



REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Animal, Bird and Fish welfare at events  
on Council Land**

Date: 27 October 2023

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### **Animal, Bird and Fish welfare at events on Council Land**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

In conjunction with Redditch Borough Council's strategic purpose "Communities which are safe, well maintained and green" the Council's Leisure Service manages the hire of Redditch Borough Council's land and premises for individuals and organisations to run events.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that no animal, bird, or fish involved in an event held on Redditch Borough Council's land is subjected to any kind of undue suffering and that Redditch Borough Council promotes acceptable usage of animals, birds or fish for educational or charitable purposes at events held on Redditch Borough Council land.

#### **2.0 Wider context**

This policy sits within a wider context national and international context. Authority sits with our partner Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) and amongst others DEFRA, and the Health and Safety Executive to manage the implementation of all policy and procedure in connection with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. In addition, WRS governs procedures in accordance with the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925. Within that act it is made clear that there are restrictions on the exhibition and training of performing animals. (1) No person shall exhibit or train any performing animal unless he is registered in accordance with this Act. For example, if a dog is to perform during a play at a theatre venue that venue is obliged to contact the relevant authority (and in this case WRS) to seek the appropriate permissions and license to carry out that activity.

This specific policy sits outside of that wider context and represents that Redditch Borough Council seeks to do over and above that legislation work. Redditch Borough Council notes that it is in no position to remove the right of any individual or group to carry out activities with animals, birds or fish that sit appropriately within the legal framework briefly outlined outside of Redditch Borough Council's land. This policy only places control measures in place for events held on Redditch Borough Council's land and in our premises.

Redditch Borough Council wishes to promote positive practice and specifically good quality animal husbandry. Redditch Borough Council will support this approach by presenting at its events, educational opportunities for residents (and in particular; children and young people) to have animal, bird and fish educational experiences. More detail about this work is outlined in Section 4 below. Further information about the legal frameworks outlined above can be found by contacting Worcestershire Regulatory Services and the Health and Safety Executive, DEFRA.

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### **3.0 Statement of Policy**

#### **The Council does not allow:**

1. Circuses, fairs, or events who hire with or without charge Redditch Borough Council's own land or use Redditch Borough Council's own premises as a venue to use performing animals, birds or fish.
2. Circuses, fairs, or events that hire, with or without charge, Redditch Borough Council's land or use Redditch Borough Council's premises as a venue to use animals, birds or fish as prizes. (for example goldfish at fairs).

#### **The Council does allow: -**

1. Events who hire with or without charge Redditch Borough Council's land who work with animals, birds and fish in such a way that provides educational and/or charitable activity that promotes positive animal welfare as part of its contribution to a civil society here in Redditch.
2. Event organisers who hire with or without charge Redditch Borough Council's own land who are affiliated with a relevant national governing body associated with the species concerned. (Examples include National Schools Equestrian Association, International Sheep Dog Trails, Dogs Unite, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust: Note this list is not exhaustive). So long as the activities promote positive animal welfare and are inline with regulatory requirements (Example: The Kennel Club Show Regulations)

### **4.0 Acceptable usage of animals at events**

Redditch Borough Council does wish to promote and support high standards of quality in animal, bird and fish education and husbandry. Redditch Borough Council does support and indeed carry out such activities that promote to its resident's high quality animal husbandry and handling. Redditch Borough Council requires all contractors and exhibitors who do work (for example) at Redditch Borough Council's events to adhere to minimum operating standards associated with the relevant regulation of their activity and hold a Licence Performing Animals registration (England, Scotland and Wales), Public Liability Insurance and an appropriate risk assessment. Redditch Borough Council is aware in the background that such contractors and exhibitors are subject to scrutiny and regulation under the supervision of bodies such as DEFRA and the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

### **5.0 Policy Application and Monitoring**

The normal operating procedure for the hiring of Redditch Borough Council's land and premises for event purposes requires our customers (hirers) to accept a terms

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and conditions form and sign a contract committing themselves to those terms and conditions before making any payment to Redditch Borough Council and carrying out their activity on Redditch Borough Council's land or premises. Without a signed agreement being in the possession of Redditch Borough Council 28 days prior to a proposed event, permission to hire will not be granted.

The current terms and conditions for the hire of Redditch Borough Council's land or premises already stipulate the following at 6.22

*The Hirer will not allow at the Event any exhibition, performance or entertainment in which animals, birds or fish are, or might be involved as prizes or for sale.*

This clause will be retained, and an additional clause will be integrated that applies the performing animals' element of this policy. That clause will say the following:

*6.23 The Hirer will not allow at the Event any exhibition, performance or entertainment in which animals are made to perform.*

This process will be monitored on an ongoing basis. No prospective hirer will carry out an activity on Redditch Borough Council land without prior permission and having signed up to Redditch Borough Council's terms and conditions.

Officers at Redditch Borough Council will spot check and inspect for appropriate implementation of Redditch Borough Council's policy and ensure hirers are aware of their obligations at the following stages in the process, as appropriate:

- Initial telephone or online contact between hirer and Redditch Borough Council's events team.
- Terms and conditions of hire clearly communicated with prospective hirer in writing.
- Hirer signs up to terms and conditions and contract of hire of premises.
- Deposit held by Redditch Borough Council in event of breach of contract.
- Conditions of hire stipulated on day of hire.

### 6.0 Raising awareness of the policy

To promote awareness of this policy, information will be placed on Redditch Borough Council website to make clear to hirers their obligations under their contract and Redditch Borough Council's terms and conditions.

All prospective hirers must liaise with officers at online and telephone, contract exchange, and onsite planning stage whereby the policy is confirmed in writing and face to face. There is a cross departmental process in place to raise awareness of this policy through the communications team, and in partnership with relevant agencies (e.g. WRS, Local forums, Redditch LSP, Redditch Community Safety Partnership).

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### **7.0 Review**

This policy will be reviewed at twelve months after adoption. This review will be with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure.

### **8.0 Breach of policy**

Redditch Borough Council will retain the financial deposit by hirers in the event of a breach of contract.

The hirer will be instructed to remove the offending element immediately. Redditch Borough Council retains the right to close the event and instruct the organiser to leave; should the terms of the agreement be breached, and no satisfactory resolution can be sought. Redditch Borough Council will report any illegal activity to the relevant authorities.

Post events, any relevant membership organisation (e.g. the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain) that the hirer is affiliated and where further advice would be obtained to establish governing of such activities, and within a number of organisations ( not exhausted ) will be copied into all correspondence in order to ensure that the concern is widely understood.

### **9.0 Dispute resolution**

If a dispute arises between Redditch Borough Council and hirer in connection to this Policy and the clauses within Redditch Borough Council's terms and conditions of hire, the parties shall each use reasonable endeavours to resolve such dispute by means of prompt discussions with a Manager in Leisure Services.

If a dispute is not resolved within 14 days of referral, then either party may, in the first instance, refer it to the Head of Leisure Services who shall meet for discussions within 14 days or longer as the parties may agree.

### **10. Access Issues**

Redditch Borough Council is fully aware of language barriers being an issue for some of our hirers. Redditch Borough Council therefore puts measures in place.

**All queries in relation to this policy are to be directed to :**

**Parks and Events service Manager  
Redditch Borough and Bromsgrove District Councils  
Redditch Town Hall  
Walter Stranz Square  
Redditch**

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