

# Animal Welfare Charter

## 1. Introduction

This Charter sets out the commitments of Camden Council to animal welfare and is consistent with the Camden 2025 Call to Action 'Clean, Vibrant and Sustainable Places'.

## 2. Statutory obligations and support of the European Union's Lisbon Treaty

Camden Council:

- i) Takes its statutory obligations under the Act and Regulations seriously; and
- ii) Supports the European Union's recognition of animals as sentient beings under the Lisbon Treaty (Article 13 of Title II).

## 3. The five freedoms

Camden Council will uphold the Five Freedoms as its guiding principles in matters concerning animal welfare, namely to work towards ensuring that Animals live a life free from unnecessary pain and degradation and experience:

- i) Freedom from hunger and thirst;
- ii) Freedom from discomfort;
- iii) Freedom from pain, disease, and injury;
- iv) Freedom from unnecessary constraint; and
- v) Freedom from fear and distress.

## 4. Broad commitments

4.1. In accordance with the Five Freedoms, Camden Council will:

### General

- i) Support animal welfare and refrain from acting in a way that causes an animal to unnecessarily suffer when carrying out its legal duties.
- ii) Update publicly-available information, including on the Council's website, to reflect and promote animal welfare standards.
- iii) Encourage responsible pet ownership.

## Licensing

- iv) Comply with its statutory responsibilities to license and monitor animal breeding, boarding, sales, and riding establishments and will carry out licensing activities in accordance with best industry practice.
- v) Conduct inspections of licensed premises and pet shops strictly in accordance with its statutory obligations pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act (2006) and Animal Welfare Regulations (2018) and will re-inspect licensed premises (announced or unannounced) in the event that Camden Council holds any concerns about the welfare of animals during the operation of the licence.
- vi) In carrying out licensing with respect to the keeping or training of animals for exhibition in the course of a business for entertainment purposes (as defined by the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018), ensure that a specific condition is imposed on the applicant, insofar as it is allowed under legislation, consistent with Schedule 7, Clause 7 of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.
- vii) Where Council becomes aware of unlicensed breeders, thoroughly investigate and decide on a case by case basis, if Council should proceed to prosecution.

## Care of dogs

- viii) Ensure the humane treatment of dogs that are seized or detained by Camden Council, including minimising stress and will entrust stray dogs to the care of the RSPCA, an Animal Charity or Stray Dog Service (as the case may be) where appropriate.
- ix) Continue to promote the work of Dogs on the Street (DOTS).

## Land use

- x) Support the prohibition of hunting on land owned by it and will work with the City of London Corporation and other land-owners in the borough to promote support for the prohibition of hunting on their land.
- xi) Oppose the loss of designated wildlife sites and will give consideration to the protection of designated wildlife sites when proposing its own developments and to the full extent permitted by law when determining planning applications.

- xii) Ensure that any leases or licences granted by the Council for the purpose of fairs, or the like, shall include a condition prohibiting the provision of live animals as prizes.

### Education

- xiii) Seek to encourage all schools in the Borough to teach and reflect the importance of animal welfare across their science and PSHE curriculum.

### Referrals

- xiv) Where Council officers observe an animal welfare concern, ensure that such concerns are reported to the Metropolitan Police, the RSPCA and other relevant agencies to help ensure efficient enforcement of Animal Welfare legislation and to prevent further neglect or mistreatment.
- xv) Whilst acknowledging that there are areas where Council is unable to take direct action, where it deems it necessary to do so, ensure that concerns of an animal welfare policy nature are highlighted to the Local Government Association.

### Canals and open spaces

- xvi) Support responsible and sustainable angling on Hampstead Heath and local canals, including the proper disposal of fishing gear, and recommends that all anglers in the borough follow the key recommendations of the RSPCA Medway Report.
- xvii) Discourage the feeding of pigeons and comply with its statutory obligations to control waste, including through endeavouring to provide sufficient bins for the disposal of waste.
- xviii) Make minimal use of pesticides in all Council-owned, controlled, or maintained parks.
- xix) Install and maintain hedgehog protection signage in appropriate locations and consider further wildlife protection signage.

### Housing

- xx) Generally support the keeping of pets by Council tenants, in accordance with Council policy.
- xxi) Insofar as practicable, ensure that there are opportunities for elderly, disabled, mentally ill and homeless people who move into care homes,

supported living homes, sheltered accommodation and hostels to retain their pets.

4.2. Council will, from time to time, review this Charter to take account of developments in animal welfare, changes in legislation, Council policies and changing local and national circumstances.

4.3. The abovementioned commitments should not be regarded as exhaustive.

## 5. **Limitation**

Nothing express or implied in this Charter limits Council or fetters its discretion to take enforcement action nor overrides Council's statutory duties. To the extent of any inconsistency, Council's statutory duties take precedence.

## 6. **Definitions**

For the purposes of this Charter, the following words bear the following meanings:

Animal	or its derivatives, means the definition of Animals pursuant to section 1 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006
Act	means the Animal Welfare Act 2006
Regulations	means the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018