

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER

North Lincolnshire Council recognises that animals are capable of feeling, capable of enjoying a state of wellbeing and equally capable of suffering.

The council considers that all 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 to express their normal behaviour
- Freedom from physical discomfort

The council will look at these five freedoms for guidance when exercising its statutory powers in relation to animal health and welfare matters.

Through lawful means, the council will also use its best endeavours to promote improvements in animal welfare by taking full 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 local authorities, voluntary welfare groups and government agencies.

In particular:

- The council strongly opposes the shipment of live animals for slaughter and urges the Government to call on the European Union to ban the export and import of live animals for this trade.
- The council will continue to fulfil its responsibilities under all relevant legislation relating to pet animals. In particular, the council will continue to undertake and develop its enforcing and educational role in the area of responsible dog ownership. This will include:
 - appropriate action under relevant legislation
 - the production of advisory leaflets on responsible dog ownership
 - educational campaigns to promote responsible dog ownership and knowledge of the byelaws.
- The council resolves to support schemes for teaching responsible pet care and will actively promote the awareness of animal welfare and encourage voluntary organisations to play a part in this area

- The council will continue to ensure that all its pest control treatment is carried out humanely by trained and experienced personnel
- The council, when considering applications for permission for any acts or performances involving animals (other than equestrian acts using only horses and ponies or greyhound racing behind an artificial lure) will be mindful of all pertinent matters, including the welfare rights of animals
- The council when considering applications for permission from circuses to bring on to its land any animals other than horses, ponies, guard dogs or domestic pets (but excluding animals which are normally domesticated) will be mindful of all pertinent matters, including the welfare rights of animals
- The council will use its influencing role by:
 - seeking the support of businesses for the Charter
 - publicising this Charter
 - liaising with voluntary welfare groups which operate peacefully within the law whilst deploring the activities of those who operate without the law
 - lobbying government departments, professional organisations, local authority associations etc to bring the views of the local community to the Government's attention.

Signed on behalf of North Lincolnshire Council on the day of 1996

..... Mayor of North Lincolnshire Council

..... Leader of North Lincolnshire Council

..... Chair of Health and Public Protection Committee

..... Witnessed by