Printable checklist

May 2027 record-keeping checklist

The **Standards of Modern Zoo Practice for Great Britain** take over from the current 2012 Standards on **24 May 2027**. Here is what changes for record-keeping, so you can work towards it now rather than in the 28 days before an inspection.

Last checked 2 November 2026 against the 2027 Standards · a ZooLog+ guide

Before 24 May 2027

- [ ] **Check your retention period covers six years.**
  Animal records: the animal's life, plus at least six years after its death or departure. Other required records: a minimum of six years. (2027 Standards §1.15–§1.16)
- [ ] **Check photos attached to a log are covered by the same retention, not a shorter one.**
  A photo attached to a husbandry or incident record is part of that record.
- [ ] **Add IUCN Red List conservation status to your stock record.**
  A new required field for each individually recognisable animal or group. (§12.1 l)
- [ ] **Move your annual stock return deadline from 1 April to 1 March.**
  Same reporting year (1 January–31 December); the copy to your local authority is now due earlier. (§12.2)
- [ ] **Add hazard category and the M:F:U sex format to the annual stock return.**
  e.g. "1.2.3" for 1 male, 2 females, 3 unsexed. (§12.2)
- [ ] **Check whether you need separate stock returns.**
  Individually counted animals and census/colony-counted animals go on separate Annual Stock Records if your collection has both. (§12.4)
- [ ] **If you run a wildlife rehabilitation operation, plan for a separate Wildlife Annual Stock Record.**
  Covers every native wildlife animal admitted, including those euthanased on admission. (§12.5)
- [ ] **Start keeping written education and conservation activity records, with an annual review.**
  Moves from "should" to "must" keep — including a written Annual Conservation Summary to your local authority by 1 March. (§11.6, §10.3)
- [ ] **Start keeping full drug stock, usage, storage and disposal records.**
  Moves from "should" to "must" keep. (§6.27)
- [ ] **If you're in Wales, check which Standards and licensing guidance currently apply to you.**
  The 2027 Standards are the first to cover Wales on the same basis as England and Scotland; check with your local authority what you work to before then.

One thing worth doing regardless of the date

Read Appendix C of the 2027 Standards, "Summary of documentation required for inspection" — it is the closest published document to a specification of what an inspector will ask for, and it is free.

Sources

- **GOV.UK: Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice** (confirms the 23/24 May 2027 transition)
- **Standards of Modern Zoo Practice for Great Britain** — the document itself, Sections 1 and 12 and Appendix C

General information from the published 2027 Standards, not legal advice. Check with your local licensing authority for anything specific to your collection. Full guide and one-page summary at zoologplus.com/guides/zoo-record-keeping/.