

Motion submitted by Councillor Taylor

The Government's Animal Welfare Strategy

In December 2025, Government published what it called an "Animal Welfare Strategy". Whilst some of the measures contained within the strategy truly promote animal welfare and are to be applauded, other elements merely pander to the ill-informed anti-countryside ideological agenda which some elements of Government appear to have swallowed wholesale.

Among measures being promoted within or connected to this new strategy, the following are particularly problematic:

1. Banning all pig farrowing crate systems (which are designed to reduce piglet mortality)
2. Banning trail hunting
3. Banning all snare traps (even where they are the most effective measure to reduce predation on farm animals)
4. Banning hunting with birds of prey
5. Banning the hunting of rabbits
6. Banning the terrier "rat packs" which provide effective pest control on farms and farmland.

Fenland District Council welcomes measures which promote animal welfare. But Fenland District Council deprecates measures which masquerade as animal welfare measures, but which are in fact an attack on the country way of life or which are an attack on established best practice in protecting farm animals and controlling vermin.

The rural way of life plays a huge part in our Fenland's income and rural economy.

Fenland District Council recognises that we have many businesses in Fenland that rely on the countryside, for example dog breeders and trainers; falconers and falconry centres; game processors; angling stores; shooting and clothing stores; gunsmiths; animal feed manufacturers; equine trades; farriers; vets; tack shops; feed and forage growers and pest controllers to name but a few.

Fenland District Council calls on our legislators at Westminster to accept provisions which truly promote animal welfare but to reject ill-informed attacks on the countryside way of life which falsely masquerade as promoting animal welfare.

Full Council resolves to assist our rural partners by sending this motion to Stephen Barclay MP, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Leader of the Opposition, the Planning Inspectorate, Nigel Farage MP, Rupert Lowe MP and Mo Harris of the Countryside Alliance.