

Motion for enhancing council practices on animal welfare

Animal welfare is considered a major matter of importance to many Southend residents.

This Council recognises its existing responsibilities for the licensing and enforcement of licence conditions in respect of a range of activities involving animals, including Dog Breeding, Pet Shops, Animal Boarding, Riding Establishments and Zoos. The Council also has a role in enforcement of a range of other statutory powers in relation to dogs (including dangerous dogs), stray dogs, and dog fouling.

This Council seeks to set the gold-standard for animal welfare and seeks to reinforce support for enforcement, engage residents and enhance its practices to achieve this aim.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Support its statutory responsibilities in relation to enforcement, by:
 - a) Ensuring that all relevant officers have full and up-to-date training and support to undertake investigations of animal welfare breaches;
 - b) Liaising closely with other enforcing agencies and charities to ensure a co-ordinated approach to animal welfare;
 - c) Preparing an annual report to this Council summarising the number of reports, investigations, and outcomes of all animal welfare enforcement action;
 - d) Maintaining appropriate records to ensure that dog breeding licenses are obtained where appropriate when Southend breeders advertise the sale of puppies online/ via social media,;
 - e) Reviewing policy, procedures, and inspection schedules in relation to businesses that use animals as part of their business to ensure they are suitably robust and that the appropriate level of licensing has been established. Focus should be given to emerging trends that use animals, such as puppy yoga.
- 2) Empower Southend residents to engage and support efforts to enhance animal welfare in this city, by:
 - a) Publishing an up-to-date list of locally licensed animal breeders on the Southend City Council website so local residents who wish to buy a puppy are signposted to reputable breeders;
 - b) Undertaking a dedicated publicity campaign to raise awareness of illegal puppy breeding and dog fighting, and how to report suspicious activity;
 - c) Creating a reporting form on My Southend for residents to raise concerns on animal welfare;
 - d) Trialling a 'Rocket O'Clock' scheme this year, which will encourage residents to undertake private fireworks displays at a set hour during the fireworks display season.
- 3) Review and enhance Council policy, by:
 - a) Banning outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Southend City Authority land;
 - b) Ensuring council emergency plans in this city, including those drawn up for mass evacuations, include provisions for companion and other animals.

Proposer: Cllr Lydia Hyde

Seconder: Cllr Gabriel Leroy, Cllr Mandy O'Connor, Cllr Martin Berry