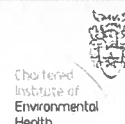




Community Animal Welfare Footprints 2014

A GUIDE TO GOOD PRACTICE
AND ENTRY CRITERIA



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We want to celebrate good practice

In 2013 the RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprint (CAWF) Awards celebrated a record number of entries achieving a gold footprint across the scheme.

In total 117 applications for footprints were received and 116 were awarded, with a record 62 at gold. Additionally, four organisations received Innovator in Animal Welfare Awards and two received Innovator Commendations.

The aim of the footprint scheme is to recognise and promote those that have gone beyond basic service requirements to achieve higher animal welfare standards in the delivery of services. Many housing providers and local authority departments have found that the internal and external recognition CAWF has brought them has helped ensure that their funding levels have been maintained or, in some cases, enhanced – important in these tough economic times. Better still, the success of the scheme has provided models of good practice across England and Wales to inspire and motivate.

Please note that new evidence must be submitted for all 2014 applications. The criteria for the 2014 CAWF scheme have changed, acknowledging comments from local authority officers and the nature of local authority funding, yet still encouraging good practice. The requirements in green italics are planned requirements for 2015 and not necessary for 2014 applications, to allow as much notice as possible.

The RSPCA is grateful to the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), Trading Standards Institute (TSI) and the Local Government Association (LGA) for their support for this scheme.

CAWF covers processes, policies and activities during the 2013/14 financial year.

RSPCA Community Animal Welfare Footprints

There are four footprints, each reflecting a different area of local authority service provision.

»» Stray Dogs Footprint

Covers policies that ensure stray dog welfare during the collection and kennelling processes, proactive work to educate owners, and preventative measures to reduce both straying and long-term strays.

»» Housing Footprint

Includes the provision of a positive and clear policy on pet ownership, as well as proactive work to educate the public about animal welfare-related issues.

»» Contingency Planning Footprint

Covers policies, procedures and exercises within contingency plans that deal with companion animals, both domestic and commercially owned, as well as advice for preparedness.

»» Animal Welfare Footprint

Is concerned with policies that improve and promote animal welfare through a clear animal welfare charter and the use of tools such as council websites.

The recognition you deserve

If you meet the requirements of an individual footprint you will receive a certificate commemorating your achievement and will be able to use the RSPCA CAWF logo – in gold, silver or bronze – on council publications and website for a 12-month period (see the entry form for the terms of logo use).

THE FOOTPRINTS HAVE THREE TIERS:



Foreword

Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP

Secretary of State for
Communities and Local Government



Whether it's a cute cockapoo or, for the more adventurous amongst us, a bearded dragon, we are a nation of animal lovers.

The Community Animal Welfare Footprints recognises the councils and agencies that help us to maintain the UK's excellent reputation for the welfare of animals.

It's in part thanks to the RSPCA's good practice guide that the number of strays on our streets is down, and that elderly and disabled owners, where possible, are being helped to keep their pets at home with them.

As a champion for localism, it's great to see so many community-grown solutions to tackling animal protection.

The scheme, through the prestigious Innovator Awards, has encouraged local authorities to go above and beyond what is expected of them – a standard that deserves to be recognised and awarded.

I hope 2014 will once again showcase the hard work that local authorities, housing providers and multi-agency groups are doing to improve animal welfare in their communities. I encourage you to participate in the awards and wish you every success with your application.

Eric Pickles

RSPCA Innovator in Animal Welfare Award 2014

The RSPCA set up the Innovator in Animal Welfare Award to celebrate and recognise local authorities, housing providers and community groups that have tried something different and/or achieved excellent results when tackling an issue relating to animal welfare.

»» WHO CAN ENTER?

Councils, housing providers and multi-agency groups can win an award for their interesting approach to improving one of the footprint areas or for another animal welfare area not covered here.

This award recognises the work and achievement of public service providers and their employees in an area that is often criticised and rarely rewarded.

»» THERE ARE FIVE INNOVATION AWARDS

1. English unitary authorities. Covers all single and upper-tier authorities in England.
2. English county authorities. Covers all single and upper-tier authorities in England.
3. Welsh unitary authorities. Covers the 22 unitary authorities in Wales.
4. Borough and district councils. Covers lower-tier authorities in England.
5. Housing providers and multi-agency groups. Covers all housing providers and multi-agency groups (including animal and dog forums and LRFs) in England and Wales.

»» ENTRY CRITERIA

You don't need to tick boxes to enter for an Innovator in Animal Welfare Award as its purpose is to reward those who have gained outstanding results or tackled an animal welfare issue in an imaginative or innovative way.

To apply for an award, please use the entry form to submit no more than 1,500 words outlining the council's innovative approach to animal welfare. Any supporting evidence must be attached.

You may find it useful to consider these questions.

- What makes the initiative/project innovative?
- What were the reasons for doing it?
- What are the aims?
- How does it work?
- Do you work in partnership with anyone?
- How has it been received?
- Do you have any statistical or anecdotal information to support your case?
- Is it sustainable?
- Did you achieve your aims?
- What are your plans for the future?

2013 INNOVATOR IN ANIMAL WELFARE AWARD WINNERS

English District and Borough Innovator: **Cherwell District Council**
Wales Unitary Innovator: **Cardiff Council – Cardiff Dogs Home**
Multi-Agency Innovator: **AMGA Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit**
English Unitary Innovator: **Oldham Council**



All pictures: Philip Toscano/RSPCA Photolibrary





The 2013 RSPCA Innovator in Animal Welfare Award winners.



»» CARDIFF COUNCIL – CARDIFF DOGS HOME

Winner of the RSPCA Innovator Award 2013 in the Welsh Innovator category.

Cardiff Dogs Home brought in volunteers from the local community and created a group with the primary aim of improving the welfare of dogs in their care. Their innovation was to build a sensory garden – of the kind sometimes found in private boarding establishments – to improve environmental enrichment for Cardiff's stray dogs.

The outdoor area includes a sandpit, fountain and tunnel which allow the dogs to play, explore and sniff outside of the kennel environment. It can even improve their chances of being rehomed as prospective new owners can meet them in a more natural, relaxed setting. It is hoped that other local authorities will consider implementing similar facilities to improve the welfare of their stray dogs.

»» OLDHAM COUNCIL

Winner of the RSPCA Innovator Award 2013 in the English Unitary Innovator category.

Following the gas explosion in Oldham in June 2012, which led to the tragic death of two-year-old Jamie Heaton, Oldham Council implemented a contingency plan to rescue animals in the areas around the blast. The innovations were developed under fast paced, dynamically evolving situations, helping animals that had been stranded in homes that were unsafe for owners to return to.

Oldham Council, with the help of the RSPCA, set traps behind the cordon to capture stranded cats and reunite them with their owners. Then, the disaster team arranged for staff to enter properties behind the safety cordon to rescue restrained pets such as hamsters, tortoises, ferrets, fish and terrapins. The Council set up 'good news' boards at rest centres, moving photographs of companion animals onto these from the 'missing' board as soon as they were found. The Council also implemented measures not originally in their animal welfare plan, for example arranging for local vets to provide free checks for animals involved in the explosion. Oldham Council disaster team ensured that each and every pet was rescued and reunited with his/her owner – including six cats from one house that was pulled down two weeks after the explosion.

»» CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Winner of the RSPCA Innovator Award 2013 in the English District and Borough Council category.

Local authorities are defying the tough economic times by developing methods to improve animal welfare, such as Cherwell District Council, that has developed a pioneering dog tagging system to help reunite stray dogs with their owners. This voluntary dog registration scheme provides each dog with a unique number that goes onto a database. As registrations have increased, the numbers of stray dogs has decreased, as have the overall costs to the service.

Highly commended in this category was awarded to:

Winchester City Council

West Oxfordshire District Council

»» AGMA – CIVIL CONTINGENCIES AND RESILIENCE UNIT

Winner of the RSPCA Innovator Award 2013 in the Multi-Agency Group Category.

Following the explosion in Oldham in June 2012, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) pooled its experience to develop a plan across all 10 local authorities, as it was clear that animal welfare needed to be embedded into their Emergency and Contingency planning. The pioneering plan, which focuses on what key priorities should be when faced with a major emergency, has been called 'The 3 Ps':

»People »Pets »Possessions

Happily, this approach to emergency planning means that pets will be a priority in any future emergency response.

Stray Dogs Footprint

While the RSPCA's interest in the stray dog issue is rooted in animal welfare, the service that local authorities provide has an impact on other areas, from street cleanliness and fouling to public protection and anti-social behaviour.

With public budgets tightening further across England and Wales, it is more important than ever for the RSPCA to highlight the vital role that local authority stray dog/animal welfare services play in the local community as the sole statutory responder to stray dogs and stray dog-related issues.

Since the scheme's inception in 2008, this footprint has been the most popular, with achievers inspiring others to develop and improve their service.



»» ENTRY CRITERIA

The main aim of this footprint is to set a level of good practice for stray dog provision by acknowledging local authority services that have mechanisms and policies to ensure dog welfare, provide staff training, and promote responsible dog ownership. It also aims to encourage local authorities to look at this important and often undervalued service and address any resource and service issues that may help them to meet the footprint criteria in the future.

This footprint was developed after discussions with local authority officers, with input from the RSPCA's inspectorate and some of the Society's branches.

The Stray Dogs Footprint is open to all local authorities in England and Wales that provide a stray dog service (unitary, metropolitan, London borough, Wales unitary and district councils). If you contract-out your stray dog service you can still receive a footprint provided you prove that the minimum requirements are requested in your procurement policy for this service, and that your service provider meets them.

Andrew Forsyth, Joe Murphy/RSPCA Photolibrary



Stray Dogs Footprint: Minimum requirements



EVIDENCE OF:

- Basic dog handling, welfare and behaviour training for all officers responsible for stray dog collection (including holiday cover) in a safe environment.
This will ensure consistency of service as well as health and safety for all officers involved in stray dog collection – even if just covering holiday.
- Procedure in place to treat injured and sick stray dogs efficiently and humanely, including those found by the public.
This will ensure that the length of time a stray dog suffers from injury or sickness will be minimised. In any procedure, consideration should be made for members of the public who find and report injured strays, particularly out of hours. This should also include clear procedures to ensure cover for staff sickness and holiday, as well as disease outbreaks.
- Written procedural policy to scan (or check for other identification) all stray dogs collected or received by the local authority.
Although most local authorities scan and check for the identification of strays, it is important that a procedural policy is in place to ensure this happens every time. This could reunite owners faster and encourage more of them to permanently ID their dogs.
- Written procedural policy to scan dead dogs for microchips and other forms of identification.
Dead dogs are often collected by waste management rather than the service responsible for stray dogs. People are more likely to permanently ID their dog if it makes it more likely that they will discover the fate of their dog should it stray.
- The council or contractor's stray dog kennels and out-of-hours reception centre has clear facilities, protocols and procedures that meet the five needs defined under the Animal Welfare Act.
This will ensure that the local authority maintains the welfare standards required under the Animal Welfare Act. For further information see the RSPCA and CIEH's publication: A good practice guide for enforcement bodies – meeting the welfare needs of seized dogs in a kennel environment.
- Staffed out-of-hours kennels/reception centre.
This is essential to ensure the welfare of the dogs should an emergency occur.
- Information provided to owners reclaiming strays on how to prevent the animal straying again.
Educating the owner will reduce the chance of a dog straying again.
- Records kept, and regularly updated, of all strays received and how they were disposed of.
Clear records will help local authorities when focusing resources on reducing the problem of straying dogs. These records should include the number of dogs returned, rehomed, euthanased on medical grounds, and euthanased on non-medical grounds.
- Entries from Wales must demonstrate how microchipping records are kept and updated.



ALL OF BRONZE, PLUS EVIDENCE OF:

- A clear rehoming policy for kennels to ensure all dogs rehomed are assessed – behaviourally and physically – and permanently identified, and that potential new owners are vetted.
This policy will reduce the likelihood of dogs being returned to the kennels, thus reducing the cost to local authorities of rehoming again and, in turn, improving the quality of life for the dog. The policy should apply to any third party kennels that the council may use after the statutory seven day period. Where rehoming is not possible, clear evidence must be provided to demonstrate that efforts have been made to address this.
- Active promotion through council website and leaflets of microchipping and/or other methods of permanent identification, neutering and the duty of care under section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
The provision of easily accessible information plays an important part in preventing welfare issues occurring due to ignorance. This in turn can reduce the likelihood of dogs straying, fouling and causing a nuisance.



ALL OF BRONZE AND SILVER, PLUS EVIDENCE OF:

- Adequate provision of an out-of-hours service for local circumstances to ensure animal welfare.
Please evidence with an explanation of reasons for level of service and how the welfare of the dogs is ensured out-of-hours.
- Microchipping or other permanent identification offered to all stray dogs before being returned to owners or rehomed.
This policy will ensure that the dogs are more likely to be returned to their owner if they stray again, saving the local authority money and the owner time searching, and keeps the dog from straying away from home.
- Regular proactive work to encourage responsible pet ownership.
This policy will ensure that the dogs are less likely to stray from home again, but if they do then they are more likely to be returned to their owner, saving the local authority money and the owner time searching.
- Evidence of policies and procedures that have been implemented to reduce stray dogs in your area, for example working in partnership with other organisations, or local engagement and education initiatives.

Housing Footprint

The keeping of pets in sheltered, social and council accommodation can pose many challenges for housing providers. Yet research shows that animals, when well cared for and responsibly kept, can be an asset to any community.

The importance of a good pets policy and associated procedures cannot be underestimated in terms of their impact in tackling both social and health issues. However, a poor policy and procedures can create an environment with problems such as fouling, straying, anti-social use of animals (for example, using dogs as weapons) and animal welfare and health concerns.

»» ENTRY CRITERIA

The aim of this footprint is to encourage housing providers, be it local authorities, arms-length management organisations (ALMOs) or housing associations, to take positive steps to encourage and ensure responsible pet ownership in the properties they manage, and to recognise others that are doing so. In addition, the footprint aims to encourage a considered pets-in-housing policy that is not simply a knee-jerk response to problems that have arisen through a weak pet policy or tensions created by an anti-social minority.

The Housing Footprint is open to any housing provider in England and Wales, of any size.



Andrew Forsyth x2/RSFCA Photolibrary





Housing Footprint: Minimum requirements



EVIDENCE OF:

- A clear and positive written policy for all housing controlled or influenced by the local authority or housing associations. The following should be a part of the policy.
 1. Clearly defined guidance, with some flexibility to allow requests to keep pets on a case-by-case basis where the owner can meet the animal's welfare needs.
 2. Details of the owner's responsibility and a definition of which species of animal and how many are allowed. It should not discourage pet ownership where facilities exist for proper care
 3. A clear procedure for managing complaints and the concerns of both pet owners and neighbours regarding nuisance animals, welfare, health or cruelty issues.
 4. A ban on business activity involving the breeding and/or vending of animals on premises. The policy should also discourage non-commercial breeding.

This can define the number of animals per dwelling and what constitutes suitable accommodation, and set out clear obligations that the owner must adhere to in order to ensure an animal's welfare and that it does not become a nuisance. The importance of allowing discretion means that cases can be looked at where they do not meet the conditions outlined, but there may be a solution.

A grievance procedure will give both pet owners and non pet-owners a clear procedure for complaints, so that neither animal welfare nor human health and safety are compromised. For further information see the RSPCA's publication: Housing – a guide to good practice, Community Animal Welfare Footprints.

- A list of local, reputable animal welfare organisations made available to residents.

If people know where to go for advice, then animal welfare issues, particularly those surrounding sickness or injury, are less likely to become a problem.



ALL OF BRONZE, PLUS EVIDENCE OF:

- Written pet care advice/information by, or approved by, a recognised animal welfare source made available to residents on registering their pets in the accommodation.
Basic information/education on the welfare needs of pets, along with contact details of reputable animal welfare organisations, can reduce the number of welfare-related problems. The RSPCA has produced pet care fact cards that you can use. To view samples visit: www.rspca.org.uk/petcare
- The active promotion of permanent identification and neutering of pets.
The neutering of animals has many potential welfare benefits, including a reduction in the number of unwanted litters, and may reduce the chances of dogs, in particular, straying. Microchipping increases the chances of straying animals being returned to their owners safely, while the process of microchipping provides an opportunity for a knowledgeable animal handler to see the animal and talk to the owner about any other issues.
- Provision for the pets of owners in temporary or emergency housing.
Measures should be in place to ensure that people placed in temporary accommodation do not have to give up their pets permanently. These could include liaison with recognised organisations that provide animal fostering services or an arrangement with an animal centre and/or licensed boarding establishment.
- A register of all animals kept in each dwelling, which is kept and updated as required.
A register works in three ways. Firstly, it ensures that the housing manager has an idea of which animals are kept in each home – this means that if an animal strays it is likely to be reunited with the owner. Secondly, it allows officers to locate owners of reported nuisance pets faster. Thirdly, pets can be evacuated more quickly in the case of emergency if officers have a list of where they are located.
- *Proportionate response to prohibited types of dogs (i.e. those prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991)*
It is important that housing providers have clear and consistent policies that protect animal welfare but also deal with issues arising in a proportionate and case-by-case basis (blanket approaches tend to be unsuitable). If a dog is permitted entry to the IED and the conditions listed above are complied with, a housing provider could take the lead from the court in that it can decide, upon examination of the available evidence, that a dog does not pose a danger to public safety (a scrutiny process the majority of other dogs do not undergo, so extremely useful from a risk assessment point of view). A housing provider could, therefore, allow exempted dogs to be kept within properties as long as the owner continues to comply with exemption conditions.



ALL OF BRONZE AND SILVER, PLUS EVIDENCE OF:

- Provision of discounted permanent ID for pets and a neutering discount to prevent unwanted breeding.
Cost, particularly for neutering, is an issue for some pet owners. Discounting needs active involvement from the local authority or other housing provider.
- An established link with a recognised animal welfare organisation that provides residents with advice on pet care on request or by monthly or quarterly visits.
Regular contact with animal experts will give residents the opportunity to talk about concerns regarding their pets' behaviour or health before it becomes a serious welfare issue.

Contingency Planning Footprint

In the last few years the RSPCA has, alongside emergency services and local authorities, assisted in the rescuing of residents and pets in flood-hit communities around the country. Many of the people rescued would not have left their homes had the safety of their pets not been assured.

While human welfare will always remain the priority, there must be consideration for people's animals. Indeed, examples from emergencies in both the UK and overseas over the last few years, have shown that human safety and public order issues can arise if contingency plans don't prepare for animal welfare.

Awareness of preparedness with regard to animals has grown significantly in the last few years and there has been a concurrent rise in the number of entries for this footprint. These entries have provided some excellent case studies that we hope will encourage many more to consider animals – and more specifically companion animals – in their plans.

»» ENTRY CRITERIA

The aim of this footprint is to encourage LRFs to consider animal welfare by recognising those and their member authorities that have, with the involvement of animal welfare organisations, considered, planned and practised situations that involve the rescue and/or evacuation of both domestic and commercially owned pets. It also aims to remind local authorities of the importance of considering animals when planning for their owners.

The Contingency Planning Footprint is open to all LRFs and local authorities in England and Wales.



RSPCA, Joe Bowling/RSPCA PhotoLibrary



Contingency Planning Footprint: Minimum requirements



EVIDENCE OF:

- Locations identified as temporary animal shelters with a pet evacuation plan.
This will ensure that if animals need to be removed there is a plan for where they can be housed safely and securely.
- Information on the website for pet owners that promotes preparedness, or links to another site that does.
This would include a checklist on what steps both commercial and non-commercial pet owners should take to ensure they are prepared in an emergency. This should be displayed through the LRF's and/or the member authorities' websites.
- The establishment of a contact list of animal welfare organisations and local vets who can assist in an emergency situation, and liaison with these.
Advance liaison means that welfare organisations and vets are likely to be better prepared to respond in an emergency. The contact information is likely to be gathered by individual member authorities but should be collated by the LRF.

- Companion animal welfare included in written contingency plans.
There is a human health element to ensuring that pets and other animals are considered. It is easier to evacuate people from their homes if they know their animals are going to be safe. It also reduces the likelihood of owners taking a risk by returning home to rescue their animals.



ALL OF BRONZE, PLUS EVIDENCE OF:

- The involvement of animal welfare organisations in contingency exercises and planning meetings.
This will ensure that animals are a consideration in all contingency planning
- Support for establishments involved with large numbers of pet animals in drawing up their contingency plans.
This will help the local authority, stakeholders and animal establishments such as pet shops and boarding establishments. This does not necessarily mean writing the individual plans on their behalf, but rather providing general guidance and some officer support
- The running of at least one tabletop exercise every year specifically involving a companion animal welfare element.
This will improve the speed and safety with which animals are protected



ALL OF BRONZE AND SILVER, PLUS EVIDENCE OF:

- Ownership of, or access to, at least 50 kennel spaces or vari-kennels between members of the LRF, for use in an emergency.
This will help operational staff to be more flexible when setting up an emergency reception centre
- Proactive work, such as an awareness campaign, to ensure pet owners are prepared should they be evacuated.
Many pet owners may never have considered what they might need in an emergency. Proactive work to promote the need for preparedness will ensure both animal welfare and speed of evacuation in an emergency.
- At least one live exercise every two years specifically involving a companion animal welfare element. This will help operational staff to be more flexible when setting up an emergency reception centre.
Exercises involving animal welfare will help to ensure a smoother delivery of service when needed

Animal Welfare Footprint

The title of this footprint has been changed to reflect the full range of welfare services that a council provides for animals in a local authority area. The footprint still recognises the local authority's attitude and service delivery but looks beyond traditional companion animals to include equines and licensing functions within the council. Oldham is the only local authority to have achieved a gold Animal Welfare Footprint, so we hope that others can aim to achieve gold in this refreshed category.

»»» ENTRY CRITERIA

This footprint is designed to encourage local authorities to make animal welfare a greater consideration in their business, whether it is in service delivery, procurement or communications. By acknowledging those local authorities that are already putting animal welfare at the forefront of their work through a written council policy and best practice sharing and promotion, the RSPCA aims to encourage more authorities to follow suit.

The Animal Welfare Footprint is open to all authorities in England and Wales.



Joe Murphy/RSPCA Photolibrary



Animal Welfare Footprint: Minimum requirements



EVIDENCE OF:

- A written council policy on animal welfare that is regularly reviewed, promoted within the council, and based on the principles outlined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

This will give local authorities a point of reference when considering policy that will impact on animals and their welfare. It helps to build on the basic premise of the five welfare needs that are the basis for the Animal Welfare Act.

These needs are:

- a suitable environment (place to live)
- a suitable diet
- to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- to be housed with, or apart from, other animals (where applicable)
- to be protected from pain, injury, suffering and disease.

- Examples of regular sharing of best practice with regards to animal welfare by officers or political representatives.

This could be via regular meetings, within animal welfare fora and/or by regular telephone contact with other authorities and bodies. It helps local authorities to discuss problems, share best practice and build contacts in the field, thus pushing up welfare standards.

- When licensing animal establishments, risk-based inspections are employed and the use of a suitably qualified vet or animal welfare expert is retained.

This policy will enable a local authority to demonstrate that the licensing process fully considers the welfare needs of animals.



ALL OF BRONZE, PLUS EVIDENCE OF:

- The council adoption and external promotion of a policy on using only non-caged whole eggs in any catering supplied to or by the local authority.
By adopting a policy to use only non-caged whole eggs (i.e. Freedom Food, free range, barn and organic eggs) local authorities are showing support for an improvement in animal welfare and promoting ethical consumerism.
- The promotion of animal welfare via the council's website, which includes the following.
 - The council's animal welfare charter.
 - Seasonal animal welfare concerns such as fireworks, pets as Christmas presents, dogs dying in hot cars, contingency planning, etc.
 - Information about animal-related law, covering domestic pets and wildlife.
 - Information, links or contact details relating to pet care advice, animals on allotments, or living with wildlife.
 - Preventative measures that can be taken to reduce the chances of unwanted 'pests', provided or approved by recognisable animal welfare organisations.

Local authorities have some of the most accessible and user friendly websites around. These sites can be a useful tool in helping to improve animal welfare locally and raising awareness of animal welfare-related issues.

- At least one public-facing activity, event or initiative that has promoted an animal welfare issue.

This will improve animal welfare and increase education in the local authority area on the issues promoted.

ALL OF BRONZE AND SILVER, PLUS EVIDENCE OF:

- The establishment of a council steering group focused on animal welfare.
The steering group can take any form, but there must be evidence that an aspect of animal welfare has been reviewed and action has been taken as a result.

- A policy that resolves to move to higher welfare meat, dairy and non-caged eggs in ingredients, in catering supplied to offices owned by, and meetings organised on behalf of, local authorities. The commitment should be supported by the adoption of at least one type of meat and one ingredient with eggs or dairy produce that is produced to higher welfare standards. Where higher welfare is not easily procured, free-range or organic is acceptable.

This is a considerable commitment, so is considered a gold standard. The phrase 'higher welfare' indicates meat, dairy produce or eggs from animals reared, transported and slaughtered according to the RSPCA's animal welfare standards and labelled with the Freedom Food logo. This step will encourage residents to consider the eggs and meat they buy and as a result they may consider changing to higher welfare.

- A clear and defined policy and procedure that ensures animal welfare when dealing with equines.

Dates and entry details

Key dates for your diary

Closing date for entries: Friday 27 June 4.00pm

Please note that new evidence will be needed to support your application for 2014.

Announcement of footprint achievers:

Wednesday 10 September 2014

Announcement of Innovator Awards:

Later in the year

For further information, please contact:

Lenny Rolles, RSPCA Senior Parliamentary Adviser –
Local Government

Tel: 0300 123 0132

Fax: 0303 123 0132

Email: cawf@rspca.org.uk

How to enter

All entries must be on the relevant entry form.

Entry forms for all categories, including the
Innovator in Animal Welfare Award,
will be through the RSPCA Political Animal website.

Please visit: www.politicalanimal.org.uk/cawf for
further details of methods of entry.

Complete the entry form, or forms if you are
intending to apply for more than one category,
making sure that the relevant evidence is provided.

Don't forget to read and acknowledge the terms
of entry and conditions of logo use, which can be
found towards the end of the entry forms.

www.politicalanimal.org.uk/cawf

Terms of entry

Terms of Entry for the Community Animal Welfare Footprints

1. The Community Animal Welfare Footprints scheme (the "Scheme") recognises positive aspects of animal welfare in relation to the provision of certain local authority services during the financial year 2013/14 at three levels: bronze, silver and gold (each a "Footprint"). In these terms, "you" refers to the local authority and "we" or "us" refers to the RSPCA.
2. In return for your completing the application questionnaire and supplying all requisite material, we will enter your local authority into the Scheme, giving your local authority the opportunity to be awarded a Footprint. If you are awarded a Footprint, you will be granted a licence to use the Footprint logo subject to compliance with the conditions of use. In particular, we draw your attention to clause 10 of the logo conditions of use.
3. You warrant that the information and material you have provided is accurate and not misleading and that you will notify us immediately (whether before or after any Footprint has been awarded) if you become aware that any information or material supplied is inaccurate or misleading in any respect. In the event that your local authority is awarded a Footprint, you undertake to notify us of any change in your authority's policies or practices which relates, however incidentally, to that Footprint, during the one-year period following the award of the Footprint.
4. We regret that we are unable to return any information or material provided to us.
5. In consideration of the RSPCA entering your organisation into the Scheme, you grant the RSPCA the non-exclusive licence to use, copy and reproduce any information and material supplied by you as part of entering the Scheme for the purposes only of judging and publicising the Scheme and use in connection with other ongoing or future RSPCA work. The RSPCA warrants and undertakes that any such information or material supplied by you will not be used in a manner which is defamatory to your organisation.
6. The panel of judges comprises representatives of the RSPCA. The judges will determine, using such criteria as they think fit and taking into account the information you have provided and any supporting evidence or information which we may require, whether or not you will be awarded a Footprint. A decision of the judges is final.

Terms of Entry for the Community Animal Welfare Footprints Innovator in Animal Welfare Award

1. The Community Animal Welfare Footprints Innovator in Animal Welfare Award (the "Award") recognises innovation in relation to a local authority activity or service as it relates to animal welfare. In these terms, "you" refers to the local authority and "we" or "us" refers to the RSPCA.
2. In return for you submitting the requisite information and material, we will enter your local authority into the Award scheme, giving your local authority the opportunity to be given an Award. If you are given an Award, you will be granted a licence to use the Award logo subject to compliance with the conditions of use.
3. You warrant that the information and material you have provided in your submission is accurate and not misleading and that you will notify us immediately (whether before or after any Award has been given) if you become aware that any information or material supplied is inaccurate or misleading in any respect. In the event that your local authority is given an Award, you undertake to notify us of any change in your authority's policies or practices which relates, however incidentally, to that Award, during the one-year period following the grant of the Award.
4. We regret that we are unable to return any information or material provided to us.
5. In consideration of the RSPCA entering your organisation into the Award scheme, you grant the RSPCA the non-exclusive licence to use, copy and reproduce any information and material supplied by you as part of entering the Award scheme for the purposes only of judging and publicising the Award scheme and use in connection with other ongoing or future RSPCA work. The RSPCA warrants and undertakes that any such information or material supplied by you will not be used in a manner which is defamatory to your organisation.
6. The panel of judges comprises representatives of the RSPCA and three external judges. The judges will determine, using such criteria as they think fit and taking into account the information you have provided and any supporting evidence or information which we may require, whether or not you will be given an Award. A decision of the judges is final.



Cover photo: Joe Murphy/RSPCA Photo diary: back page (left to right): Andrew Loryth/RSPCA, Joe Murphy/RSPCA Photo diary



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