

## COMPANION ANIMALS

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Responsible Ownership</b></li></ul> <p>The Council recognises the positive health benefit to many people of keeping pets and have taken this into account in considering this policy.</p> <p>However whilst not wishing to be unduly restrictive, the Council will take every opportunity to raise public awareness of the responsibilities and potential problems that go with pet ownership.</p> <p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p>People who do not have the facilities, time, financial means or level of interest necessary to ensure a satisfactory standard of care should be discouraged from keeping pets unsuited to their circumstances.</p> <p>Where domestic cats and dogs are concerned, the owners have a responsibility to control unwanted breeding. Early neutering of the animals in consultation with a veterinary surgeon is advised. An added benefit in the case of male dogs is that neutering generally results in the lessening of aggressive behaviour, a disinclination to stray and an increased responsiveness to training.</p>
POLICY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Responsible Dog Ownership</b></li></ul> <p>The Council will promote responsible dog ownership.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>Dog fouling, abandonment of unwanted animals, aggressive behaviour and nuisance caused by excessive barking are all faults of irresponsible ownership. Council Dog Wardens are actively involved in promoting responsible dog ownership amongst school children and are also able to offer useful advice on the proper care of dogs to any owner.</p> <p>Note: The Environmental Services Section, Neighbourhood Services (Central) can be contacted on Tel: 523737, Fax: 522605 or Email: <a href="mailto:poll@aberdeencity.gov.uk">poll@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a> for full details of these services. A leaflet 'Living With Dogs' published by the Council is available free on request.</p>

POLICY 3

- **Dog Registration**

All dog owners resident in the city will be actively encouraged to join the local Dog Registration Scheme run by the Council. Dogs owned by occupiers of Council property are required, as a condition of let to have their dogs registered under the scheme.

**Reasons**

The Council employs Dog Wardens to uplift stray dogs and to deal with dog related problems. Where a dog has been registered, a name and address of the owner can be readily accessed and the animal returned with the minimum delay.

## PETS IN COUNCIL HOUSES

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Conditions of Let</b></li></ul> <p>All tenants of Council houses are required as a condition of let to obtain the prior consent of the Head of Shelter and Environment to keep an animal on the property.</p> <p>Permission to keep a dog is dependent on the dog being registered with the Council's Dog Registration Scheme. Permission to keep an exotic species will be referred to the Animal Health Service of Neighbourhood Services (Central).</p> <p>No animal listed in the Schedule of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and (amendment) Order 1984 will be permitted in Council owned housing.</p> <p>In any other circumstances permission will only be granted where the Council is satisfied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[a] It is not contrary to public interest on the grounds of safety, nuisance or otherwise;</li><li>[b] The applicant is a suitable person in respect of knowledge, experience or training of keeping the animal concerned;</li><li>[c] The condition and facilities provided are adequate to meet with the requirements of the 5 freedoms;</li><li>[d] The animal's diet does not include other live animals, insects etc.</li></ul> <p>The Council may require a certificate to any or all of the above conditions from an authorised veterinary surgeon the fee for which will be paid by the applicant.</p> <p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p>These conditions are not intended to be unnecessarily restrictive but serve the twin purposes of ensuring control over the welfare of animals whilst, at the same time, recognising the rights of others to enjoy a quality of life not unduly affected by neighbours' pets.</p> <p>Experience has shown that the keeping of certain exotic species which for example are fed on live insects, has led to infestations of neighbouring houses by escaped insects. Apart from the general nuisance and disruption this causes the infestations are difficult and expensive to eradicate.</p>
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## PET SHOPS

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Model Standards</b></li></ul> <p>The Council has adopted the model standards for pet Shop Licence Conditions recommended by the Local Authorities Association, the British Veterinary Association and the Pet Trade and Industry Association joint working group.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>Annual licensing of pet shops is required by the Pet Animals Act 1951 (as amended). The model standards set out a nationally recognised best practice code which is reasonable and practicable.</p> <p>Information and advice on current requirements for training of pet shop staff can be obtained from the Animal Health Service.</p>
POLICY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Infectious Diseases</b></li></ul> <p>As a condition of the licence pet shop operators will be required to report any occurrence of infectious disease amongst animals on their establishment to the Animal health Service of this Council.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>Section 1(3(d) of the pet Animals Act 1951 provides for local authorities to ensure ‘that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread among animals of infectious diseases’.</p> <p>These conditions shall be specified in the licence.</p> <p>The Council considers that notification of diseases to the licensing authority is a necessary control measure.</p> <p>This requirement is in addition to the pet shop operator’s responsibility to ensure veterinary care of the animals.</p> <p>Note: The Animal health Service, can be contacted on Tel: 523800, Email: <a href="mailto:Commercial@aberdeencity.gov.uk">Commercial@aberdeencity.gov.uk</a> for full details of these services. A leaflet ‘Living with Dogs’ published by the Council is available free on request.</p>
POLICY 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dog Registration</b></li></ul> <p>All dog owners resident in the city will be actively encouraged to join the local Dog Registration Scheme run by the Council. Dogs owned by occupiers of Council property are required, as a condition of let to have their dogs registered under the scheme.</p> <p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p>The Council employs Dog Wardens to uplift stray dogs and to deal with dog related problems. Where a dog has been registered, a name and address of the owner can be readily accessed and the animal returned with the minimum delay.</p>

## ANIMALS AS PRIZES

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="347 159 592 192">• <b>Prohibition</b></li></ul> <p data-bbox="347 221 1409 315">The giving of live animals as prizes is prohibited at events on Council owned premises and in other circumstances this prohibition will be made a condition of any public entertainment licence issued by the Council.</p> <p data-bbox="347 344 464 378"><b>Reasons</b></p> <p data-bbox="347 407 1409 528">Live animals, usually fish but occasionally puppies, kittens etc are offered as prizes at fairs, fetes and other events. Even if the donor of the prize attempts to impose conditions there is a very real risk that the recipient will not be able to provide facilities and other requirements for the continued well-being of the animal.</p>
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## FERAL CATS

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Control Criteria</b></li></ul> <p>Where the Council is involved in the trapping of feral cats the cats will not be destroyed except where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[a] an authorised veterinary surgeon advises such a course because of disease or injury; or</li><li>[b] an Environmental Health Officer considers there is a risk to public health; or</li><li>[c] relevant organisations are unable to house or feed the cat and it is not appropriate to neuter adult cats and return them to their home area.</li></ul> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>True feral cats are wild mammals and should be left unmolested unless they are creating a real health problem. Whilst it is possible to 'home' feral kittens and redomesticate abandoned or stray cats which have previously lived in households, long established feral cats do not respond to attempts to domesticate them.</p> <p>Neutering adults before returning them to their established territory helps to keep the population at levels which are less likely to give rise to public health and other concerns which might lead to uncontrolled abuse or destruction of the animals.</p>
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## PERFORMING ANIMALS

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Controls and Monitoring</b></li></ul> <p>As a condition of lease, the Council will not permit on Council land any circuses or other activities which include performing acts by captive wild animals.</p> <p>Council staff will monitor performing animal acts on private land and will use their statutory powers where it is found that the health or well-being of the animals are being compromised.</p> <p>Where normally domesticated animals such as dogs, horses etc are used in performance activities such as theatre plays, shows, exhibitions of skill or trials, the Council will use its statutory powers to ensure that the animals are not caused suffering or distress.</p> <p>Where necessary the enforcing officers will consult with or seek specialist advice from a qualified veterinary surgeon, the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or any other recognised authority on the particular animals involved.</p> <p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p>The Council believe that there is no educative value in the use of captive wild animals in performing acts for entertainment.</p>
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## WILDLIFE

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Controls on Hunting</b></li></ul> <p>The unnecessary taking or killing of wild animals or the infliction of any pain or suffering upon them is prohibited on land owned by the Council.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>The Council takes the view that fox hunting, hare coursing, stag hunting or similar activities, particularly where dogs are used to pursue the prey, and the primary purpose of the activity is for sport or amusement, is both unnecessary and cruel.</p>
POLICY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Species Control</b></li></ul> <p>Where it becomes necessary for a particular species to be controlled, minimum distress should be caused to the animals and trained personnel using acceptable methods and equipment should be used. Killing should be avoided where appropriate alternative methods are available. Prior permission of the Council will be required for any control measures proposed.</p> <p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p>In some instances wildlife conflicts with the interests of human activity such as on farms or in peoples homes etc. On district Wildlife Sites an animal or a group of animals may cause unacceptable damage to habitats or adversely affect populations of other species. In such instances, the animals can be considered to be pests.</p> <p>A balance must be struck between these situations and the normal natural controls on population by predation, natural deaths or road kills. It is for this reason that prior permission of the Council will be required. Permission will be granted only where:</p> <p>[a] There is compelling evidence that the taking or killing of wild animals is necessary in this instance.</p> <p>[b] A case can be made for the taking or killing of particular animals for food purposes;</p> <p>or</p> <p>[c] There is evidence that control is necessary and that alternative methods of control are inappropriate or unavailable.</p> <p>Note 1 The Council have adopted a number of policies for the protection of wildlife. These policies are described in the Nature Conservation Strategy for Aberdeen (1991). Of particular relevance are the policies providing for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The protection of sites of existing wildlife interest;</li><li>• The general consideration of wildlife interests;</li><li>• The protection of species; and</li><li>• The control of pollution</li></ul> <p>These policies and those in future amendments to the nature Conservation Strategy are therefore incorporated into Aberdeen's Animal Policy.</p> <p>Note 2 References should also be made to the Scottish Natural Heritage in conjunction with the Scottish Executive when considering matters relating to this Policy.</p>

## ANGLING

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Code of Practice</b></li></ul> <p>The Council endorses the recommendations of the panel of enquiry into shooting and angling (the Medway report) and, so far as angling is concerned, will impose the following Code of Practice based on those recommendations as conditions of lease of fishing rights on Council controlled waters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[a] The use of double and treble hooks should be avoided especially when the intention is to return the fish alive to the water.</li><li>[b] Fish that have swallowed the hook and those intended for food should be killed humanely before any attempt is made to unhook them.</li><li>[c] To assist in removing hooks all anglers should possess suitable 'disgorgers' appropriate to the size and species of fish they are likely to catch.</li><li>[d] The use of unsuitable 'gag's to hold open the jaws to facilitate the safe removal of the hook may cause considerable damage to the mouth. Care should therefore be taken to use only gags of appropriate size and without sharp points,</li><li>[e] The use of barbless hooks is likely to cause less injury to the fish's mouth and, being easier to remove, reduce the amount of handling required.</li><li>[f] If keep-nets are used, fish should be confined for the shortest time possible, to reduce the risk of injury.</li><li>[g] Great care should be taken when handling fish to minimise damage to the thin protective layer of skin and mucus covering the scales. Damage to this layer will increase the chance of infection and reduce the ability of the fish to survive.</li></ul> <p>A dry cloth should never be used to handle live fish.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[h] Prolonged 'playing' of fish, especially those destined to be returned to the water, and the use of ultra-fine tackle which necessitates such 'playing' should be avoided.</li><li>[i] Never use vertebrate animals as live bait.</li><li>[j] Fish which are to be killed following capture should be despatched as quickly as possible. Anglers should know how to kill a fish humanely.</li><li>[k] In view of the dangers posed to wildlife and other animals by discarded fishing tackle anglers should take the greatest care to ensure that all litter is disposed of safely.</li></ul>
POLICY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Information Leaflet</b></li></ul> <p>Each Fishing Licence will be accompanied by a leaflet on the welfare of fish.</p> <p>Reason</p> <p>This will fulfil the purpose of the General Policy to inform the public on animal welfare issues and will explain the importance of following the Angling Code of Practice.</p>

POLICY 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="336 91 1418 134">• <b>Use of Lead Weights</b></li></ul> <p data-bbox="336 134 1418 179">The use of lead weights in any form will be prohibited on Council owned waters.</p> <p data-bbox="336 179 1418 224"><b>Reason</b></p> <p data-bbox="336 224 1418 376">The use of lead weights has resulted in the suffering and death of waterfowl particularly swans. Although the importation and sale of most sizes of lead weights is prohibited by law they are still being used by some anglers.</p>
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## SHOOTING

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Code of Practice</b></li></ul> <p>The Council endorses the recommendations of the panel of enquiry into shooting and angling (the Medway report) and, so far as shooting is concerned, will impose the following Code of Practice based on those recommendations as conditions of any permission to shoot animals on Council owned land.</p> <p>[a] Shooters must be competent at estimating ranges and aware of the limitations of their equipment and themselves, having been subjected to an assessment of their competence in handling the firearm and ammunition and their ability to fire accurately at an inanimate object.</p> <p>[b] Shooters must be able to recognise legitimate quarry and be fully conversant with protective legislation.</p> <p>[c] Shooters should always be accompanied by or have immediate call upon a trained dog to find and retrieve wounded game.</p> <p>[d] Shooters should ensure that they know how and are suitably equipped to dispatch wounded quarry humanely.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>No lead gunshot will be permitted in circumstances where the spent pellets are likely to be ingested by waterfowl. Steel shot would be an acceptable alternative.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>Where the Council have given permission for the shooting of animals on Council owned land for the reasons outlined in Appendix 7 – Wildlife, some control of the methods used are required to reduce suffering to a minimum. The Code of Practice is widely accepted as being both reasonable and practicable.</p>
POLICY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Prohibited Methods</b></li></ul> <p>The use of any type of bow or air powered weapons for the killing of animals on Council owned land is prohibited.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bows are not considered to be an acceptable method of killing animals and are therefore prohibited for this purpose on council owned land as is the indiscriminate use of air powered weapons.</li><li>• Even in the hands of experts these weapons are less efficient than an appropriately selected firearm for the killing of animals instantaneously.</li></ul>

## ZOOS

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Standards of Practice</b></li></ul> <p>The Council is committed to rigorous enforcement and monitoring of the provisions of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended) particularly Section 9 – Standards of Modern Zoo Practice.</p>
POLICY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Licensing Conditions</b></li></ul> <p>Future applications for zoo licences on Council owned property will only be granted where the purpose of the proposed zoo is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[a] Establish a sanctuary for unwanted captive wild animals from other defunct zoological collections, from circuses or from experimental and research institutions; and/or</li><li>[b] Provide specialised environments for the protection of rare or endangered species;</li><li>[c] Undertake a breeding programme registered by an approved national or international organisation.</li></ul> <p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p>Many authorities on animal welfare consider that the traditional role of zoos as an educative resource is now outdated and unnecessary. Instead, their future role is seen as providing a sanctuary or unwanted animals from a variety of sources which would otherwise have to be destroyed or be vulnerable to exploitation and abuse if sold on. Such animals would not be replaced following their natural death.</p> <p>The long term aim would be to provide space and the opportunity for the provision of specialised environments and habitats for rare or endangered species, and approved breeding programmes.</p>

## ANIMALS IN EDUCATION

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Keeping Animals in Schools</b></li> </ul> <p>No mammals, birds or cold water fish will be kept in schools except for tropical fish and invertebrates.</p> <p>Tropical fish and invertebrates may be kept subject to the provisions of proper facilities for their well-being and in particular:</p> <p>[a] That nominated persons are responsible for the welfare and veterinary care of the fish or invertebrates.</p> <p>[b] That a suitable environment is provided.</p> <p>[c] That proper provision is made for care at all times including term time, weekends and during holidays.</p> <p>[d] That any contact between pupils and fish or invertebrates is a supervised and controlled activity.</p> <p>[e] That the fish or invertebrates are given adequate periods free from disturbance.</p> <p>[f] Invertebrates will only be kept for the minimum period required for the purposes of a planned study, subject to the above conditions and to the return of the creatures to their normal habitat at the end of the study period.</p> <p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p>Following a comprehensive consultation with all interested parties the consensus opinion was that the objections to keeping animals in schools were more compelling than the perceived benefits. One of the difficulties identified was achieving consistency in the provision of proper facilities and arrangements for the welfare of the animals at all times. It was also felt that the case for educational benefits was insufficiently compelling. A crucial element in animal studies is their natural habitat and this cannot be adequately replicated in the classroom.</p> <p>However whilst it is possible to teach biology without access to mammals, the banning of invertebrates would have resulted in severe educational disadvantages. Invertebrates are therefore exempted from the ban subject to the conditions laid down.</p> <p>In the case of tropical fish the view that their therapeutic effects were of greater importance than the practical difficulties of keeping them prevailed.</p>
POLICY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dissection</b></li> </ul> <p>The dissection of animals in schools will be discontinued.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>The current curriculum precludes the necessity for dissection of animals.</p>
POLICY 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Animal Welfare Education</b></li> </ul> <p>Animal welfare issues will be included in the curriculum.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>The Council believe that wide discussion and consideration of animal welfare and animal habitat issues should be provided for in the curriculum. Use may be made of local facilities such as wildlife sites and other council run initiatives for the purpose and the Learning Service will continue to develop the animal welfare component of the curriculum.</p>

## ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION

POLICY 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Adoption of Principles</b></li></ul> <p>The Council recognises that the use of animals for experimental purposes is still an essential and unavoidable component of some research and statutory testing procedures. In accepting this situation the Council nevertheless is opposed to unnecessary experiments and endorses the principles of replacement, reduction or refinement of animal experimentation techniques.</p> <p><b>Reason</b></p> <p>Animal experimentation is subject to the provision of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which sets out animal welfare requirements at establishments where research using animals is carried out. All experiments have to be licensed by the Home Office.</p> <p>The Council shares the public concern about unnecessary experimentation, for example for the testing of cosmetic products, but take the view that, encouraging the development of new methods and techniques which will eventually lead to the replacement of live animals, to the reduction of the number of animals involved and to the refinement of methods to reduce pain and suffering in the short term, is the most realistic way of achieving the complete discontinuance of the practice in time.</p>
POLICY 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ethical Committees</b></li></ul> <p>The Council will offer its services for the establishment of ethical committees to review applications for all new experiment or testing protocols.</p> <p><b>Reasons</b></p> <p>In accepting the understandable public concerns over animal experimentation and recognising that these concerns are open to exploitation, the Council believe that the best way of addressing these concerns is by the setting up of an unbiased body made up of qualified representatives of the public and animal welfare organisations to work with local research establishments and the universities. The purpose of these ethical committees would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>[a] Review animal experimentation activities.</li><li>[b] To provide factual and balanced information on the necessity for such experimentation and</li><li>[c] To re-assure the public that the welfare of the animals involved is being protected.</li></ul> <p>To assist in the establishment of these ethical committees the Council will provide, at least initially, administration and secretarial resources.</p>