

Appendix 2

Current Charter Statement	Reason for Amendment	Proposal
<p>Circuses</p> <p>It is Council policy not to allow performance, exhibition or display of animals on any Council land or premises.</p> <p>It is Council policy that all applications to hold performances, exhibitions or displays of animals on any Council land or premises will be considered individually and the decision to grant or refuse such applications will be based on a wide range of considerations, including animal welfare.</p>	<p>The two statements appear contradictory.</p> <p>Advice from the RSPCA and the Head of Legal Services is that a blanket ban is open to legal challenge. The second paragraph provides a satisfactory degree of control.</p>	<p>Delete the first paragraph.</p>
<p>Responsible pet ownership</p> <p>The Council strongly advises that anyone thinking of getting a pet should have a good knowledge and/or take professional advice on the care of such animals before getting the pet. It is a licence condition of pet shops within the District, that pet care leaflets or other similar written instructions must be made available to customers free of charge at the time of purchase and that proper advice on the care of the animal must be given. Once the pet has been acquired, responsible pet ownership should include means of identifying the owner of the animal (e.g. micro-chipping), health checks, including vaccinations, where required and the safe and hygienic disposal of all animal waste.</p>	<p>To encourage pet owners to act responsibly and properly control their animals whilst they are in any area used by other members of the public or where there are other animals.</p>	<p>Add new paragraph:</p> <p>Pet owners are encouraged to properly control their animals to avoid the possibility of them causing annoyance or distress to members of the public or to other animals.</p>

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<p>Angling</p> <p>The Council recommends that anglers follow the code of practice based on the recommendations of the Medway report. The key recommendations being:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of double and treble hooks should be kept to a minimum. These should be avoided entirely when the intention is to return the catch alive to the water. 2. Fish intended for food should be killed humanely. 3. Unhooking a fish humanely and safely is one of the most important skills for an angler to learn. All anglers should be equipped with, properly trained and use disgorgers. 4. Employment of the pike-gag should take fully into account the size of the fish for which it is used, Barbless hooks should be favoured. 5. Holding periods in keep-nets should be as brief as possible. <p>The Council considers it essential that fishing tackle is safely disposed of to prevent injury to both domestic and wild animals and that undersized fish should be returned to the water as quickly as possible</p>	<p>Although now fairly old, the Medway report is still the most meaningful report on this topic. It would be useful to add reference to the existence of national and regional byelaws controlling angling and to a guidance document produced by the Environment Agency.</p>	<p>Add new paragraph:</p> <p>All anglers are encouraged to ensure that they comply with national and regional byelaws relating to angling [Note: on the website there will be a link to these]. The Environment Agency has produced a useful leaflet ‘Golden Rules – Angling and Wildlife’ which can be obtained by contacting 08459 333111.</p>

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<p>Animal Hoarding</p> <p>Not currently included.</p>	<p>The RSPCA advise that the keeping of large numbers of animals is a growing problem.</p>	<p>Add new sub-heading:</p> <p>Animal hoarding</p> <p>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 numbers of animals needs to carefully consider whether they have adequate, suitable facilities, sufficient knowledge and resources to properly care for all the animals. Professional advice should be sought.</p>
<p>Publicity</p> <p>The Council will undertake to promote animal welfare issues by way of publishing informative and educational articles in Rochford District Matters and on the Council website.</p>	<p>The animal welfare pages of the website have been extensively upgraded over the past year to include animal welfare legislation, advice and links to related websites.</p>	<p>Amend existing paragraph to read:</p> <p>The Council regularly updates the information it provides to promote animal welfare through articles in Rochford District Matters and by maintaining pages on the Councils website www.rochford.gov.uk. It provides information on animal welfare legislation, advice and links to useful related websites.</p>