

**London  
Borough of  
Enfield**

# Animal Welfare Charter

**Protecting and Caring for  
our Animals**

**2017**

**ENFIELD**  
Council



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## **Introduction**

Good animal welfare provides a range of direct and indirect benefits for both the animal and society and brings joy to the lives of individuals, families and communities. This Charter sets out the Council's policy and commitment towards a range of animal welfare issues. Enfield Council aims to safeguard and promote the good health and wellbeing of animal and believes that we all have responsibilities to our fellow creatures to keep them safe, healthy and happy.

Animals not only satisfy our social needs as pet owners and farmers, but they are also integral to other factors such as the environment, sports, recreation and they support food production. This Charter seeks to provide interested parties with information and guidance in the care and maintenance of animals and inform owners about their legal responsibilities, how best they can be met and the enforcement actions that can be taken by Enfield Council to ensure the wellbeing of animals.

## **The Scope**

Although the Council encourages promotion of awareness throughout the borough of the need to care for the welfare of animals, it recognises that not all matters are within its influence. This Charter does not cover every aspect of animal welfare, but it does aim to detail those areas where the Council has a regulatory role as a landowner, a property owner and an enforcing authority for legislation that relates to the protection of animals. Also, where it feels it can have some influences as a responsible and representative public body and where it can facilitate information.

In keeping with the Animal Welfare Act 2006, this charter applies only to animals for which humans have responsibility for or have control over.

This policy will be periodically reviewed to ensure that amendments to legislation or further developments in animal welfare and local and national circumstances can be embedded into the policy.

## **Statement of Intent**

Enfield Council is opposed to cruelty and unnecessary suffering of animals and respects the principle that all animals need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease. The Council firmly believes that every animal should live in a suitable environment, including being housed with any necessary companion among its own species, be fed a suitable diet and be able to show normal behaviour.

Enforcement action can be taken against owners who fail their responsibilities towards their animals. The Council can and will enforce legislation relating to animal welfare to protect all animals within its remit.

Enfield Council fully supports the requirements of the *Animal Welfare Act 2006* that requires any person responsible for an animal to ensure that their needs are met. This includes:

- Its need for a suitable environment,
- Its need for a suitable diet,
- Its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
- Any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and
- Its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

Where possible, Enfield Council will aim to assume an educational and advisory role to facilitate these principals while ensuring that owners/keepers comply with the relevant laws.

The Council will actively encourage the visiting of school children to parks and open spaces to help educate them on wildlife and looking after the environment.

### **Enfield Council's Statutory Role**

The Council takes its statutory duties on animal health and welfare seriously to ensure that the legislation to protect animals is complied with.

The Council has a statutory duty to licence certain establishments/premises and regulate persons licensed for the breeding, sale, hire or keeping of animals within the borough, which includes:

- Pets Shops
- Dog Breeding Establishments
- Dog and Cat Boarding Establishments (Including Home Boarding)
- Riding Establishments
- Owners of Dangerous Wild Animals
- Zoos

Enfield Council will appoint qualified experts where deemed to be appropriate or necessary, to inspect premises, in addition to inspections carried out by its own officers.

The Council has statutory responsibilities relating to Animal Licensing, Stray Dogs, zoonotic animal diseases, Nuisance Animals & Dangerous Dogs. As a local authority, our power includes:

- Issuing fixed penalty notices under the *Clean Neighborhood's and Environment Act 2005* for; failing to remove your dog's mess, areas where dogs are excluded and areas where dogs are to be kept on leads.
- Seizing and detaining stray dogs under the *Environmental Protection Act 1990*.
- Investigating the noise nuisance caused by barking dogs and take the appropriate action under the *Environmental Protection Act 1990*.
- Prosecuting owners of dogs who fail to ensure their dogs are wearing a collar and tag when in a public place.
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to owners of dogs who fail to ensure their dogs are microchipped with updated details under *The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2014*.

## **Animal Disease Control**

The Council has a key statutory responsibility to enforce animal disease legislation in the event of an outbreak of an exotic notifiable animal disease within the UK (such as Foot and Mouth, Rabies and Avian Flu). The Council also has a duty to prepare and exercise emergency plans under the *Civil Contingencies Act 2004*.

Enfield Council has used the exotic notifiable animal disease contingency plan template produced by the National Animal Health and Welfare Panel and the Association of Chief Trading Standards Officers (ACTSO) for this purpose.

At times, we may also erect advisory information/notices about animal diseases/conditions.

The Council has contracts with the City of London Animal Health Inspectors who undertake inspections of animals at farms and other like premises under animal disease control legislation, ensuring that proper animal health and welfare standards are in place on all farms. The contract also includes administration of movement of animals' licenses (such as sheep, goats, pigs and deer) from premises to premises in accordance to legal restrictions.

## **Improving animal welfare through licensing and enforcement**

The Council will continue to effectively regulate premises or persons licensed for the breeding, sale, hire or keeping of animals to manage problems that may occur in such premises. Examples include overcrowding, inadequate facilities, lack of proper care and supervision and inadequately trained staff.

The Council will ensure that the premises comply with the conditions of their licence. Annual inspections will be undertaken when licences are granted or renewed and unannounced visits made as necessary to ensure that the licence conditions are being adhered to and that animal welfare needs are met, as defined under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 "Duty of care" (Section 9). Inspections of animals on farms and holdings are also undertaken on a risk based programme.

The Council recommends that pet owners use only licensed boarding establishments or, if using pet sitting services, dog sitters should be licensed under the *Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963*.

Enfield Council is aware of the impact of firework noise on animal welfare as this can cause distress for all kinds of animals, including companion animals, wildlife and farm animals.

The Council licences, inspects and enforces premises for the storage and sale of fireworks. This is strictly controlled by legislation. The Council and Police also enforce legislation that strictly controls the use of fireworks as it is illegal to:

- Set off or throw fireworks in the street or other public places.
- Set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except for;

- Bonfire Night, up until midnight
- New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, up until 1am

Sale of Category F3 fireworks whose decibel levels exceed 120dB are restricted to organised events and cannot be purchased by the public. Category F1 and F2 with typical maximum levels of 96 decibels can only be used by the public. The Council prohibits the use of fireworks and other forms of pyrotechnics at Forty Hall, and also discourages the release of helium balloons, Chinese lanterns and floating candles on land owned or controlled by the Council.

## Stray Dog Service

The Council has a statutory responsibility under Section 149 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1990* and the *Environmental Protection (Stray Dogs) Regulations 1992*, to seize and detain any dog found on public land, or other land or premises, which it believes is stray. The Council will ensure that all strays found in the borough are treated humanely and not subjected to any further pain and distress.

The Council has a contract to deliver the Stray Dog Services. The contractor is responsible for the collection and return of the dog, kennelling, veterinary services needed, re-homing, charity liaison and dealing with customers directly. The contractor's staff are trained and competent in dog handling and dog welfare. The Stray Dog Service provision is as follows:

Contact	Days	Open Times	Last callout
Call: 0781 5512833 Customers enquiry will be dealt with first thing the next day if closed.	Mondays to Fridays (including Bank Holidays)	07:00 – 22:00	21:00
	Saturdays and Sundays	10:00 – 20:00	19:00
	<b>Closed:</b> Christmas Day and Boxing Day		

All dogs will be thoroughly checked for identification in an attempt to return the dog to its owner. As far as possible, we will actively seek re-homing of unclaimed stray dogs after the statutory seven-day detention period.

## Responsible Pet Ownership

Enfield Council recognises the value that pets can bring to people's lives and the commitment needed to ensure pet's protection and good wellbeing. In addition to exercising its legal enforcement powers, the Council will promote responsible pet ownership and encourage pet shops to provide suitable care and welfare information to prospective owners about the animal they are purchasing.

The Council will expect people with pets or animals to be responsible pet owners and before getting a pet or animal, consideration should be given to the commitment which it entails. The Council encourage potential owners to carry out research on the needs of the pet/animal being considered. Things to consider before getting a pet include:

- Cost of the pet including additional cost for registration, emergency, regular vet checks and vaccinations.
- Food and diet and the cost of feeding your pet.
- Your legal duties around owning the pet of your choice.
- The environment and equipment your pet will need.
- General care of the pet and what will happen if you are out of the property for long periods.
- The maintenance requirements.
- An appropriate pet if you have children.

It is a legal requirement for all dogs to be microchipped with up-to-date contact details to aid identification. A puppy has to be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks old.

If a dog is not microchipped, a notice will be issued giving the owner 21 days to ensure microchipping is done. If the owner does not comply with the notice, we may arrange for the microchipping to be done, seek to recover all costs and the owner will be liable to pay a fine on prosecution.

Enfield Council will utilise our website to signpost dog owners to free or low cost microchipping, and will work with the Dogs Trust to provide free microchipping events. We will also signpost dog and cat owners to any known free or low cost neutering.

We will promote responsible dog ownership by enforcing legislation against persons allowing dogs to foul and not clean up afterwards, dogs failing to wear collars and tags and for dogs being off leads in designated parks and open spaces.

If we identify or become aware of any illegally imported, illegal animals kept as pets or wild birds being trapped and caught - we will contact the Metropolitan Police's Wildlife Crime Unit.

## **Dangerous Dogs**

Under the law any dog (of any breed or type) can be considered dangerous in any place if it is not kept under control. The dog doesn't have to bite anyone, it could just show aggressive behaviour that makes someone feel in fear for their safety. When we become aware of Dangerous Dogs, we will refer it to the Metropolitan Police and their status Dog Unit for their investigation.

There are a number of Orders in place in our parks and open spaces to ensure that dogs are kept under control by being kept on a lead (either by direction or in some places at all times) and there are certain parks and open spaces where dogs are excluded (such as children playgrounds). Consideration is currently being given to limiting the number of dogs that one person can walk and be in control of in parks and open spaces.

## **Banned Breeds**

Certain breeds or 'types' of dogs in the UK are banned. It makes it illegal to own, breed, sell, or give away the following types of dog:

- Pit Bull Terrier
- Japanese Tosa
- Dogo Argentino
- Fila Brasileiro

When we become aware of dangerous dogs, we will refer them to the Metropolitan Police Dog Unit for their investigation.

## **Circuses, Performances, Exhibitions and Displays of Animals**

The Council will let only to circuses which are active members of the Association of Circus Proprietors and that do not include live animal acts including birds, reptiles or equines in their programmes.

All other applications to hold performances, exhibitions or displays of animals on any council-owned land or premises will be considered individually and the decision to grant or refuse such applications will be based on a wide range of considerations.

The Council will discourage the use of performing animals in premises or on land not in the Council's ownership.

Any evidence of cruelty or mistreatment will be reported to the appropriate authority which may include the RSPCA and/or the Police.

## **Giving Animals as Prizes**

The Animal Welfare Act prohibits the giving of pets as prizes to unaccompanied children under the age of 16. Enfield's policy will impose a total restriction on the the giving of any pets (including fish) as prizes.

It is Council policy that the conditions for hiring or letting any of the Council's parks that the giving of pets, including goldfish, as prizes and the inappropriate exhibition of animals is prohibited.

## **Pony, Donkey and Horse Rides**

It is an offence under the *Riding Establishment Act 1964/1970* to provide riding lessons, trekking or pony/donkey rides without the appropriate licence. Anyone offering such activities on council-land should be from a licensed establishment. Enfield Council encourages other landowners to apply similar strict conditions.

## **Horses**

The Council will enforce the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and will not allow the long-term tethering of horses and ponies as a method of keeping equines on a permanent basis when there is no regular daily exercise, in an open environment, on any land owned or managed by the Council. If tethering is



temporary or regular daily exercise is provided then the code of practice, *Welfare of Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids*, issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) should be followed.

Where horses are kept on enclosed outdoor land, we will encourage the owners to erect signs on the fences so that they can be contacted in cases of emergency, such as horses escaping or becoming ill or injured.

## **City Farms**

The Council will support the establishment of city farms and pet corners, etc. provided such facilities are properly designed and managed in the belief that this will lead to a greater appreciation, by the general public of the countryside and its animals.

## **Shooting**

The Council prohibits the unauthorised use of guns, air weapons crossbows or catapults on any council-owned public open space, woodlands and parks.

## **Angling**

Enfield Council recognises the recreational purpose of angling and encourages anglers to join a legitimate fishing club and follow responsible fishing practices and care taken to discard fishing tackle, including hooks, weights and line, as it causes needless suffering to wildlife, entangling waterfowl and other birds.

This Council recommends that anglers follow the National Angling Trust, *Code of Conduct for Anglers*, which is designed to complement the existing legislative framework and provides a common sense guide to values and behaviour to which anglers should aspire.

Anyone fishing with a rod and line for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt and eel must hold a *rod fishing licence*, purchased from the Environment Agency, and comply with the byelaws that cover the waters where they are fishing.

Children under 12 don't need a licence. However, if you take a child under 12 fishing and hold the rod or help hold it you must buy a licence for yourself. Enfield Council strongly recommends that any children angling under the age of 12 should be accompanied by an adult.

In regards to un-leased waters, the Council allows angling for recreational purpose to take place, as long as those participating obtain an Environment Agency Rod License and the fish are returned to the water.

Angling is banned in some Council controlled parks and open spaces. The Parks Service do lease water bodies to bone fide angling clubs, but this will always be in agreement that can demonstrate that they comply with Environment Agency best practice for fish and wildlife welfare which includes; Statutory Close Season, Poaching and Responsible Fishing.

We recognise that illegal activity and poor practises are detrimental to wildlife such as discarded fishing lines. In response to this we will explore options with local fishing clubs to lease and manage waters within our parks in order to have uniformity in the borough.

You can be fined for fishing without a rod licence and it is a criminal offence to fish for, take, kill or attempt to take or kill freshwater fish during the statutory close season.

The Council controls fishing activities within Parks and Open Spaces as follows;

<b>Council Controlled Parks</b>	<b>Rules</b>
<b>Trent Park</b>	We allow free fishing as long as the person fishing has a valid Environment Agency Rod license
<b>Forty Hall</b>	Fishing lakes are leased to the Enfield Anglers Consortium
<b>Boxers Lake</b>	Leased to a private Fishing Club
<b>Enfield Town Park</b>	All fishing is banned
<b>Warwick Road Open Space</b>	All fishing is banned
<b>Grovelands Park</b>	We allow free fishing as long as the person fishing has a valid Environment Agency Rod License
<p><b>Fishing guidelines</b>            All of Enfield's angling waters are 'catch and release' where any fish caught need to be released back unharmed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ You have a rod licence to fish, if you are over 12 years of age.</li> <li>▪ You may only use two rods or poles per person.</li> <li>▪ You may only fish from angling stations or designated areas.</li> <li>▪ You must follow UK laws on type of tackle, gaffs and hooks that can be used.</li> <li>▪ No fishing at night (between dusk and dawn).</li> <li>▪ No fishing during closed season, 5th March until the 15th June each year.</li> <li>▪ No tents or bivouacs are allowed within the park and lake area, unless you have permission.</li> <li>▪ No use of floating bait because any birds it attracts might get caught up in hooks and line.</li> <li>▪ Put all litter and fishing line in the rubbish bins in the park or take it home.</li> </ul>	

Parks staff will approach anglers to check if they have a rod licence. Also, if there is intelligence that suggests a problem with fishing at night or in the close season, we will task this to enforcement officers. If we identify or become aware of any illegally angling activities we will contact the Environment Agency enforcement team and the police, where appropriate.

If you witness a suspected wildlife crime in action call 999 immediately and ask for the police. For all other enquires call 101. For your own safety, do not approach suspects yourself or touch anything at the scene.

## **Animal Hoarding**

Where we come across persons keeping animals in inappropriately large numbers and/or unsuitable conditions, including privately owned animal sanctuaries, we will liaise with the RSPCA or other suitable animal welfare organisation. We will encourage owners to neuter their pets and signpost them to providers of these services and discounted schemes.

People are encouraged to report any suspected instances of animal hoarding to the Council, if nuisance is being caused. In cases where animals are being mistreated or neglected, please contact the RSPCA.

## **Pets in Council Housing and Accommodation**

Enfield Council values the social benefits of owning pets and believes a healthy, happy and well cared for pet can enrich one's life. Permission to keep a pet in council accommodation will be subject to the individual tenancy agreement. The Council generally allows tenants to have one pet in permanent council accommodation and tenants must seek written permission, from the housing office, to keep more than one pet.

The Council will promote responsible pet ownership to its tenants and will take tenancy action if pets are causing a nuisance to others, or being treated inappropriately or cruelly.

If a tenant owns a pet when they need to move into temporary accommodation, the Council will attempt to place them with a housing provider that allows pets in their properties.

However, for tenants who are currently in temporary accommodation the Council prohibits them from acquiring a pet or replacing a pet that has died as this may prevent them from moving to permanent accommodation, since some landlords and housing associations do not allow pets in their properties. Instead, the Council encourages tenants to visit and experience animals in environments such as zoos and animal rescue centres.

## **Pets Emergency Contingency Planning**

Council emergency plans, including those drawn up for mass evacuation, will include provision for companion and other animals so far as is practicable, bearing in mind that the saving of human life always takes priority.

In the event of an emergency where an area is evacuated due to such incidents, the following will apply:

### **Pets at Reception Centres**

It will be the decision of the Reception Centre Manager, and the owner, occupier or manager of such premises, as to what action is taken in respect of any animals brought to a Reception Centre.

### **Other arrangements for pets**

In the event that pets cannot be kept at reception centres, or left with friends and family, the Council has a list of organisations that are able to temporarily keep pets in such circumstances such as the Trent Park Animal Centre, RSPCA and voluntary organisations.

Alternatively, the Council's arrangements for any animal or pet will be at the discretion of the Social Services Management Team. Social Services will make appropriate arrangements for kennelling/detaining and the owners will be expected to reimburse the Council for the cost of any necessary kennelling and veterinary treatment.

## **Wildlife**

Enfield is one of London's greenest boroughs. With the Lee Valley Regional Park, private gardens and 123 parks and public open spaces, 37 allotment sites, more than 300 hectares of woodland and 100 kilometres of rivers and streams, we have a wealth of biodiversity right here on our doorstep.

Enfield Council believes that wildlife and the natural processes within needs space to thrive and a healthy natural environment is fundamental to our wellbeing and our basic needs such as food and water. We encourage the personal and social benefits gained from positively engaging with our land, open spaces and heritage which promotes health and happiness.

The Council will work closely with the Wildlife Police to enforce legislation in respect of relevant habitats and protected species and continue to support measures aimed at conservation of wildlife in respect of local nature reserves, trails and conservation areas within the borough.

The Council will display a summary of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* on parks notice boards to inform users of the legal requirements for the protection of wildlife.

The Council has a community leadership role and responsibility to conserve, protect and enhance our natural habitats. The Management of council parks, gardens, and open spaces will, where possible, give priority to ecological considerations. This is covered within our *Biodiversity Action Plan*. The biodiversity plan is a working document and all service areas in the Council will adhere to it. Uncontrolled public access will be denied in relation to the most sensitive areas or habitats if necessary and/or possible aiming to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the area.

The Council has a policy in the management plans in the Green Flag parks of not using herbicide unless it is absolutely necessary. This principle will be

applied to all parks with the use of herbicide restricted to where there is no alternative to eradicate invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.

The Council has a maintenance regime with its contractor for the pruning of hedgerows on council-owned highway land. This is to ensure that hedgerows do not obstruct visibility alongside the highway. However, the pruning regime is planned to avoid the bird nesting season. The contractors are required on each visit to check for nesting birds before carrying out any pruning works, and to report back on any areas that have not been pruned due to nesting birds.

## **Planning**

The Council opposes the indiscriminate destruction of animal habitats and we will use powers under the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990* to prevent and control works taking place without the approval of the Local Planning Authority.

When we receive planning applications, we always consider the effect on local wildlife. If your work will affect protected species or habitats, you need to carry out an ecological assessment. You will also need an ecological assessment if the work is on or near:

- sites of importance for nature conservation
- Biodiversity Action Plan habitats
- rivers and green corridors

The Council has a duty to consider biodiversity when assessing planning applications and will always ensure that planning, construction, development and regeneration should have minimal impacts on biodiversity and enhance it wherever possible.

Where there is a reasonable likelihood that a planning proposal might affect important protected species or habitats, the Council will require information on the species and habitat likely to be affected, and an assessment of the impacts of the proposals will be assessed in line with local and national policy guidance.

Further information can be found on the Council's website section *Ecological assessments for planning applications*.

Ecological assessment surveys should be carried out by qualified ecologists and, if European Protected Species are being surveyed, they may need to hold a survey licence. Applicants should seek advice as early on as possible, as some steps are time-dependent and could cause delays. Survey standards and further information can be found on the *Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management* website.

## **Pest Control**

The Council recognises that it may also be required to enforce statutory powers relating to pest control. In such circumstances, the Council will only treat pest

species where they represent a public health risk to the health or well-being of the local community on Council owned Housing and Council owned Land.

The Council promotes and supports the use of safe and humane methods of pest control. The Council encourages householders to seek expert advice on pest control, rather than over-the-counter preparations, to prevent harm to non-target species, humans and the environment. Further information on the provision of Pest Control Services can be found on the Council's website.

Squirrels can get into properties and premises owners are advised to seek advice from a qualified pest controller about the safe trapping and release of squirrels.

The Council does not provide a service for dealing with foxes. Further information regarding deterring foxes from gardens can be found by contacting the "*The Fox Project*" via their website, [www.foxproject.org.uk](http://www.foxproject.org.uk).

### **Council Purchasing of food**

The Council will endeavour, where possible to purchase and state through its contracts the supply of meat and other food that are accredited through a food or farm assurance scheme, such as Red Tractor, a product certification programme that comprises a number of farm assurance schemes for food products, animal feed and fertilizer.

The Council has been recognised in Sustain's 'Good Food for London Borough League table' for our commitment to issues such as animal welfare and sustainable fish. The Council's current examples of good practice include:

- Enfield Catering Services (School meals)
  - Enfield Catering Services have obtained the following awards:
    - Good Egg award from Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) for only using free-range eggs that are locally-sourced
    - Good Dairy Commendation from CIWF for use of organic milk and yoghurts, allowing cows pasture access
    - Silver Food for Life Catering mark with over 5% spend is on organic ingredients; these foods having the highest commitment to animal welfare and protection of the environment. Furthermore our meat is farm-assured as a minimum, with some RSPCA-assured meat.
    - Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accreditation as our fish is from sustainable stocks and well-managed fisheries

We use some cleaning products that are Cruelty-Free International approved (i.e. not tested on animals), for example our sanitiser and hand soap. We are now looking towards changing all our cleaning products to plant-based products that are not animal tested.