



CIEH Animal Welfare Conference

Half-day conference: Thursday 26 February 2026

09.15 **Registration and online login**

09.30 **Welcome and introduction**

Chair: Dr Maggie Roberts BVM&S MRCVS, Advovet Consultancy Services

09:35 **Animal Welfare: Policy and regulatory updates for Local Authorities**

- A brief overview of the Animal Welfare Act
- An update on recent changes to Primate Legislation, with a focus on regulatory requirements and local authority responsibilities

Speaker: Sharon Edwards, Consultant Animal Health Inspector, Animal Health & Welfare Services, City of London

10:15 **Responsible Dog Ownership in Practice: A New Policy Framework**

- Introduction to a new jointly developed responsible dog ownership policy framework by the RSPCA and Dogs Trust

Speakers:

- Lee Gingell, Public Affairs Manager, RSPCA
- Ruairidh Nichols, Public Affairs Manager, Dogs Trust

10:45 **Comfort break & sponsorship videos**

11:05 **Case study: Tackling illegal dog breeding**

Speakers:

- Andy Newnham, Senior Animal Welfare Officer, London Borough of Hounslow
- Georgia O'Brien, Animal Welfare Officer, London Borough of Hounslow

11:40 **The Innate Health Assessment: A tool for Local Authorities**

Speakers:

- Dr Daniel O'Neill, Senior Lecturer in Companion Animal Epidemiology, Royal Veterinary College
- Marisa Heath, Director, All-Party Parliamentary Group
- Vanessa Barnes, Legal Advisor, All-Party Parliamentary Group

12:20 **Driving better animal welfare through regulation and ratings: Insights from Colchester City Council**

- A case study session on how Colchester City Council is working collaboratively with Paws on the Doors scheme to drive higher animal welfare standards

Speaker: Charlotte Williams, Environmental Health and Licensing Technical Officer, Colchester City Council

13.10 **Closing remarks**

13.15 **End of conference**

Key sponsors

