

Notice of Motion - 29 October 2024

Motion Title: Local Animal Welfare Task-force

Proposer: Councillor Kerrie Carmichael

Seconder: Councillor Suzanne Hartwell/Maria Crompton

“Council notes that:

- Animal welfare and human welfare are linked; by improving, protecting, and enhancing animal welfare, we cultivate a compassionate and kind community, and together we can create a sustainable future for every being.
- Responsible pet ownership is essential for fostering a compassionate and responsible community.
- Protecting wildlife and natural habitats is crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecological balance.
- Actively supporting animal welfare causes, making the best use of education and prevention, ensures the respectful treatment of pets and other animals.
- A unified approach involving collaboration among various stakeholders is necessary for effective animal welfare and environmental policies.
- Reviewing the Animal Welfare Charter will ensure that it stays effective and current and will provide a clear and comprehensive framework for local animal welfare standards, practices and accountability locally.

Council believes that:

- Educational programmes and public awareness campaigns are needed to inform residents about proper pet care and responsibilities.
- Litter poses a significant threat to wildlife and natural habitats, requiring measures such as community clean-up events and education.
- High-welfare food procurement promotes high welfare farming practices and sustainability, benefiting both animals, the environment and local economies.
- Collaborating with local animal welfare organisations can provide resources and support for initiatives aimed at reducing and preventing animal cruelty, as well as promoting pet adoption.
- Establishing a **local animal welfare task force** would facilitate collaboration and policy development among local government, animal welfare organisations, and community members and ensure that the Animal Welfare Charter is current.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to establish a cross-party Local Animal Welfare Taskforce that will:

1. Promote responsible pet ownership in Sandwell through endorsement and participation, directly or indirectly, in local animal welfare educational programmes and public awareness campaigns.
2. Protect wildlife and natural habitats by addressing litter and advocating for wildlife welfare, including regular community clean-up events and online educational campaigns, and working with partners.
3. Champion high-welfare food procurement by endorsing ethical farming practices and advocating for a sustainable food supply, as stated in the Animal Welfare Charter.
4. Actively support animal welfare causes by collaborating with local animal welfare organisations, providing resources, and promoting adoption from shelters and rescues.
5. Commit to a unified approach to establishing a local animal welfare task force for collaboration and policy development, involving local government, animal welfare organisations, and community members.
6. Meet within one month of passing this resolution to constitute a terms of reference and agree other details.”