

Animal Welfare Ministry

24 ideas for becoming an Animal Friendly Church

Building and Grounds

- Care for the land in a way that avoids damage to wildlife and domestic animals. (E.g., avoid pesticides, poisons and slug pellets.)
- Take steps to encourage wildlife. (E.g., bird/bat boxes, wild areas.)
- Use humane pest-control methods.
- Develop a policy for dealing with stray or injured animals found on church property.
- Offer facilities for visiting assistance dogs/pets. (E.g., watering area).
- Use non-animal tested bathroom and cleaning products.



Worship and Pastoral Care

- Regularly include animal welfare issues in preaching.
- Include animal welfare concerns in the Prayers of the People and other intercessions.
- Celebrate an Animal Welfare Sunday
- Conduct an annual animal blessing service
- Offer regular “animal-friendly” services where companion animals are welcome.
- Offer prayers, bereavement counselling and/burial service (if appropriate) following the loss of a companion animal.
- Offer prayer for sick or injured animals, when requested.

Education

- Provide animal welfare material for study groups.
- Encourage participation in animal welfare forums and presentations, (e.g., from the Diocese).
- Cover animal welfare issues in the Youth Group program.
- Introduce animal welfare issues in Sunday School and other programs for the under 12s.

Fellowship / meals

- When catering for church events, use only
 - free range eggs
 - organic or other high welfare standard meat
 - Dolphin friendly tuna
- Always offer a vegetarian and/or vegan option.
- Agree not to hold fundraisers that center upon the killing of animals, (e.g., lobster boils, pig roasts etc)

Other

- Consider animal welfare in the church's outreach giving, (e.g., support animal charities and causes and avoid "send an animal" schemes.)
- Consider animal welfare in the parish's environmental policy.
- Periodically cover animal welfare issues in the parish magazine.
- Display the parish's commitment to animal welfare on its website.

*Adapted from the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals