



Brighton & Hove

Environmental Health & Licensing

Animal Welfare Charter

This charter has been adopted by Brighton & Hove City Council to reflect the concerns of local people who care about animal welfare and any cruel treatment, abuse or neglect of animals.

In adopting the charter, the council hopes that it will provide an example to other agencies and individuals to prevent the unnecessary suffering of animals.

The council supports the view that all animals have a right to life free from cruel treatment and unnecessary suffering.

It recognises that animals are capable of feeling, capable of enjoying a state of well being and equally capable of suffering, and therefore considers animals have the right to enjoy five basic freedoms:

- freedom from fear and distress
- freedom from hunger and thirst
- freedom from pain, disease and injury
- freedom from unnecessary constraint
- freedom from physical discomfort

The council will look to these five freedoms for guidance when exercising its statutory powers in relation to animal health and welfare matters. Although the charter is not intended to cover every aspect of animal welfare, it does detail those areas that the council considers most important and where it hopes it can have some influence as a public body.

The council will endeavour to display and disseminate this charter widely and welcomes comments to enable a review at a later date to ensure that it is in line with changes in national and European legislation, local circumstances and the growing public concern about animal welfare.

The council calls upon all members of the public to support this charter and to draw to the attention of the council any contraventions of the provisions contained within it.

Through lawful means, the council will also use its best endeavours to promote improvements in animal welfare by taking account of animal welfare issues in the council's 'day to day' operations, in its 'decision making' processes and through influence in association with other authorities, voluntary welfare groups and government agencies.

In particular:

The council will enforce the statutory powers it has in respect of animal health and welfare.

- will continue to fund and operate a dog control scheme incorporating an animal welfare service and believes that the animal welfare staff have an important role in advising and educating the public.
- will promote responsible dog ownership both by enforcement and education by:
 - taking action against infringements of the local bylaws and relevant legislation
 - the production of advisory leaflets on responsible dog ownership
 - educational campaigns to promote responsible dog ownership and knowledge of all relevant bylaws and legislation and ensure that owners are aware of their responsibilities regarding clearing up after their dogs

- will continue to provide dog faeces bins throughout the city and to publicise their use
- will continue to give a high priority to preventing and clearing up dog faeces through education and cleansing campaigns
- will continue to provide a microchipping service for animals
- will undertake animal welfare licensing to secure the health & welfare of animals in reasonable standards of hygienic accommodation with proper control against infectious disease spread
- will take enforcement action to counter unlicensed premises and contravention of licence conditions
- will fulfil its statutory responsibilities under the Animal Health Act if appropriate by
 - seeking to encourage good practice by maximising publicity where prosecutions are brought
 - prepare and distribute to all involved material explaining the regulations so as to promote a better understanding of the law and greater compliance with the various welfare codes
 - liaise closely with other enforcing agencies to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

The council will take full account, where appropriate, of animal welfare issues in its day to day operations and in its decision making process.

- will consider its procurement policy in relation to its role as a purchaser of food taking into account the guiding principles when determining the suitability of food sources
- will respect the concerns of those who have adopted a lifestyle that questions the morality of killing animals for food and actively promote vegetarian and vegan alternatives at council establishments
- will encourage education establishments to adopt a policy of animal welfare in all schools with awareness and promotion to pupils of the issues
- will ensure that all pest control treatments are carried out humanely and by trained and experienced personnel
- will ensure the previous policies opposing blood sports and circuses where performing animals or caged animals are used are sustained ensuring that all legal processes are followed
- will support the principles in respect of wildlife by:
 - opposing in principle the taking or killing of wild animals, or the infliction of any suffering upon them, subject to the need to control pests oppose the use of all snares and any trap which causes unnecessary suffering
- will support the following principles in respect of farm animals by:
 - opposing all forms of farming which cause distress or unnecessary suffering
 - use its best endeavours to encourage farming practices that have the minimum impact on animal welfare
- will support the use of the fire brigade resources for animal rescue in accordance with welfare codes.

The council will use its best endeavours to promote improvements in animal welfare through its influencing role and in association with other organisations.

- will publicise this charter throughout the city in libraries and other service outlets
- will liaise with voluntary welfare groups which operate peacefully within the law, whilst deploring the activities of those who operate outside the law
- will lobby government departments, professional organisations, local authority associations etc to bring the views of the local community to their attention
- will oppose the shipment of live animals for slaughter and lobby the national government and the European Union to ban the export and import of live animals for this trade
- will support schemes for teaching responsible pet care and ownership with others
- will seek the support of businesses for this charter

Specific Policies

Blood Sports

The council, where it is lawful to do so, will prevent any blood sports being carried out on its own land and will encourage its tenants not to allow blood sports.

Performing animals and circuses

Where it is lawful to do so, the council will not allow on land it owns to be used by circuses and other like enterprises of entertainment where caged and or performing animals are used. Save as exemptions as follows:

- of performances involving equestrian acts using only horses and ponies
- or greyhound racing behind an artificial lure
- or horse racing
- or cat or dog breed shows
- or dog agility events
- or the showing of birds, rabbits or other domestic animals.

All performances covered by the exemption will be subject to both the Directors of Housing & City Support and Environment being satisfied that in each case there is no form of cruelty and that all animals are well treated both during performances and whilst being trained.

Note

Where an animal is used, the following is considered: companion animals, farm animals, animals used for experimentation and wild animals.

