



# PawPrints 2022

## Criteria

This document contains the criteria and evidence required for the RSPCA's PawPrints awards in 2022. There are five categories; stray dogs, housing, contingency planning, animal activity licensing, and kennelled dogs. Each category has a different set of criteria and evidence required. There are three levels for each category; bronze, silver and gold. The criteria apply to entry submissions from both England and Wales unless otherwise specified. Each category can be accessed by clicking one of the links below. Your submission will be marked and moderated by the RSPCA's Public Affairs team.

**The entry period will open on Friday 24 June and close on Friday 19 August 2022. The winners will be announced by email on Wednesday 28th September.**

When the entry period opens, you will be provided with a link to a form to make your submission. There will be further information on the Political Animal Website (PAW). If you require any further information or assistance, or you have questions, please contact Lee Gingell ([lee.gingell@rspca.org.uk](mailto:lee.gingell@rspca.org.uk)).

[STRAY DOGS](#)

[HOUSING](#)

[CONTINGENCY PLANNING](#)

[ANIMAL ACTIVITY LICENSING](#)

[KENNELLED DOGS](#)

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## STRAY DOGS

Level	Criteria	Evidence req.
Bronze	Dog handling, welfare and behaviour training for all officers responsible for stray dog collection (including holiday and sickness cover). Training should represent an up-to-date understanding of dog welfare, including the use of ethical, reward-based methods.	<i>Proof of completion of relevant training from a reputable training provider and detail of the content. Content should represent an up to date understanding of dog welfare, particularly in reference to ethical and reward-based training.</i>
	Procedure in place to get treatment for injured and sick stray dogs efficiently and humanely, including those found by the public. This should also include clear procedures to ensure cover for staff sickness and holidays, as well as disease outbreaks.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document.</i>
	Procedure in place to scan (and/or check for other identification) all stray dogs collected or received by the local authority and reunite those that have an up to date microchip (and/or other identification) with their owner.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document.</i>
	Procedure in place to scan or check dead dogs (and cats and other pets) for microchips and other forms of identification.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document.</i>
	The council or contractor's stray dog kennels and out-of-hours reception centre have clear facilities, protocols and procedures that meet the five welfare needs, defined under section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.	<i>Details of relevant facilities, the relevant section of written policy and procedural documents.</i>
	Staffed out-of-hours kennels/reception centre.	<i>Details of out-of-hours facilities, including staffing levels and operating hours.</i>
	Information provided to owners reclaiming strays on how to prevent the animal from straying again and the legal requirement to microchip and that details must be kept up to date.	<i>Examples of information and materials (eg leaflets, web links) provided to reclaiming owners.</i>
	Records kept, and regularly updated, of all strays received and how they were disposed of. These records should include the number of dogs returned, rehomed, euthanased on medical grounds, euthanased on non-medical grounds and if a dog can't be reunited with its owner	<i>Example of records (a blank template is fine).</i>

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	because they weren't chipped or the chip details were inaccurate.	
Silver (all of bronze, plus:)	A clear rehoming policy for kennels to ensure all dogs rehomed are assessed – behaviorally and physically – and permanently identified, and that potential new owners are vetted. The policy should apply to any third-party kennels that the council may use after the statutory seven-day period. Where rehoming is not possible, clear evidence must be provided to demonstrate that efforts have been made to address this.	<i>The relevant section of the written policy.</i>
	Active promotion through the council website and leaflets of the legal requirement for a microchip and that details must be kept up to date, neutering and the duty of care to ensure the five welfare needs under section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.	<i>Example of leaflet and/or web link.</i>
	Compulsory microchipping of all stray dogs without such identification before being returned to owners or rehomed.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document.</i>
Gold (all of bronze and silver, plus:)	Provision of an out of hours service that meets the requirements of the local community to ensure animal welfare. This should include evening and weekend provisions where dogs can be collected or deposited by members of the public.	<i>Details of out-of-hours service provision, the relevant section of written policy and procedural document and an evidence-based explanation of how this level of service meets local needs. (If you have evidence which shows contingency planning in the event that out of hours kennels become full, we would welcome seeing this - although not a requirement yet).</i>
	Regular proactive work to encourage responsible pet ownership, which may include public awareness campaigns and events on a range of issues, e.g. microchipping, neutering, dogs in warm weather, etc.	<i>Example(s) of such work during the past year (because of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and the changing nature of how we work, we will accept evidence of visits which took place during or scheduled for after this year's entry period, including both in-person and virtual visits)</i>

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## HOUSING

Level	Criteria	Evidence req.
Bronze	<p>A clear and positive written policy for all housing controlled or influenced by the local authority or housing associations. The following should be a part of the policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clearly defined guidance, with some flexibility to allow requests to keep pets on a case-by-case basis where the owner can meet the animal's welfare needs.</li> <li>2. Details of the owner's responsibility and a definition of which species of animal and how many are allowed. It should not discourage pet ownership where facilities exist for proper care.</li> <li>3. A clear procedure for managing complaints and the concerns of both pet owners and neighbours regarding nuisance animals, welfare, health or cruelty issues.</li> <li>4. A ban on business activity involving the breeding and/or vending of animals on the premises. The policy should also discourage non-commercial breeding.</li> </ol>	<i>Relevant section(s) of written policy and procedural documents.</i>
	A list of local, reputable animal welfare and veterinary organisations made available to residents, including those which may offer reduced cost or free veterinary treatment and services.	<i>A copy of this list or a link to where it can be found.</i>
Silver (all of bronze, plus:)	Written pet care advice/information by, or approved by, a recognised and reputable animal welfare source made available to residents on registering their pets in the accommodation.	<i>Examples of this advice and information.</i>
	The active promotion of permanent identification and neutering of pets.	<i>Examples of this in practice, including when last carried out (because of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and the changing nature of how we work, we will accept evidence from during or scheduled for after this year's entry period)</i>
	A register of all animals kept in each dwelling, which is kept and updated as required.	<i>Details of your register with an example record if possible (a blank template is acceptable)</i>

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	A proportionate response to prohibited types of dogs (i.e. those prohibited under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991) which allows dogs on the Index of Exempted Dogs (IED) who are legally owned to be kept within properties as long as the owner continues to comply with the exemption conditions.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document.</i>
Gold (all of bronze and silver, plus:)	Provision for the pets of owners in temporary or emergency housing.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document.</i>
	Provision of discounted permanent ID for pets and a neutering discount to prevent unwanted breeding.	<i>Examples of this work, including when last carried out (because of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and the changing nature of how we work, we will accept evidence from during or scheduled for after this year's entry period)</i>
	An established link with a recognised and reputable animal welfare organisation that provides residents with advice on pet care on request or by monthly or quarterly visits.	<i>Example of this work and when last carried out (because of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and the changing nature of how we work, we will accept evidence of visits which took place during or scheduled for after this year's entry period, including both in-person and virtual visits)</i>

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## CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Level	Criteria	Evidence req.
Bronze	Locations identified as temporary animal shelters with a pet evacuation plan.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document, including details of temporary animal shelters.</i>
	Information on the website for pet owners that promotes preparedness, or a link to another website that does.	<i>A link to this information.</i>
	The establishment of a contact list of reputable animal welfare organisations and local vets who can assist in an emergency situation, and liaison with these.	<i>A copy of this list or a link to where it can be found and a brief explanation of what assistance the organisations will be able to provide in an emergency.</i>
	Companion animal welfare is included in written contingency plans.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural documents.</i>
Silver (all of bronze, plus:)	The involvement of reputable animal welfare organisations in contingency exercises and planning meetings.	<i>Example(s) of meetings/exercises where a relevant organisation has attended (because of the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and the changing nature of how we work, we will accept evidence of exercises/meetings which took place during or scheduled for after this year's entry period, including both in-person and virtual exercises/meetings)</i>
	Support for establishments involved with large numbers of animals in drawing up their contingency plans.	<i>Example(s) of relevant guidance document or other support offered.</i>
	The running of at least one tabletop exercise every two years specifically involves a companion animal welfare element.	<i>Details and date of exercise (if this has been made impossible due to Covid-19 restrictions please specify this in your evidence. We will accept evidence of exercises which are due to take place during or scheduled for after</i>

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		<i>this year's entry period).</i>
	Evidence that advice is provided, by the local authority, to allotment holders (where applicable) concerning the care of any animals in an emergency scenario.	<i>Example of advice.</i>
Gold (all of bronze and silver, plus:)	The Ownership of, or access to, at least 50 kennel spaces or vari-kennels between members of the LRF, for use in an emergency.	<i>Details of ownership or access to kennel space.</i>
	Proactive work, such as an awareness campaign, to ensure pet owners are prepared should they be evacuated.	<i>Examples of this work, such as a link to online material or details of a relevant event.</i>
	At least one live exercise every three years specifically involving a companion animal welfare element. This will help operational staff to be more flexible when setting up an emergency reception centre.	<i>Details and date of exercise (if this has been made impossible due to Covid-19 restrictions please specify this in your evidence. We will accept evidence of exercises which are due to take place during or scheduled for after this year's entry period).</i>

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## ANIMAL ACTIVITY LICENSING

Level	Criteria	Evidence req.
Bronze	A clear policy on and procedures for how to license animal activities.	<i>Written policy and procedural documents.</i>
	A clear procedure for dealing with complaints from members of the public about licensed animal activities.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document.</i>
	Clear procedures to ensure inspections are carried out on time, with the required contingent of people.	<i>Relevant section of the procedural document, including information about who attends inspections.</i>
	A list of appropriately qualified experts, for example, vets, behaviour experts and animal welfare organisations that can be consulted for advice on specific requirements, which can be made available to licensing officers.	<i>A copy of this list.</i>
	The recognition that primates are not suitable companion animals, as their welfare needs cannot be met in a domestic environment, in the form of the adoption of a policy that recommends primates should not be kept or sold by pet vendors within the local authority area.	<i>The relevant section of written policy.</i>
	<b>WALES ONLY:</b> A clear training procedure for licensing officers to ensure they can deliver their duties competently and have an understanding of the relevant legal standards as found in The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021 and The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 and best practice, and how they dovetail with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.	<i>Certificates of completion or upcoming bookings for relevant courses. Participation in the Welsh Government's local authority enforcement project.</i>
Silver (all of bronze, plus:)	Active promotion, through the council website and leaflets, of microchipping, neutering and the duty of care to meet the welfare needs under section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.	<i>A link to the relevant page on the council website.</i>
	Further appropriate training for licensing officers on the socialisation and behavioural needs of puppies and dogs at breeding establishments.	<i>Example of relevant training attended or an upcoming booking.</i>

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Gold (all of bronze and silver, plus:)	<b>PET VENDORS AND DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENTS:</b> Clear written protocol for a procedure that enables vendors to be confident that customers are able to meet an animal's welfare needs, and are fully aware of their responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.	<i>Example of guidance or information provided to vendors.</i>
	A clear written procedure for taking a prosecution forward, with examples if possible.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document, examples of any prosecutions taken</i>
	Clear process to monitor and gather information about unlicensed activities, for example, unlicensed puppy breeders, that could fall within the scope, and to proactively approach, and if appropriate licence, those involved in such activities.	<i>The relevant section of written policy and procedural document, an example of licensing or other subsequent enforcement activity as appropriate.</i>

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## KENNELLED DOGS

Required documentation:

[General Points of Good Practice - MUST](#)

[General Points of Good Practice - SHOULD](#)

Level	Criteria	Evidence req.
Bronze	Provisions of Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act are met and in accordance with the RSPCA guide to good practice - the welfare of seized dogs in kennels	<i>Checklist of all <a href="#">General Points of Good Practice Musts</a> is completed and evidence of how they meet at least two of the musts per welfare need is to be provided.</i>
Silver (all of bronze, plus:)	Best practice is being met and in accordance with the RSPCA guide to good practice - the welfare of seized dogs in kennels	<i>Checklist of all <a href="#">General Points of Good Practice Musts</a> and <a href="#">Shoulds</a> is completed and evidence of how they meet at least two of the musts and shoulds per welfare need is to be provided.</i>
	A contract/policy which ensures compliance with provisions of section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.	<i>Copy of contract or policy document.</i>
	Additional provisions are in place for the management of puppies e.g. use of fosterers or other agencies	<i>Information about the management of puppies.</i>
Gold (all of bronze and silver, plus:)	A working relationship with i.e. regular visits to the kennels by a suitably qualified and experienced behaviour expert.	<i>A document which illustrates the working relationship and regular visits by the behaviour expert</i>
	Other initiatives which have been implemented solely to improve the welfare of kennelled dogs e.g. specific environmental enrichment programmes, provision of reward-based training etc.	<i>Details about initiatives e.g. details about enrichment programme, training provider etc</i>

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