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PRESS RELEASE

New Animal Welfare Policy open for consultation

Mid Sussex District Council has published an updated Animal Welfare Policy and is inviting local people to comment as part of a six-week public consultation.

Businesses that work with animals such as pet shops, dog breeders, animal boarding establishments and riding stables must be licenced by the council to ensure their animals are safe and well.

The Animal Welfare Policy sets out all the conditions local businesses must follow to protect the welfare of their animals, prevent the spread of infectious disease and ensure the suitability of the business owner. Inspections are carried out by the Council to confirm that standards are maintained and any complaints are thoroughly investigated.

New Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations came into force on 1 October 2018. Previously, local authorities set their own conditions but this new system ensures that animal licensing activities are treated exactly the same all over the country.

The Council has produced a new Animal Welfare Policy to provide additional guidance to current and potential licence holders and the public about how animal licensing is administered in Mid Sussex.

Councillor Norman Webster, Cabinet Member for Community said:

“We are a nation of animal lovers and it’s important to have appropriate measures in place that ensure the very best levels of care are maintained by breeders, kennels and other

licenced establishments.

“Our Animal Welfare Policy provides clear guidance for current and potential business owners about what is expected of an animal licence holder in Mid Sussex.

“Please take a look at our draft policy as part of this consultation and let us know if you have any additional comments or suggestions.”

The updated Animal Welfare Policy is available online at www.midsussex.gov.uk/consultations and hard copies are available from local libraries, help points and town council offices. To comment on the new policy email licensing@midsussex.gov.uk

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