental Health
Quadrant East - 1st Floor
Silverlink North
Cobalt Business Park
North Tyneside
NE27 0BY

Licence No: 11/00001/ZOO

ZOO LICENSING ACT 1981 LICENCE TO OPERATE A ZOO

PART 1

THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF NORTH TYNESIDE
being the Local Authority responsible for licensing zoos
under the above Act
HEREBY GRANT THIS LICENCE TO:

Blue Reef Aquarium

To operate the premises known as:

**Blue Reef Aquarium
Grand Parade, Tynemouth,
Tyne and Wear, NE30 4JH**

Situated within (or the major part of which is within) the area of the said Authority, subject to the conditions attached to this licence.

This licence is issued in accordance with the Act for a period of six years and shall remain in force from 05 July 2011 until 05 July 2017.

GRANTED at the office of the said Council
on the Fifth day of July, Two thousand and Eleven

Signed: 

Name: Colin MacDonald

Position: Consumer Protection Group Manager

