

Subject: FW: MEDIA RELEASE: City seeks to update its Animal Keeping Policy

From: Media Account <Media.Account@capetown.gov.za>

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26 APRIL 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

City seeks to update its Animal Keeping Policy

The document is available for public comment until 17 May 2021. Read more below:

The revision of the Animal Keeping Policy is being driven by the City's Safety and Security Portfolio Committee.

First introduced in 2005, the policy includes aspects relating to the principles of animal welfare, responsibilities of pet owners and the public at large, complaints relating to animals, and partnerships between the City and pet owners, animal keepers, and the animal welfare sector, among others.

'The City and animal welfare organisations are increasingly spending huge amounts of budgets on health and safety programmes dedicated to animals. We have also seen an increase in the number of complaints around animal welfare, which is placing immense pressure on the SPCA and other organisations in the animal welfare sector, but also the City's Law Enforcement Department,' said the Chairperson of the City's Safety and Security Portfolio Committee, Councillor Mzwakhe Nqavashé.

Among the City's interventions in recent years to advance animal welfare, have been:

- The funding of targeted sterilisation campaigns conducted by members of the Cape Animal Welfare Forum (CAWF)
- Supporting the CAWF's animal adoption drives
- Establishing an anti-dogfighting task team to tackle this growing concern
- Ongoing efforts by the Law Enforcement Animal Control Unit to address by-law transgressions, as well as public and animal safety

'We encourage the public to share their views and suggestions on the policy direction that the City should take to manage and shape a new era of animal keeping, but also to strengthen mechanisms around the welfare of pets as well as animals used for agricultural purposes.

'The updated policy seeks to provide a very clear guide to animal owners or care-givers, breeders of animals and the public at large, as to how to apply the **duty to care principle** to all animals within the City's jurisdiction,' added Councillor Nqavashe.

The policy document is available for perusal and comment via the City's website: <https://www.capetown.gov.za/City-Connect/Have-your-say/Issues-open-for-public-comment/comment-on-the-draft-revised-animal-keeping-policy>, as well as at City Libraries and Subcouncil offices.

The public comment period started on 17 April 2021 and will conclude on 17 May 2021.

The City will also engage with all stakeholders in the animal welfare sector as part of the public participation process. Dates for such engagements will be communicated shortly.

End

Issued by: Media Office, City of Cape Town

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