

Annex A: ‘Normally domesticated’/’not normally domesticated’ animals

The Secretary of State is not in a position to give an authoritative statement on which animals fall into the “normally non-domestic” and “normally domestic” categories as interpretation of legislation is a matter for the Courts. However, an informal view on the more common cases that have caused uncertainty is set out below.

To explain the thinking, the two categories have been sub-divided into the following five sub-categories. Species not in categories 1 to 4 will almost certainly be in 5. Hybrid species should be treated as not normally domesticated if one of the parents is from sub-categories 3 to 5. Where there is doubt about a species, local authorities, inspectors or operators may check with Defra:

Animals considered normally domesticated or not normally domesticated				
Species normally domesticated in Great Britain and therefore not “wild animals” for the purposes of the ZLA.		Species not normally domesticated in Great Britain and therefore to be considered “wild animals” for the purposes of the ZLA.		
<p>1. True domestic breeds of species that have been kept in this country for so long, and in such large numbers, that their status as “normally domesticated in Great Britain” is clearly justified (exotic domestic breeds of the same species as those listed here are included, eg. Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs).</p> <p>Examples: horses/ponies, donkeys, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs, cats, ferrets, rabbits, pigeons/doves, chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese.</p>	<p>2. True domestic breeds, and selectively bred wild species, introduced to this country relatively recently, but now so commonly kept outside zoological collections as to justify regarding them as “normally domesticated in Great Britain”.</p> <p>Examples: guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, chinchillas, budgerigars, canaries, guinea fowl, peafowl, goldfish, koi carp, golden orfe, llamas, alpacas.</p>	<p>3. True domestic breeds of species introduced to this country relatively recently, and kept in relatively low numbers, and that therefore should be regarded as “not normally domesticated in Great Britain” (exotic domestic breeds of species in list 1 are included in that list).</p> <p>Examples: camels, water buffalo, Ankole cattle, yak, reindeer.</p>	<p>4. Wild species, commercially farmed or widely bred by hobbyists (including some species which have been selectively bred and therefore may be considered domestic), but where this is so recent as to render the species “not normally domesticated in Great Britain”.</p> <p>Examples: deer, ostriches, wild boar, American bison, aquarium and pond fish (excluding those in 2.), cage and aviary birds (excluding those in 2.), waterfowl (excluding those in 1.), giant African land snails.</p>	<p>5. True wild species, where domesticity is not seriously suggested.</p> <p>Examples: All species not listed in 1. to 4.</p>