

ANIMAL WELFARE CONTACT DETAILS

These are the Animal Welfare contact details for the five regions which operate **Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**. At weekends and over holiday periods contact the same number for out of hours on-call information.

Council Animal Welfare Contact Details

Belfast City Council

Telephone: 028 9027 0431

Email: animalwelfare@belfastcity.gov.uk

Eastern Region

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Ards & North Down District Council

Telephone: 028 9049 4567

Email: animalwelfare@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Northern Region

Mid & East Antrim District Council, Causeway Coast & Glens District Council, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

Telephone: 028 2563 3134

Email: animalwelfare@midandeantrim.gov.uk

Southern Region

Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, Newry Mourne & Down District Council

Telephone: 028 3751 5800

Email: animalwelfare@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Western Region

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Derry City & Strabane District Council, Mid Ulster District Council.

Telephone: 028 8225 6226

Email: animalwelfare@fermanaghomagh.com

Animal Welfare

Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

& WHO TO CONTACT

All information can be found online

www.nidirect.gov.uk/animal-welfare



Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011

Under the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 a person who is responsible for an animal must ensure that its needs are met, and it is an offence to fail to take reasonable steps to ensure its welfare. Causing an animal unnecessary suffering is also an offence and can be punished with a prison sentence of up to 5 years and an unlimited fine.

Three separate bodies are responsible for enforcement of the Act depending on the type of animals involved and, in some cases, the nature of the welfare issue.

Officers from the enforcement bodies will investigate complaints and can use their statutory powers to take a range of actions including giving advice, issuing legally binding Improvement Notices, taking animals into their possession and prosecution.

If you do become aware of an animal welfare case

Please DO

- Report it to the appropriate enforcement body as set out below, providing as much information as possible.

Please DO NOT

- Upload comments or photographs to social media sites or other media outlets as this may jeopardise potential court proceedings;
- Interfere with evidence as this may affect any subsequent criminal investigation; or
- Attempt to rescue an animal from another person or property as you may be found to be acting illegally.

Non-farmed Animals

District Councils are responsible for enforcement of the Welfare of Animals (NI) Act 2011, as it applies to **Non-Farmed Animals**. This means domestic pets of any vertebrate species such as cats, dogs, horses and donkeys, etc.

The Council Animal Welfare Officers do not offer re-homing services for unwanted animals but will be able to refer you to other bodies that may be able to help.

If you need to report a **Non-Farmed Animal** welfare case **during office hours Monday – Friday 9am-5pm** you should contact the appropriate telephone number or email address relating to the region you live in, these are set out on the back page of this leaflet.

Please note

Emails will only be responded to during office hours which are **Monday to Friday 9am-5pm**.

Emergency

For emergency animal welfare cases only between 9am and 5pm at **weekends and over holiday periods** contact the same numbers and you will be directed to an out of hours service.



All information can be found online

Details of the **enforcement** roles and **contact points** can be accessed on the link below:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/animal-welfare

Farmed Animal Welfare

Contact Details

Welfare complaints in respect of **farmed animals** (that is animals bred or kept for the production of food, wool or skin or other farming purposes) should be referred to the **Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**. **During office hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm telephone - 0300 200 7840.**

At weekends for farmed animal complaints contact a **local Private Veterinary Practice** or the **PSNI** who will, as necessary, refer the welfare complaint to the relevant "on call" officer.



Non-Farmed Wild Animal Welfare

Contact Details

If your call relates to **wildlife** crime, badger baiting, poisoning of birds, destroying or disturbing bat roosts, release into the wild of non-native species, trapping wildlife illegally, trade in endangered species, deer poaching or if an animal is on the road or other criminal activity is suspected please contact the Police non-emergency number 101 or in an emergency 999. Alternatively if someone would prefer to provide information without giving their details, they can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers and speak to them anonymously on 0800 555 111.

