

	ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER
	July 2022

1. Introduction

This Charter has been adopted by the London Borough of Brent to reflect the concerns of local people who care about animal welfare and the cruel treatment, abuse or neglect of animals and to reflect The Council's long tradition of acting to conserve and enhance Brent's natural environment for the benefit of all.

This Charter sets out the Council's commitment to animal welfare.

The Council believes that animals have a positive impact on society and that through the conservation of their habitat and their companionship they can have psychological, emotional and social benefits to its residents.

The Charter supports the view that all animals have a right to life that is free from cruel treatment and unnecessary suffering. It also recognises that animals are capable of feeling, capable of enjoying a state of wellbeing, and equally capable of suffering.

Section 9 (2) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 sets out the five basic needs of animals and these are based on the five freedoms and are defined below:

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

The Council will take into account the five needs when exercising its statutory powers in relation to animal health and welfare matters and when developing future policy.

This Charter does not cover every aspect of animal welfare, but it does aim to detail those areas that the Council considers important and where it feels it can have some influence as a responsible and representative public body.

Where there are areas that the Council is unable to take direct action, as a responsible body it will make its views known, where it considers it appropriate to do so, via the Local Government Association and/or to Members of Parliament, and Government.

2. Statutory Responsibilities

2.1 Stray dogs

Under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 the Council has sole responsibility for the collection and detention of stray dogs. Sections 149 and 150 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990) outline the Council's duties with regards to discharging this role.

Scan dogs for a microchip and check dogs for a tag and tattoo. Where identification is found, attempts will be made to contact the owner;

Ensure that sick and injured stray dogs receive veterinary care, wherever possible.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, dogs must be kept for a statutory seven day period, unless recommended to euthanize on welfare grounds. After this period the dog becomes the property of the Council and can be re-homed or euthanized.

Dogs will only be euthanized after this period on veterinary advice.

Dogs will be boarded in the Council's chosen kennel, wherever possible.

2.2 Lost Dogs or Cats

If you have lost your dog or cat, there are a number of things you can do to find your pet as quickly as possible.

Inform your microchip company that your dog is lost as soon as possible, this will stop someone being able to try and change the microchip details. Use this as an opportunity to check that your details are up to date should anyone find your dog and need to contact you.

Check with local veterinary surgeries as if your dog has somehow become injured. they may have been taken to a local vet for help

Contact Mayhew on 020 8962 8000 or Battersea Dog Home, Lost Dogs & Cats Line 020 7627 9245 is open seven days a week from 8am until 5pm to receive reports of missing or found animals within the M25 area.

Battersea also works with other lost and found agencies around the country to help reunite as many dogs and cats as possible.

Where a dog has been taken into the care of the Council, a fee will be payable before it is released back to the owner to contribute towards the council's costs.

2.2 Licensed establishments

The Council has a statutory obligation to licence certain establishments within the borough, these being:

- Pet shops;
- Dog breeding establishments;
- Dog and cat boarding establishments;
- Riding establishments;
- Owners of dangerous wild animals; Zoos.

The Council wishes there to be high standards of animal welfare at all of its licensed premises. The Council will apply appropriate conditions to licences to provide adequate protection for animals and promote their welfare within the bounds of licensing objectives.

2.3 Animal health

The Council aims to limit spread of any notifiable diseases and prevent the subsequent suffering of healthy animals. The Council will support the work of DEFRA, the Animal & Plant Health Agency and other organisations as required to protect both human and animal health.

3. Enforceable legislation

In addition to its statutory functions, the Council is authorised under a range of other legislation to aid it in preventing antisocial behaviour with animals and promoting high levels of animal welfare.

3.1 Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Council will support and assist the RSPCA and the Police in this role, to alleviate the suffering of animals in distress.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 a person that is responsible for an animal has a duty of care to provide for that animal's needs. This includes any person who may be in direct control of the animal as well as the owner. In some circumstances those commissioning the use of animals may share in this duty of care.

3.2 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Under section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act it is prohibited to own one of the following four breeds of dog, unless they have been registered on the Index of Exempted Dogs.

- Pit Bull Terrier Type
- Dogo Argentino;
- Fila Brasileiro;
- Japanese Tosa.

Section 3 of the Act makes it an offence for any dog to be out of control. A dog is considered to be out of control if it injures a person (or assistance dog) or behaves in such a way that there is reasonable fear that it will injure someone.

The Police enforce the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, please contact them via dialling 101 or complete online form www.police.uk/pu/contact-the-police or in an emergency dial 999

3.3 Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014 :

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The Council recognises that owning a dog can bring a lot of enjoyment and happiness. However, owners need to ensure that they are responsible and that their dog does not cause a nuisance to others.

The breach of the PSPO can result in an on-the-spot £100 Fixed Penalty Notice and fines of up to £1,000. Offences include:

- Losing control of any dogs, where a dog is not reasonably within eyesight of the owner and/ or where a dog does not respond to being beckoned by the owner should an authorised officer request a dog should be put on a lead.
- Letting a dog enter an area where a notice specifies that dogs are not allowed, such as a playground.
- Walking more than 4 dogs at a time.
- In the event that a dog defecates, the person responsible for the dog at the time must remove the faeces immediately.
- Dogs must be kept on a lead in multi-use games areas (MUGA), playgrounds, tennis courts, walled gardens, graveyards, cemeteries and areas where a notice specifies that dogs must be on a lead.

These breaches are under review every three years, so are subject to change for further information on Public Space Protection Orders can be found on the Council's website www.Brent.gov.uk

3.4 Section 47 of the Care Act 2014

Sets out the requirement of the Council to take steps to mitigate or prevent loss to a person's movable property or belongings when:

- They have been placed into a care home by the Local Authority; or they have been admitted to hospital; and
- They are unable (either temporarily or permanently) to protect or deal with their moveable property or belongings; and
- No suitable arrangements have been made or are being made for someone else to do so.

This may not include pets as are classed as property. All pets will be taken to our chosen vets to be examined for their wellbeing. If the animal is well, basic vaccinations will be administered to allow them to be placed in a cattery / kennel or re-homed.

If placed in temporary accommodation, the position will be reviewed after 9 weeks and arrangements made for rehoming where possible.

4. Responsible Animal Ownership

4.1 Introduction

Whilst the Council supports animal ownership, it encourages its residents to thoroughly research the needs of the animal before acquiring one. Responsible pet shops should ensure advice is given on each species of animal sold.

The Council works closely with internal and external partners to promote responsible animal owners, by arranging pop up events in the Parks. These events will be advertised in the local/social media.

4.2 Dog Fouling and clearing up

The Council provides litter bins within all Parks and main roads and it is the responsibility of the dog walker / owner to pick up dog faeces and place it in the nearest litter bin or take it home. **All** litter bins can be used to dispose of dog faeces, there is no requirement or need to provide a bin especially for dog faeces. (see **3.3** for Fines for not picking up dog faeces)

4.3 Housing Policies

The Council will continue to support and assist Housing Partners in ensuring its residents meet high standards of welfare for the animals they own.

Where concerns are raised the Council will work in partnership with the provider to ensure that its residents are educated on what is required to improve the animal's welfare and where necessary ensure that formal action is taken.

5. Deceased Animals

The Council recognises that losing an animal can be very distressing for its owners. Therefore the Council will endeavour to check all deceased domestic animals collected on a public highway for a microchip.

6. Emergency Planning

The Council recognises that having to evacuate your home, even for a short while can be distressing for both the owner and the animal. To minimise the stress caused the Emergency Planning Service to ensure that such situations are handled compassionately and efficiently.

7. Council Pledges

The Council will publicise this Charter on its website and welcomes comments to enable a review at a later date.

This Charter will be revised where necessary to ensure that it is in line with changes in legislation, policy, the needs of animals and of the local community.