



Animal Welfare Charter

December 2023



Gosport Borough Council recognises its statutory obligations for animal welfare but believes these minimum standards ought to be exceeded wherever possible, not merely serve as objectives.

The statutory powers of GBC are firstly contained in a range of licensing provisions concerned with the protection of animal welfare in activities such as pet shops, animal breeding boarding establishments, riding establishments and zoos. The Council also has the statutory duty of providing a dog warden service, which also encompasses dealing with complaints of dogs being out of control in public spaces.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

In 2006, the Animal Welfare Act largely repealed and replaced the 1911 protection of Animals Act, strengthen and updated the provisions of that Act and consolidated and updated several other pieces of animal welfare legislation.

In addition the Act introduced a new offence of failing to ensure the welfare of an animal

Any person responsible for an animal must ensure that five specific needs of the animal are met: **(a)** its need for a suitable environment, **(b)** its need for a suitable diet, **(c)** its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, **(d)** any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals and **(e)** its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.



Animal Activity Licence

You must have an animal activity licence if you:

- Provide or arrange boarding facilities for cats or dogs
- Breed dogs
- Sell animals as pets
- Hire out horses
- Keep or train animals for exhibition.

The current Animal Welfare Regulations began on 1st October 2018



Pet Shops

In accordance with the introductions of Lucy's Law, GBC prohibits the sale of puppies and kittens at pet shops within the Borough that have not been bred by

the licence holder.

It is also a licence condition of pet shops within the borough that animals must not be sold to anyone under 16 years.

The Council opposes puppy farming and supports the **RSPCA** in recommending that prospective dog owners only purchase puppies that are seen with their mother & if possible, their sires.

The Council would also encourage residents to consider homing a rescue dog rather than a puppy, in an effort to reduce the population of unwanted dogs.

Stray Dogs

The council has a legal responsibility to deal with stray dogs. All stray dogs will be thoroughly checked for identification in an attempt to reunite the dog with its owner. It is Council policy to re-home all unclaimed stray dogs after the statutory seven days unless there is veterinary advice to the contrary.

Report or claim a lost or stray dog:

- To report or claim a lost or stray dog:
- Call **01329 824399** 9am -4.45pm Monday to Friday

If you pick up a stray dog we will collect it and take it to our Council appointed kennels. The owner will then have seven days to claim the dog.

Out of hours please call **01329 235292** between **09.15 - 17.15**

Microchipping

It is a legal requirement to microchip your dog, and from 10 June 2024 it will be a legal requirement to microchip your cat.

Microchipping helps reunite you with your pet quickly.

What happens when you microchip your pet?

Your pet's microchip is given a number which will show up when your pet is scanned. The professional who microchipped your pet will also take your contact details.

These details are kept alongside the microchip number on the database, so that your pet can be returned to you if lost or stolen.

It is your responsibility to keep your pet's microchip information up to date, for example if you move house.

Responsible dog ownership

If you are thinking about owning a dog or if you already have one:

- Make sure that your dog is trained in basic obedience, look for a local training class.
- Worm your dog about every four months, puppies more frequently, ask your vet for advice.
- Clean up after your dog – bag it, bin it.
- Make sure your dog has a collar and tag with your address details.

You must have close control over your dog, when out and about, this is particularly important around children, livestock and traffic.

Do not let your dog approach other dogs that are on a lead unless the owner agrees – a dog on the lead may be a sign its nervous of other dogs.

Responsible cat ownership

If you are thinking about owning a cat.

Cats are naturally inquisitive animals, responsible ownership of cats includes:

- Neutering and spaying cats to prevent unwanted pregnancies.
- Taking out appropriate insurance and making provision for adequate healthcare.
- Ensuring that your property is clear of poisonous substances such as antifreeze, disinfectant, household plants.
- Ensure your garden is cat friendly.

Cats are crepuscular animals, which mean they are mostly active at dawn and dusk.

Keeping your pet indoors at night can reduce the risk of traffic accidents and reduce hunting tendencies.

Pet sitting services

The Council encourages responsible pet ownership and recommends that pet owners only use licensed boarding establishments or if using pet sitting services that owners should take up references, visit the services provider beforehand and contact animal welfare organisations for advice when required.

Animal hoarding

An increasing number of cases are coming to light nationally where individuals, including some private animal sanctuaries keep many animals in unsuitable conditions. Anyone keeping large number of animals needs to consider carefully whether they have adequate suitable facilities and sufficient knowledge and resources to care properly of the animals. Professional advice should be sought.

People are encouraged to report any suspected instances of hoarding to the Council.

Angling

Anglers are requested to use shock leads when beach casting to reduce snap off. Hooks wires and left over bait and tackle are to be removed and disposed of properly. Size guide should be carried at all times and all undersize fish returned.

Pest control

The Council promotes and support the use of safe and humane methods of pest control. The Council encourages holders to seek professional advice on pest control, rather than over the counter preparations to prevent harm to non target species including pets, and children.

Bats

The Council supports legislation that protects bats and their roosts.

Sky lanterns and balloon releases.

Balloon and sky lantern releases are prohibited on Council land. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gosport.gov.uk/article/2366/Balloon-and-Sky-Lantern-Releases-on-GBC-Land>

Giving animals as prizes

The Animal Welfare Act makes it an offence for any animal to be sold or given as a prize to anyone under the age of 16. It is also Council policy that the conditions for hiring Council land premises or facilities includes a clause specifically banning the provision of live animal including fish as prizes. The Council encourages private premises or landowners to follow its lead.

Council Land and allotments

Gosport Borough Council does not permit shooting, snaring or trapping on its land.

There are also additional specific rules relating to the animals within the Allotments tenancy agreement

Dogs

The Tenant must not bring any dog into the Allotment or Allotment Garden, or cause one to be brought in, unless the dog is held on a leash and kept under control at all times and any dog foul must be removed and correctly disposed of.

Livestock

The Tenant must not keep any animals or livestock of any kind in the Allotment.

Bees

The Tenant is permitted to keep Bees on the Allotment provided they are kept in accordance with the conditions specified by the Council in Appendix 2 attached hereto.

Sprays

When using any sprays or fertilisers, the Tenant must:

- Take all reasonable care to ensure that adjoining hedges, trees and crops are not adversely affected, and must make good or replant as necessary should any damage occur.
- So far as is possible select and use chemicals, whether for spraying, seed dressing or for any other purpose whatsoever, that will cause no harm to members of the public, and wildlife, other than vermin or pests, and comply at all times with current regulations whether from Central Government, the Council or otherwise.

The Tenant should not leave any food or other items likely to attract wildlife on the Allotment whilst unattended

The feeding of wildlife such as birds, foxes and badgers at the Allotment Gardens is discouraged as they can be destructive and entice vermin on site.



If you need this document in large print, on tape, CD, in Braille or in another language, please ask.

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