

This Council notes the current use of many types of animals at various events held by private organisations, friends of groups and the Council across the County and wishes to continue to do all that it can to promote, safeguard and encourage high standards of animal welfare.

The RSPCA states that it is opposed to the use of animals in entertainment or animal encounters where distress or suffering to an animal is likely to be caused. However, the organisation also recognises the benefits of certain types of events using animals, for example:-

- dog agility events that involve training dogs to run through and over obstacles using treats, toys and praise; and
- the use of animals in schools and other educational establishments (i.e. in the form of visits as opposed to the educational establishments keeping the animals themselves) with a view to teaching young people about animal care and welfare, which is a positive step towards ending cruelty towards animals in the future.

The introduction of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021 is a significant step towards effectively controlling the use of, and encounters with, animals and ensuring their welfare. However, it is noted that there may be instances where, even though certain events may not in principle be supported by the Council, the Authority may still be required (by law) to grant a licence if all relevant conditions are met.

Notwithstanding the above, the Council considers that:-

- no animal should be made to endure stress or suffering;
- all appropriate steps should be taken to mitigate any risk of stress or suffering to animals in any relevant events being held by any organisation within the County;
- certain animals, such as dogs, may benefit from partaking in events but steps should still be taken to ensure their welfare and minimise any risk to them; and
- the use of animals in certain instances – such as in schools, other educational establishments and community settings for educational and conservation purposes, by suitably registered charities – where appropriate and will have no negative impact on animal welfare subject to such events being managed properly.

This Council therefore resolves:-

- I. to note the implications of relevant licensing legislation which may grant, or require the Council to grant, licences to third parties for the use of animals within the County;
- II. subject to (III) below, to cease the use of animals in Council events and that, in particular, no Council organised event will include the use of reindeer or donkeys;
- III. that the use of animals such as birds, dogs, reptiles and invertebrates such as spiders, scorpions, crustaceans, or molluscs in Council organised events be permitted only where:-
 - A. animals are being displayed for educational purposes or for purposes which are consistent with their natural habitat and activities; and
 - B. the relevant non profit organisation providing the animal(s) holds a certificate issued in accordance with the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021; and
 - C. any appropriate mitigating measures as required by relevant officers of the Council are put in place to ensure the welfare of the animal(s) concerned and to ensure that they are not put at risk by partaking in the event.
- IV. to apply the principles in (II) and (III) to events organised by other organisations where council co-operation other than statutory obligations are requested, such as in the case of road closures, publicity, and use of council buildings or land etc.
- V. to circulate the above resolutions to all relevant departments, and to schools.

Proposer: Dan Rose
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