

Basildon District Council supports the view that all animals have a right to a life free from cruel treatment and unnecessary suffering. The council will use this principle as a basis when enforcing its statutory powers relating to animal health and welfare. Basildon Council also encourages everyone to respect the rights of all animals and to be guided by the same principle.

PETS

PET SHOPS

The law requires all premises, which sell pet animals, to be licensed by the council. The definition of animal so far as this law is concerned is "any vertebrate" which explains why fish are included and insects are excluded. We check these premises regularly to ensure that animal health and welfare conditions are maintained to nationally accepted standards, which are incorporated in the licence conditions. It is an offence to sell an animal to a child less than 12 years of age.

The Council ensure that animals are not sold by street traders, or at markets and although we cannot legally require it, we encourage shops to sell only captive bred animals and not imported specimens, captured in the wild.

C.I.T.E.S. (Control of International Trade in Endangered Species)

Although enforcement is not a council function, we maintain vigilance and report any contraventions to the police.

DOG WARDEN SERVICE

Our dog warden not only deals with stray dogs but also works hard to encourage responsible dog ownership and welfare. The health and safety of humans is also promoted by enforcement

and education. As well as collecting stray dogs, we also provide an "at cost" microchipping service to help rapid identification in the event of straying. The council encourages the re-homing of unclaimed strays to prevent unnecessary euthanasia.

ANIMAL BOARDING

Anyone boarding cats or dogs for financial gain must be licensed by the council. We, in conjunction with our veterinary officer, regularly inspect these establishments to ensure that the animals are cared for properly and that the proprietors are fit to look after animals.

DOG BREEDERS

The Council licenses all dog breeders who have more than two breeding bitches and produce puppies for sale. These are inspected with our veterinary officer to ensure the welfare of the animals and the suitability of the keeper.

DANGEROUS PETS

Anyone who keeps a dangerous pet must be licensed. Private ownership of dangerous species is not encouraged, nor is the ownership of primates or exotic species, all of which have special needs in order to ensure a fulfilled life.

ANIMALS IN SPORT OR LEISURE

RIDING SCHOOLS

The Council licence all riding schools to ensure that the person in charge is fit to keep animals and that all instructors are properly qualified. Our vet attends with us during inspections to ensure that the horses are fit and healthy and suitable for use.

GAME

To shoot game, you must have a licence obtainable from the post office as well as the permission of the landowner. The licence carries conditions and must not be used outside the shooting season.

Premises, which sell game for the table, must also be licensed. We can act if evidence is presented that game has been shot outside of season or caused unnecessary suffering.

CIRCUSES

The Council do not have any powers to control the welfare of animals in circuses but we do inspect circuses under the Health & Safety at Work Act, which covers animal handling, and public safety. If we find any evidence of cruelty or mistreatment, we will report it to the RSPCA. We do not permit circuses with animal performances on council owned land but have no control over land in private ownership.

FISHING

The Council has three lakes on which fishing is permitted: Gloucester Park, Northlands Park and Lake Meadows. Fishing rights are franchised to a fishery management company who control the day to day running of the lakes. Good practices and conservation are encouraged by the company who run training sessions for children and beginners on Wednesday mornings at Gloucester Park during the summer holiday period. These sessions help encourage the use of correct equipment including unhooking mats and the use of barbless hooks where practicable. Other good practices are also encouraged such as keep nets being a max of 8ft long rather than the

2metres required by the Environment Agency. It is also a requirement that "silver" fish are not placed in the same keep net as other species. Fish management is strictly controlled and all new stocks are subjected to stringent health checks before being released into the lakes. Full details of Basildon's fishing facilities can be found at:

<http://www.micktoomer.co.uk>

ANIMALS GIVEN AS PRIZES

The council has resolved not to permit the practice of giving animals such as goldfish as prizes at fairs and events held on council land. We have no control though of this practice taking place on private land.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL HABITATS AND WILD FLORA AND FAUNA

The council, through its Parks and Countryside Services, strives to increase biodiversity across the district whilst providing the population with access to Country Parks and Nature Reserves for the enjoyment of the semi-rural environment. We foster an appreciation and respect for the wildlife and countryside of the district through education and sensitive management.

PEST CONTROL

Our service seeks to protect human safety and welfare but advice is also given by officers on humane and environmentally friendly methods of treatment. Pests treated by us include rats, mice, bedbugs, fleas and cockroaches. Wasps are dealt with by private contractors and we do not deal with protected species such as bats and badgers. Local apiarists normally collect swarming honeybees.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Dog Rehoming and Dog Warden Service:

Tel: 01268 294280

Or see our web site at:

<http://www.basildon.gov.uk>

The Kennel Club

1-5 Clarges Street

Piccadilly

London W1Y 8AB

Tel: 0207 834 2222

Web: <http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk>

RSPCA

Causeway

Horsham

West Sussex RH12 1HG

Tel: 01403 264181

Web: <http://www.rspca.org.uk>

British Horse Society

Stoneleigh Deer Park

Kenilworth

Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

Tel: 08701 202244

Web: <http://www.bhs.org.uk>

The Pet Care Trust

Bedford Business Centre

170 Mile Road

Bedford MK42 9TW

Tel: 01234 273933

Web: <http://www.petcare.org.uk>

The British Veterinary Association

7 Mansfield Street

London W1M 0AT

Tel: 0207 636 6541

Web: <http://www.bva.co.uk>

Basildon District Council

ANIMAL WELFARE



CHARTER

Basildon District Council
Environmental Health Services
The Basildon Centre
St. Martin's Square
Basildon
Essex SS14 1DL
Phone (01268) 533333
Fax (01268) 294550

Email: ehs@basildon.gov.uk



Building a Better Basildon