# Judge to rule on Jodie Marsh’s appeal over lemur licence after council refusal



A judge has adjourned a ruling in the ongoing appeal by former model Jodie Marsh against Uttlesford District Council's refusal to grant her a dangerous wild animal licence, allowing her to keep lemurs at her sanctuary in Lindsell, Essex. The decision, which could significantly impact Marsh's animal care ambitions, follows her previous application rejection last year that raised concerns primarily related to noise disturbances and the handling of other animals within her care.

The council's refusal stemmed from various issues surrounding Marsh's practices, particularly her decision to take a baby meerkat and an owl into a pub, which raised eyebrows among officials and animal welfare advocates alike. During the court hearings, Marsh has maintained that much of the derogatory commentary directed at her sanctuary arises from online trolling, rather than factual critiques of her animal welfare practices. She has expressed urgency in rehoming the lemurs, as the current owner has indicated they prefer not to send them to a zoo.

Reports submitted to the court included audio of lemur calls from a different zoo, which were used in part to illustrate the potential noise concerns. Andrew Bonham, senior environmental health officer for the council, reiterated that the videos showcased lemur noises not associated with Marsh’s proposed animals, indicating a possible misrepresentation of their sound levels. He mentioned that a noise survey had been conducted, but location specifics were not disclosed. In response, Paul Oakley, representing Marsh, highlighted that the conclusions drawn regarding potential noise nuisances may be unfounded speculation at this stage.

Moreover, upcoming legislation is set to mandate a licence for keeping additional species, such as marmosets, beginning in April, with Marsh already housing 17 of these monkeys. This creates a further sense of urgency, as the council's ruling may impede her ability to manage her current marmoset population effectively.

District Judge Christopher Williams noted the importance of evaluating these concerns in the context of Marsh's appeal and has committed to delivering a judgment on 3 June. The implications of this case extend beyond Marsh’s personal ambitions, touching on broader discussions about animal welfare, regulatory practices for private sanctuaries, and the role of public perception in influencing these matters. As the case unfolds, it is clear that the discourse surrounding animal care standards and regulatory compliance will remain a contentious topic, particularly as Marsh navigates the complexities of her appeal.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/judge-adjourns-for-judgment-in-jodie-marsh-appeal-against-animal-licence-refusal-COPRU2Q4LBJBBFF53MSVUIEWCA/), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2040p3zweyo), [[5]](https://news.sky.com/story/jodie-marsh-essex-animal-sanctuary-run-by-ex-model-refused-licence-to-keep-lemurs-13180254)
* Paragraph 2 – [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjl6njg6d0do), [[6]](https://metro.co.uk/2024/07/17/jodie-marsh-denied-dangerous-wild-animal-licence-taking-meerkat-pub-21247474/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/jodie-marsh-braintree-paul-oakley-instagram-itv-b1224309.html), [[7]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5ydj9v223yo)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/judge-adjourns-for-judgment-in-jodie-marsh-appeal-against-animal-licence-refusal-COPRU2Q4LBJBBFF53MSVUIEWCA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2040p3zweyo> - Former model Jodie Marsh appeared in court to appeal against Uttlesford District Council's refusal to grant her a dangerous wild animal licence for keeping lemurs at her private sanctuary, Fripps Farm, in Lindsell, Essex. The council had previously rejected her application, citing concerns over noise and her handling of other animals. The next hearing was scheduled for January 2025 to allow time for an expert report. Marsh expressed urgency in rehoming the lemurs, stating the current owner did not want them and preferred they not go to a zoo.
3. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/jodie-marsh-braintree-paul-oakley-instagram-itv-b1224309.html> - Jodie Marsh defended taking a meerkat named Mabel to the pub during her court appeal against Uttlesford District Council's refusal to grant her a licence to keep lemurs at her animal sanctuary. Marsh argued that online trolls were behind much of the criticism of her sanctuary in Lindsell, Essex. She stated that taking Mabel to the pub was necessary as the animal could not be left alone. The council had previously rejected her application, citing concerns over noise and her handling of other animals.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cjl6njg6d0do> - Jodie Marsh, founder of Fripps Farm in Essex, was denied a licence to keep lemurs after Uttlesford District Council raised concerns over her handling of other animals, including taking a baby meerkat and an owl to a pub. The council's licensing and environmental health committee deemed it inappropriate to grant the licence. Marsh expressed her intention to appeal the decision, stating she would look into challenging it.
5. <https://news.sky.com/story/jodie-marsh-essex-animal-sanctuary-run-by-ex-model-refused-licence-to-keep-lemurs-13180254> - Uttlesford District Council rejected Jodie Marsh's application to house eight ring-tailed lemurs at her Fripps Farm animal sanctuary, citing concerns over her handling of other animals, including taking a meerkat and an owl to a pub. The council also raised issues about potential noise disturbance from the lemurs. Marsh expressed her intention to appeal the decision, stating she would look into challenging it.
6. <https://metro.co.uk/2024/07/17/jodie-marsh-denied-dangerous-wild-animal-licence-taking-meerkat-pub-21247474/> - Jodie Marsh was denied a dangerous wild animal licence to keep lemurs at her Fripps Farm sanctuary after Uttlesford District Council raised concerns over her handling of other animals, including taking a meerkat and an owl to a pub. The council also cited potential noise disturbance from the lemurs. Marsh expressed her intention to appeal the decision, stating she would look into challenging it.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5ydj9v223yo> - Jodie Marsh is appealing against Uttlesford District Council's decision to refuse her application to keep lemurs at her private animal sanctuary, Fripps Farm, in Lindsell, Essex. The council had previously rejected her application, citing concerns over noise and her handling of other animals. Marsh expressed her intention to appeal the decision, stating she would look into challenging it.