

Haringey Animal Welfare & Control Charter

Haringey Animal Welfare & Control Partnership

Haringey Council has established an Animal Welfare & Control Partnership to promote animal welfare and responsible pet ownership in the borough.

Our mission is to ensure that the Council and its partner organisations promote the welfare needs of the animals that live and visit Haringey, and that we lead by example in our approach to animal welfare. We also seek to encourage responsible ownership of pets through education, advice and where necessary; by taking or supporting enforcement action against those who allow their pets to be a danger or a nuisance.

Scope of Charter

This charter identifies

- Our membership and contributions
- Our main legal duties and powers for animal welfare and control
- Haringey’s Council policies as they relate to animal welfare and control
- Responsible pet ownership activity
- Our activity in relation to wildlife protection
- Emergency Planning
- Educational Initiatives
- RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints – our commitment to achieving high standards in animal welfare

Membership and Responsibility

Haringey Council

- Single Front Line – Partnership coordination. Dangerous and out of control dog, investigation and intervention. Investigation of neglect and cruelty. Investigation of nuisance and dog fouling. Animal related licensing. Promotion of responsible pet ownership. Stray dog collection.
- Parks Service- Maintenance of our parks and open spaces, promoting biodiversity.
- Haringey Youth Offending Service- Enforcement of criminal orders made against young people in relation to animal cruelty or dangerous dogs.
- ASBAT – Enforcement of anti social behaviour legislation regarding dangerous dogs.
- Emergency Planning – development and coordination of our response to emergencies.

Our Partners

- RSPCA
- Wood Green Animal Shelter
- Homes for Haringey
- Haringey Police
- Status Dogs Unit – Metropolitan Police
- Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

We will meet at least 3 times a year to develop and plan together initiatives that deliver on our overall mission statement.

1. Animal Welfare and Control legislation

Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 imposes a duty of care on anyone responsible for an animal to take reasonable steps to ensure that the animal's needs are met. This means that a person has to look after the animal's welfare as well as ensure that it does not suffer. The Act says that an animal's welfare needs include:

- a suitable environment (how it is housed);
- a suitable diet (what it eats and drinks);
- the ability to exhibit normal behaviour patterns;
- any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals; and
- protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease

The Council will investigate allegations of breaches of serious neglect causing suffering, mutilation, tail docking, poisoning, organised fighting, and underage sale.

Licensing Duties and Powers

The council has a statutory duty to licence certain establishments within the district, these being:

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

Haringey Council will ensure that a qualified Veterinary Surgeon and animal welfare officer inspect these premises and ensure that all licensed premises are compliant with the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and standard model conditions.

Breaches of licenses may result in prosecution or loss of licence.

Animal Control

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides the power to deal with statutory nuisance from animals. The Council will investigate complaints of statutory nuisance including those of foul odour or noise. Will we use enforcement powers to prevent statutory nuisance and will prosecute for serious and repeat offending.

Dog Fouling

Haringey has adopted the Dog (fouling of Land) Act 1996 and it is an offence for dog owners to allow their dog to foul an open and public space and not to clear it up. There is a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling in Haringey , anyone caught will receive a £75 fixed penalty notice or be prosecuted.

2. Council Policies

Circuses, Performances, Exhibitions and Displays of Animals

No wild animals will be allowed to perform on Council owned or managed land. The only performances by animals that will be allowed are performing budgerigars, dogs and equine acts. All performances will be monitored by a veterinary surgeon and any breaches of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 investigated.

Enforcement Strategy and Policy

Our current strategy objectives focus on safety and cleanliness

- To promote good citizenship and reduce the fear of crime – impact of dangerous and status dogs, chipping and responsible dog ownership
- To stop environmental crimes and the abuse of public spaces - fouling
- To reduce the health impact of pollution and nuisances, including noise, etc - nuisance animals

Greenest Borough Strategy

As competition for natural resources increases, our green spaces will be become scarcer and an increasing urban population will lead to greater traffic congestion, greater pollution and increased pressure to build new homes and develop underutilised land. The Greenest Borough Strategy commits the Council to protect Haringey's natural environment by working with local people and other partners to ensure that we preserve, improve, and increase, green spaces and their biodiversity through improved maintenance, accessibility and sustainable practices.

Sustainable Food Strategy – including animal welfare standards

Haringey Council is currently developing a Sustainable Food Strategy, which recognises that public procurement can shape production and consumption trends and a significant demand from public authorities for 'greener' goods could create or enlarge markets for environmentally friendly products and services. As a result the Council is, where possible, committed to buying food from farms with high environmental and animal welfare standards, and which actively increase biodiversity and support ecosystems. In particular, the 'Food for Life' partnership offers a framework to help schools and their communities transform their food culture. A central pledge undertaken as part of the Food for Life programme is that any meat served meets farm-assured UK welfare standards and eggs are from cage free hens.

Currently 16 out of 56 of Haringey's primary schools have signed up to the Food for Life partnership.

Planning Policies

Haringey's Core Strategy is the central document in the Local Development Framework, which sets out planning policies to guide development and growth in the borough for the next 15 years. The Core Strategy is currently undergoing an 'Examination in Public' by an independent Planning Inspectorate. Section 6.3 commits the council to ensuring that all developments in the borough protect and improve sites of biodiversity and nature conservation through their:

- Contribution to wildlife and ecological habitats and where possible include green and brown roofs, rainwater harvesting, green walls, bird and bat nesting/roosting opportunities.
- Protection, management and maintenance of existing trees and the planting of new trees where appropriate
- Protection, enhancement and creation of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR's).

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Under Haringey's Open Space Strategy: A Space for Everyone (2006), the Council is committed to ensuring that residents have access to parks and open spaces, whilst ensuring that such sites are managed in a sustainable way so as to protect the natural environment and to provide a safe habitat for wildlife. We are committed to ensuring that our parks and open spaces are a safe environment for all our residents, both young and old to enjoy. The Council is currently reviewing its options regarding the implementation of Dog Control Orders in some of our parks, as we recognise the various needs of our different residents. We will strenuously enforce against anyone who allows their pet to intimidate other park users or uses their pet to engage in threatening or anti-social behaviour.

3. Responsible Pet Ownership

Responsible Dog Ownership

Dogs are an important part of our society, providing companionship, security and support. The ownership of dogs carries responsibilities and when dogs are not properly trained and cared for they can become a source of danger, nuisance and concern to others.

The Council seeks to promote responsible dog ownership and has an ongoing programme of activity to support this objective. This programme focuses on the following issues

Fouling – We have launched our “Mucky Pup Clean It Up” campaign to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs. Through our street enforcement activity we monitor locations where dog fouling is a problem and will regularly patrol and take enforcement activity. Any person who fails to clean up after their dog can expect to receive a £75 fixed penalty notice for a first offence and a prosecution for all subsequent offences.

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/environment_and_transport/refuseandrecycling/streetcleansing/dogfouling.htm

Chipping and Registration – The council supports a national scheme for the registration of dogs and believes all responsible dog owners would support this. We believe chipping is an important step that all owners should take and as well as providing an affordable chipping service, we will promote other available local services. The Council is actively investigating the potential for making micro-chipping of dogs compulsory for residents living on our estates. Wood Green Animal Shelter offers a low cost micro chipping service and may be able to help with the cost of neutering. The Council has identified a number of approved local providers who will provide a micro chipping service. These can be found on our website at:

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/environment_and_transport/noise_animalcontrol/animal_welfare_and_control.htm#micro-chipping_service

Neutering - Unless an owner is intending to breed and is sure that they can find good homes for puppies, it is recommended that you have your pet spayed or neutered. Having a dog or cat neutered is a routine operation and it will remove the risk and the potential financial cost of having unwanted litters. Neutering males in early life also reduces aggressive behaviour, reduces the likelihood of certain types of cancer and will result in them being less likely to wander. A list of approved local providers who will provide a Neutering service can be found at:

http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/environment_and_transport/noise_animalcontrol/animal_welfare_and_control.htm#micro-chipping_service

Purchasing a dog - The Council believes that responsible dog owners will ensure that they do not support illegal breeding and puppy farms. Purchasing a dog from a licensed breeder, or re-homing centre will ensure that the dog

you choose is healthy and has not been mistreated. Choosing a breed of dog requires careful thought and owners are encouraged to seek advice before purchasing a dog on the future needs and costs of their pet. The Council is developing a programme of targeted enforcement activity against illegal breeders.

Straying – The council provides a 24/7 service for the reception of stray dogs. Outside office hours this will be by appointment only. We will actively attempt to reunite straying dogs with their owners for the first 7 days. It is a legal requirement that whilst in a public place, all dogs should wear a collar and an identity tag.

http://harinet.haringey.gov.uk/index/environment_and_transport/noise_animal_control/animal_welfare_and_control/dog_registration.htm

Dog training – It is highly recommended that inexperienced owners acquire some basic obedience training for their pets. Dog training is integral to raising a healthy and happy dog and keeping a safe and fun home environment, training also helps to socialize a dog to other people and dogs. Training classes are offered by number of local kennels, pet stores, and independent trainers. A list of local providers can be found on our website at [**Insert Hyperlink here**](#)

Vaccination – It is important to ensure that your pet is fully immunised against common diseases. Vaccines are usually first used in pups from six weeks of age and then every year a single booster injection is given to keep their immunity at fully protective levels. It is essential to ensure that your pup is fully vaccinated before coming into contact with other dogs' as they may be carriers of the diseases. A list of local providers can be found on our website at [**Insert Hyperlink here**](#)

Walking - Daily exercise is essential to keep dogs healthy, as well as mentally and physically stimulated. Exercise not only improves your dog's wellbeing, but also helps build muscle tone and prevents depression, obesity, joint problems, heart conditions and behavioural issues. Choosing to own a pet is a big commitment and it is strongly recommended that you consider your life style when choosing to own a dog. If you are unable to walk your dog regularly due to work commitments it is recommended that you employ a commercial dog walking service, there are a number of these services operating in Haringey. A list of local providers of a dog walking service can be found on our website at: [**Insert Hyperlink here**](#). The Council recommends that commercial dog walkers follow these guidelines:

- The number of dogs to be walked by each individual dog walker should be limited to ensure that dogs are not dangerously out of control.
- Ideally, when walking groups of dogs, the dogs should belong to the same owner. However if dogs from different owners are walked,

walkers should ensure that a suitable familiarisation period has been arranged beforehand.

- Dogs should be kept on leads and under control at all times.
- Report any lost dogs immediately to the Stray Dog service
- Dog Walkers should be suitably experienced and mature and no younger than 16 years of age.
- Clear up any dog fouling immediately.

Dangerous and Status Dogs

The council has established a Dangerous Dogs Coordinator who chairs quarterly meetings, set up to tackle the growing concern of residents around dangerous dogs. In response, a dedicated database has been established to record all reports of dangerous dogs or dog related anti social behaviour. The Council will act on all intelligence given to us and respond accordingly. In cooperation with our partners, we have a number of powers available to tackle serious or persistent offenders.

Pets in Council Accommodation

We recognise the importance of pets to many people, and we appreciate that most pet owners are responsible people who look after their pet and consider their neighbours and neighbourhood. However we will respond robustly to any reports of pet owners allowing their animal to behave in an anti-social manner. Street Enforcement Officers monitor all of our housing stock; they regularly patrol and take enforcement activity against anyone allowing their dog to foul in communal areas. You must ensure that your dog can be permanently identified so that it can be traced if it is lost. In addition, it is highly recommended that any cat or dog kept in Council accommodation is both micro chipped and neutered. We are currently exploring the feasibility of making this a mandatory condition of the Tenancy Agreement.

If you live in a flat or maisonette and do not have your own garden, you must not keep more than one dog or cat (not both). You may keep the following pets without permission: One cat or one dog, any small caged animal or bird normally kept as a pet, for example a hamster or budgie or fish. It is illegal to own a dog that is proscribed under Section One of the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991). We will refer any instances of suspected dangerous dogs to the police.

Pets in Sheltered Housing Schemes/Temporary Accommodation/RSL's

The stipulations outlined above for owning or looking after pets in Haringey's Council stock, which is managed by Homes for Haringey, also apply to our Supported Housing schemes. In addition, anyone wishing to keep a pet in supported housing must sign a 'pet contract' detailing who will be responsible for looking after your pet in the event that you are unable to look after it. The pet contract also ensures that the animal's welfare needs will be looked after and forms part of the Tenancy Agreement. Anyone who breaches the pet

contract, may be putting their tenancy at risk. Unfortunately we do not allow any pets to be kept in temporary accommodation.

Dangerous Wild Animals

Anyone selling or keeping animals listed on the schedule of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and other dangerous and/or exotic animals should have specialist knowledge and/or seek professional advice on the care of these animals as some of these animals can grow very large and live for a long time.

4. Wildlife

The council supports measures to conserve wildlife and increase biodiversity and in particular draws attention to the following:-

The control of animals realised into the wild

The release of, or allowing to escape, any animal which is of a kind not normally resident within the UK is illegal under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Similarly, the planting of non native species of flora or fauna in the wild is also proscribed under the same act.

Foxes

Haringey Council does not provide a service for the treatment of foxes. Whilst foxes can be killed within the methods permitted by the law (Hunting Act 2004), we do not recommend the trapping and killing of foxes as they are a part of our natural urban wildlife. The vast majority of evidence suggests that once one animal is killed another predator will come along and occupy the territory. Furthermore, it is illegal to trap foxes and relocate them as this is likely to result in undue suffering and distress to the animal, and will ultimately lead to it dying of starvation.

We do recognise that foxes can be a source of nuisance to residents and it is important that people should not do anything to encourage them. The easiest and most effective way to prevent foxes from causing a nuisance is to remove sources of food and places for them to live. Further information can be found at the Directgov website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/InYourHome/PestAndWeedControl/DG_172742

Bats

There are 18 species of bats native to the UK, however there numbers have declined dramatically in the past 100 years, due to habitat destruction and the introduction of pesticides. To ensure our bat populations are preserved for future generations, Haringey has adopted a Species Action Plan for bats as part of our Biodiversity Action plan. This commits us to:

- Raising and maintaining awareness of bat conservation issues within key sectors (specifically planners, land managers and tree and building

contractors), by advancing a targeted programme of relevant best practice advice dissemination by 2011.

- Increase knowledge of bat distribution and species in Haringey by 2015
- Create/improve 3 artificial roosting sites by 2015
- Increase public awareness of and involvement in bat conservation by 2015

All bat species and their roosts are legally protected in the UK, by both domestic and EU legislation.

This means you will be committing a criminal offence if you:

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats
- Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time)
- Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost

Nesting Birds

Wild birds are protected under the law. If you cut back or remove hedges, trees or other vegetation, you must be careful not to disturb any nesting birds. It is illegal to:

- Intentionally or recklessly kill, injure or take any wild bird
- Take, damage or destroy its nest while it is being built or in use
- Take or destroy a wild bird egg

Hunting & the Setting of Traps and Snares

Hunting is not permitted in any of Haringey's parks or open spaces. Under the Hunting Act 2004, it is illegal to hunt wild mammals with a dog in England and Wales. Furthermore, Haringey's byelaws expressly prohibit the shooting, catching, hunting, chasing, trapping or laying or placing of nets, traps, or snares for the taking of wildlife, in any of our parks or open spaces.

Angling

Angling is also prohibited in all of Haringey's parks and open spaces.

Allotments

The Council's allotment tenancy agreement states that Allotment owners are prohibited from keeping any animals or livestock of any kind on the Allotment Garden except for bees, chickens or rabbits, subject to written permission granted by the Council. Anyone who wishes to keep such animals must supply information showing that their welfare needs will be met.

Bees

Anyone wishing to keep hives must; be an accredited member of the National Bee Keeping Association, be adequately insured and manage their hives in line with best practice. Site associations will be required to provide the Council with details of beekeepers, their beekeepers association, affiliated British Bee Keepers Association (BBKA) membership number, location of hives (i.e. plot number) and number of hives on site. Hives must be inspected once a week during the 'swarming season' (April to July) and maintained throughout the rest of the year as per best practice. In addition, the Council will issue written guidance to anyone wishing to keep hives on the Allotment Garden

Chickens and Rabbits

Anyone wishing to keep either chickens or rabbits must satisfy the Allotment tenancy management Office that the animals will be well looked after and must supply information stating: how many animals you intend to keep, details of the location and housing in which they will be kept, and must demonstrate that they have adequate experience in keeping those animals to ensure that the animals are kept safely and in good health. The Council is currently developing guidance notes to issue to all those who wish to keep rabbit or chickens on allotments.

The control of pests

The Council provides access to affordable pest control. It promotes and supports the use of safe and humane methods of pest control only. The Council encourages householders to seek professional advice on pest control, rather than over the counter preparations, to prevent harm to non-target species, humans and the environment.

The use of pesticides and herbicides

We aim to use environmentally sustainable methods in all of our parks maintenance; including minimizing pesticide use, leaving grass cuttings on the ground; and covering our plant beds with chipping to reduce the use of herbicides. We will continue to investigate ways in which we can reduce our environmental impact and promote biodiversity.

Pigeons and Proofing

Overpopulation of pigeons in built up areas can cause health and safety problems. The council actively discourages the feeding of pigeons in its public spaces and proactively uses its enforcement powers to prevent roosting on structures over and adjacent to the highway. The Council's pest control service provides a pigeon proofing service.

Litter

Litter is not only unsightly, but much of it, such as multi-pack plastic can ties, tin cans and plastic bags can cause harm to both domestic and wild animals, therefore the Council strongly recommends that all litter is disposed of safely in the facilities that it provides for this purpose throughout the district.

It is Council policy not to allow mass balloon releases from any Council premises or land in an effort to reduce litter caused when the balloons float back to earth and due the potentially lethal effect that this litter has on wildlife, both land and water based.

Animal Cruelty

Under Section 32(1) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, cruelty to animals is a criminal offence for which one may be jailed for up to 51 weeks and may be fined up to £20,000. We will always follow-up reports of animal cruelty, including dog fighting, and pass any intelligence we receive to the RSPCA and, where applicable, to the Metropolitan Police.

There is significant evidence to suggest that deliberate animal cruelty may be an indicator of cruelty or neglect towards children and domestic violence. The Council is committed to delivering our safeguarding programme and will develop a robust process of intelligence sharing with our partners to ensure that cases of animal cruelty are investigated fully and escalated without delay. Working in partnership with Local Authority Youth Offending Services, the RSPCA has recently launched an educational outreach programme called 'Breaking the Chain'. The Council is also committed to working with the RSPCA to adopt this scheme and to work with our partners more generally to provide an array of educational facilities aimed at young people.

5. Emergency Planning

The Council's Integrated Emergency Management Manual outlines how the Council will respond and coordinate services during an emergency and includes details of how the welfare of companion animals will be accommodated. This document contains a detailed set of instructions on liaising with partners and external agencies in the event of an emergency to ensure that welfare needs are addressed and that there is suitable accommodation available for displaced companion animals. The Council also publishes information on its website to advise members of the public on steps to take to ensure the welfare of their pet is taken into account during an emergency. The Council has also produced a 'Z-card' in conjunction with the

Wood Green Animal Shelter which provides information on how to prepare for an emergency along with a space for the owner to outline their emergency arrangements and details of their pet. The 'Z-card' is available at a number of locations across the borough including; Council offices, local vets and animal welfare sanctuaries.

6. Educational Initiatives

The Council is committed to working closely with Homes for Haringey to encourage participation in educational initiatives, to ensure that tenants and lease holders are aware of issues relating to animal welfare and responsible pet ownership. The Council is also committed to working with local external stakeholder organisations, such as the Wood Green Animal Shelter and the RSPCA, to provide a proactive & co-ordinated educational approach to all of Haringey's residents. In addition the Welfare & Control Partnership will produce an annual calendar of animal welfare events taking place in the borough.

7. RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints

Launched in April 2008, the RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints (CAWF) scheme aims to reward and promote good practice in animal welfare by local authorities and housing providers in England and Wales.

It recognises organisations that have gone above and beyond their basic service requirements to ensure higher animal welfare standards. CAWF covers four areas of work (Footprints) that impact on animal welfare, and includes having an animal welfare charter. The areas covered are: Stray dog services, housing, contingency planning & animal welfare principles.

The Council will continue to work closely with a variety of partner organisations including the RSPCA, to ensure that we seek to apply the Community Animal Welfare Footprints standards in all facets of our service provision. Furthermore the Council will continue to apply to the award scheme in future, for recognition of the good work that the council and its partner organisations are doing to promote animal welfare in Haringey.