

REPORT TO PLACE SELECT COMMITTEE

12 October 2026

Scrutiny Review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling, and Protection of Pets

Summary

The fourth and final evidence session for the Committee's review of Animal Welfare, Kennelling, and Protection of Pets will consider evidence from the Dog's Trust and RSPCA.

Detail

1. As part of the scoping process, the Committee identified the Dog's Trust as a key contributor to the review. They have therefore been invited to the meeting to give evidence regarding their experience of requests for assistance and the demand for rehoming. The Dog's Trust have been asked to include in their evidence reasons dogs are being relinquished or abandoned, emerging trends in the dogs arriving at their facility, pressures affecting the organisation, and support or interventions that would help to reduce these.
2. The RSPCA were also identified during the scoping process as a key contributor to the review and have been invited to the meeting to give evidence. They have been asked to discuss their perspective on the current challenges and emerging issues affecting animal welfare. They have also been asked to include in their evidence how dog numbers have changed, reasons dogs are being relinquished or abandoned, and support or interventions that would help reduce the pressures being experienced.
3. The Link officers for the review will also provide a verbal update to supplement the evidence received in relation to the Council's Animal Welfare Service.
4. A copy of the agreed scope and project plan for the review is attached for information.

Name of Contact Officer: Michelle Gunn

Post Title: Scrutiny Officer

Telephone number: 01642 524987

Email address: michelle.gunn@stockton.gov.uk