



Animal Welfare Party

CONSTITUTION

**A political party to help create a better world for
people, animals and the environment**

Article 1: Name

The name of the organisation shall be “Animal Welfare Party”.

Article 2: Address

The address shall be the Animal Welfare Party Headquarters, currently at:

71 -75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2H 9JQ

Article 3: Geographical area

Animal Welfare Party shall be active in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Article 4: Guiding Ethos

The Constitution of Animal Welfare Party is based on an ethos respectful of sentient life. Accordingly, Animal Welfare Party recognises that, like human beings, all animals have an interest in being alive and experiencing pleasure, and an interest in avoiding suffering and death, and that, as ethical human beings, we have an obligation to respect and protect their interests. Doing so, we believe, will lead to a more compassionate, ethical and healthier society, which will benefit humans and the environment too.

Animal Welfare Party shall pursue its aims by means of peaceful and lawful political activity, democratically organised by members of the party freely associating together according to the provisions of this Constitution.

All Animal Welfare Party’s activities shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the principle of opportunity for all members, with respect for different traditions and cultures and the equal worth of all individuals, whatever their race, nationality, gender, colour, creed, sexuality, age, ability or social background.

Article 5: Aims

1. Encouraging animal, environmental and social justice advocates to become active within politics, by taking action within the political arena which is supportive of Animal Welfare Party’s principles, and by acting as ambassadors of Animal Welfare Party.
2. Promoting the central tenets of Animal Welfare Party: raising the perceived moral and recognised legal status of animals, furthering respect for all life, reducing and replacing harmful animal use, promoting sustainable development, and promoting healthy living.
3. Liaising with other political parties regarding the advancement of animal issues.

Article 6: Objectives

Animal Welfare Party has the following objectives:

1. To win seats at elections.
2. To develop and implement policies consistent with the philosophical basis of Animal Welfare Party as expressed in the Principles.
3. To encourage its members to take part in policy development for Animal Welfare Party.
4. To support and assist in the self-educating process which is necessary to develop an understanding of animal issues.
5. To undertake research towards proactive development of policy.

6. To contribute towards expanding the membership of Animal Welfare Party.
7. To organise activities which publicise and further the aims of Animal Welfare Party.
8. To encourage its members to participate in activities of their local and regional working groups, and the National Party.
9. To engage with other forms of public governance including educational institutions and other relevant organisations.
10. To build and strengthen links with other groups that follow some or all of our aims.

Article 7: Membership

1. Procedures governing applications to become a member of Animal Welfare Party and the renewal of membership for those legally entitled to be members of political parties in the United Kingdom are described in the Standing Orders for Membership.
2. The following principles shall govern those Standing Orders:
 - a. Each member agrees to support the aims of Animal Welfare Party as described in the Constitution, and to support the principles and position statements.
 - b. Each member agrees to submit at any time to a screening process in order to identify any members who profit from or otherwise support animal abuse in any form. Those members that have been so identified may be expelled from the party without refund of fees.
 - c. No full member shall be a member of any other political party. Associate membership status exists for those who are members of another political party, whether in the UK or any other country / territory. Associate Members do not have voting rights in Animal Welfare Party's internal elections and may not represent the party as Candidates or Committee Members.
 - d. Each member agrees to abide by the Constitution and Standing Orders of Animal Welfare Party.
 - e. Each member shall pay the annual membership fee as determined by the National Officers and the members present at Conference.
 - f. Each member shall have been accepted into membership by the appropriate body as defined in Standing Orders.
3. Any applicant for membership or for renewal of membership who is denied such membership shall have the right of appeal as described in Standing Orders for Membership.
4. Disciplinary measures may be taken by the appropriate body defined in Standing Orders for Membership against a member whose behaviour is considered to be damaging to Animal Welfare Party or the promotion of animal protection.
5. Any member so disciplined shall have a right of appeal as described in Standing Orders for Membership.

Article 8: Conference

1. The Conference shall be the highest authority of the party and shall be responsible for:
 - a. Discussing Animal Welfare Party's policy, making recommendations, and voting for any changes in Principles. The National Officers are responsible for day to day policy and political manifestos.
 - b. Electing National Officers as defined by the Standing Orders for the Election of National Officers.
2. The conduct of the Conference is described in the Standing Orders for the Conference.

Article 9: National Officers

The Animal Welfare Party Committee of National Officers shall have the following National Officers, elected according to the rules laid down in Standing Orders for the Election of National Officers, in order to fulfil the functions described in the National Officers' Job Descriptions.

1. Leader. The Leader shall be the registered Leader of Animal Welfare Party.
2. Deputy Leader. The Deputy Leader will deputise for the Leader.
3. Treasurer. The Treasurer will ensure all incoming funds and expenditure are registered in the Statement of Accounts, complying with Electoral Commission regulations and guidelines.
4. Nominating Officer. The Nominating Officer will ensure compliance with Electoral Commission regulations and guidelines at elections.
5. Secretary. The secretary will be the first point of contact for enquiries and will support the other National Officers.
6. Administration Assistant

It may be possible to combine roles 5 and 6 above under agreement of the Committee of National Officers.

7. Any other Officers who may be required and who shall be elected at Conference.

Article 10: Amending the Constitution

1. This Constitution may only be revoked or amended by the National Officers before the first elections Animal Welfare Party enters, and thereafter only by a vote of at least two-thirds of the delegates present and voting at the Conference.
2. The following Byelaws to this Constitution may be amended or revoked, or new Byelaws adopted, by means of a resolution carried by a simple majority of members voting at the Conference.

Byelaws

Organisation of local groups

Planning and preparation is required before local groups are officially established. We recommend that those Members interested in forming a Local Group read the three AWP documents below:

'AWP Introduction and Key Facts'

'AWP Getting Our Message Across'

'Data Protection and Electronic Marketing for AWP Volunteers'

We then recommend organising an initial meeting open to all members of the public to which a member of the Committee of National Officers is invited to attend and a presentation such as 'Animal Welfare Party Introduction and Key Facts' is given.

The below points must be considered and followed.

1. All local working group Constitutions shall include a statement that the local group is a constituent part of Animal Welfare Party, and shall lay out democratic decision making procedures.

2. A local working group shall elect at least two local working group representatives who shall be full members of Animal Welfare Party. One of these must be a Local Group Data Protection Officer (LGDPO)* for the local group, the other the Local Group Representative Officer (LGRO). Other officers, as the local group sees fit, may be elected. These additional officers must be full members of Animal Welfare Party (not Associate Members). All shall make themselves known to the Committee of National Officers. The Local Group Representative Officer and Local Group Data Protection Officer of a local working group must be elected / re-elected every year at their Annual General Meeting (AGM).

*The National Party will consider local working groups to be 'data controllers'.

The Local Group Data Protection officer must be responsible for the following; ensuring that data held by the local working group is held in accordance with AWP's Data Protection Policy and Procedures, be responsible for training of other local group members in AWP's Data Protection practices and procedures and be responsible for reporting data breaches to the National Data Protection Officer (or, if instructed, to the ICO) within 72 hours of the breach being identified.

3. Due to GDPR and PECR regulations, those attending meetings of a Local Group must be one of the following: A) a Full Member of Animal Welfare Party, B) an Associate Member of Animal Welfare Party or C) a Registered Supporter of Animal Welfare Party. In addition to this, all those present at a meeting must confirm to the Chair that they fall into one of the categories above and have also selected in their communication preferences with the party that they consent to receiving 'additional emails' from Animal Welfare Party. Without this consent Animal Welfare Party does not have a legal basis to contact them with details of upcoming meetings, events, fundraising exercises etc.. The LGRO or LGDPO must make sure that time is factored in to undertake this verification procedure at the start of each meeting. This should be included as a rolling agenda item and minuted. At every meeting, either printed forms to register as a Member, Associate Member or Registered Supporter should be available or an internet

enabled device should be provided for an attendee to register online. A copy of AWP's Privacy Policy should also be available.

4. Use of AWP's logos, emblems and other intellectual property (IP) by a local group must be cleared through the Committee of National Officers.

5. Any official AWP Facebook page for a local group must be set up centrally by the national party with 'editor' permissions granted to the Local Group Representative and / or Local Group Data Protection Officer or a Marketing / Social Media Manager Officer if one has been elected. Permissions will be granted once basic training in communicating via social media platforms has been undertaken. The training will include communicating in a way that is consistent with our Constitution and Guiding Ethos and will cover issues including Libel and Defamation, Sub judice, Trolling, Bullying, and Copyright. Such training is also a necessary prerequisite to establishing any social media account in the name of the local group or using the name of the party. Any individual with a twitter account that references an AWP role must include a disclaimer that views are their own.

6. Once established and made known to the Committee of National Officers, a local working group shall advertise all its meetings in the following ways: A) By emailing those who the LGDPO is confident have consented to receive emails from Animal Welfare Party. The email must come from an Animal Welfare Party email address. B) By posting a notice advertising the meeting on a GDPR compliant platform such as Facebook or Twitter.

7. A Local Working group shall hold at least two meetings per year. One of these shall be the local working group's AGM, at which the above representatives shall be elected.

8. Communication between the Local Group Officers and Local Group Attendees must be GDPR compliant and it will be the role of the LGDPO to oversee this.

9. The Committee of National Officers reserves the right to suspend or disaffiliate (by a two-thirds majority vote) a local working group, if it appears to be in violation of the Constitution or Standing Orders.

10. Local working groups shall endeavour to ensure all Registered Supporters and Associate Members of their groups become full Animal Welfare Party members so that they can take an active role in the development of the group and party.

11. Candidate Selection for any election will be carried out by the National Party through a formal and standardised Candidate Selection Process. However, the National Party will ask Local Groups to promote awareness of any Candidate Selection Process and may ask Local Group Representatives for information relevant to a prospective candidate's application.

Ensuring candidates have knowledge of issues specific to an area where an election is being contested is important and if an election is contested in an area covered by a Local Working Group, we will ask the Group Representative if they

would like to produce a set of supplementary questions specific to the local area and local issues.

.2 Agreement of regulations

1. Regulations governing the operation of Animal Welfare Party shall be agreed by the Committee of National Officers using the following procedure:
 - a. Draft regulations or draft amendments to existing regulations shall be put forward by Committee members for discussion at a Committee meeting.
 - b. Following discussion, if desired, the meeting shall agree on a final draft to be voted on at a subsequent meeting.
 - c. The final draft must be circulated to all Committee members at least 10 days in advance of voting.
 - d. If further changes are to be made to the final draft, it must be discussed again at a Committee meeting and resubmitted for voting at a subsequent meeting, according to b) and c) above.