

Derby City Council

Animal Welfare Charter

Derby City Council believes it has a moral responsibility for the welfare of all captive and domestic animals, and all wild animals in so far that its activities impinge upon them.

The Council promotes the responsible ownership of pets, and high standards of animal welfare and husbandry at licenced premises, on farms, during transport, and at livestock markets.

Derby City Council endorses the five freedoms, for all animals, conceived by FAWC (The Farm Animal Welfare Council), an independent advisory body to the Government.

1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
2. Freedom from discomfort – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
5. Freedom from fear and distress – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

Derby City Council will work to achieve these objectives on animal welfare matters by:

- Enforcing fairly and even-handedly.
- Exercising control through policy decisions in relation to activities that it manages.
- Educating and advising residents of and visitors to Derby on animal welfare issues.
- Providing up-to-date advice on animal welfare issues to individuals or organisations involved with animals.

Derby City Council will amend and update the Animal Welfare Charter as necessary, to reflect the changes in legislation and local circumstances.

Derby City Council resolves to uphold the welfare of animals and safeguard their rights.

AGREED:

1. *To oppose vivisection by ensuring that chemicals used on Derby City Council premises have not been tested on animals through clauses in future tenders for cleaning services.*
2. *To uphold a resolution of Council passed on 12 September 1991 that bans circuses that feature animals from land owned by Derby City Council.*
3. *To introduce a ban on the use of animals as prizes on any events held on land owned by Derby City Council.*
4. *To work with partners in the city to encourage responsible pet ownership via measures including:*
 - *Promoting the neutering of households pets.*
 - *Encouraging good practice such as micro-chipping, worming, de-fleeing, regular vaccination, nail clipping and dental hygiene.*
 - *Educating residents about responsible ownership of exotic animals and the challenges they pose.*
 - *Supporting community action events.*
5. *To prevent 'back-street breeding', condemn the exploitation of breeding animals for profit and support the introduction of legislation nationally that prevents the sale of puppies and kittens without the mother being present.*
6. *To ensure Mayoral robes do not contain real fur and replace any existing real fur as soon as possible.*
7. *To condemn the use of snares and other traps which cause suffering to animals and only use humane methods of pest control for managing populations of birds and mammals.*
8. *To promote the safe disposal of everyday items that pose a danger to animals, including plastic bags, balloons, tin cans, glass bottles and elastic bands.*

- 9.** *To introduce a ban on the use of sky lanterns on land owned by Derby City Council and promote the consequences fallen lanterns can have on animals.*
- 10.** *To oppose the unnecessary use of agrochemicals and pesticides by:*
 - *Using methods of weed control which are not harmful to wildlife and wherever possible weeds are controlled by non-chemical methods.*
 - *Ensuring that where practicable, hedgerows and roadside banks will be managed to conserve, enhance and create safe habitats for birds and animals.*
- 11.** *To work with partners to use the legislative powers available to deal with any cases of animal cruelty or welfare.*
- 12.** *To ensure that any business operating in the city or undertaking an activity for the Council that involves the use of animals, does so in a responsible way and ensures that animal welfare assessments are carried out, applied and reviewed regularly.*
- 13.** *To encourage all schools in the Council's administrative boundary to manage their school grounds as ecological reserves; explain to school children the law in relation to protected and non-protected species and to introduce an "Animal Welfare Policy" of its own that promotes the study of animals, their conservation and the responsible ownership of pets.*
- 14.** *To encourage those who fish in Council controlled waters or from Council controlled land to adopt a code of practice based on the recommendations of the Medway Report.*
- 15.** *To encourage Angling Clubs fishing in Council controlled waters or from Council controlled land to provide guidance concerning the biology of fish and their relationships with other animals in order to help reduce the incidence of inconsiderate behaviour towards them.*