

Motion to ban the practice of the giving of live animals as prizes on Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council land.

Background

In May 2021 the RSPCA launched a nationwide campaign urging local authorities to ban outrightly the giving of live animals as prizes in their land. The campaign, which was covered in national media outlets, also is urging the local authorities to write to the UK Government to instigate a similar ban on both public and private land.

Statistics received from RSPCA show that between 2015 and 2020 there were 120 cases reported to them of live animals being given as prizes in England, however it is feared many more cases go unreported due to lack of awareness around animal welfare and existing legislations.

The table below show that the number of cases reported has been dwindling in recent years (120 reported to the RSPCA since 2015) which may indicate a change of attitude towards giving live animals as prizes or people have stopped reporting cases of live animals given as prizes for lack of motivation. It will be presumptuous of this report to try and assume the cause of the current decline in the number of incidences. However, as long as the practice is still not outlawed chances are the incidents may increase in the future.

Incidents reported to RSPCA related to pets as prizes in England							Total
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Incidents	30	24	33	16	15	2	120

Since the start of the RSPCA campaign, many county, district, and town councils have supported it through issuing statements of intents and passed resolutions to ban the practice of giving animals as prizes in their land and properties. Some Councils have either had to review their events licencing and hiring terms and condition or adopt Animals Welfare Charters to reflect their stance on this practice.

Among the many Councils that have passed resolutions to support the campaign recently include Shropshire County Council, Tamworth Borough Council, Chester West and Chester Council, Sunderland Council and the London Assembly with many more councils such as Staffordshire Moorlands District Council also preparing to vote on the issue.

The current legislations set out in The Animal Welfare Act (England and Wales) 2006, does not for forbid giving live animals as prizes unless they are given to unaccompanied children. The Act makes it an offence, in England and Wales, to give away live animals as prizes if the person can reasonably be believed to be under 16 years of age and is not accompanied by an adult. However, there are some exceptions in section 11 (3)-(6) of the Act.

The RSPCA believes that this legislation does not go far enough and does not cover the animal welfare issues associate with this practice and therefore, they would like to see similar legislation to the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is introduced in England which makes it an offence to give an animal as prize, regardless of age, except within the family context.

The Council has an opportunity to ban this practice in its land and premises by seeking to impose such a condition in any new grant of a lease, licence, permit, or permission in respect of its own land,

or seek a variation to the terms of any existing agreement. This also serves to raise public awareness of animal welfare surrounding the giving of live animals as prizes.

Motion

This Council:

- is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year, regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels in England - and notes the issue predominantly concerns goldfish
- is concerned for the welfare of those animals that are being given as prizes
- recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year
- supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council land.

The Council agrees to:

- ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council land.

land.

- write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

Proposer: Cllr. Rupert Adcock

Seconder: Cllr. Simon Tagg