

1988 The baa-baric use of animals on campus passed 3 November 16

Proposer: Daniel Newland (Animal Welfare Society)

Seconder: Amy Rust (Campaigns and Democracy Officer)

Union Notes:

1. The use of animals on campus is becoming more frequent. The events we are currently aware of '*Goats for votes*'¹ which took place around the time of the general election to encourage people to register to vote.
2. Recently UEA Riding Society held a '*Pony on the square*'² on 25th Oct 2016 to raise money for Riding for the Disabled and World Horse Welfare.
3. Animal Welfare Society was set up in 2015 to support '*the idea that animals are sentient beings worthy of respect, and also supports the concept that animals aren't ours to use and abuse*'³. It is a growing society with 77 of members and a Facebook group of 225 members.
4. Pet Therapy Sessions are currently ran frequently in the LCR by a local charity who specialise in mental health support

Union Believes:

1. Both the Student Union and Students have a long standing commitment to animal welfare, evidenced by cruelty free campaigns and direct action.
2. However there have been instances in last few years which has brought that commitment into question.
3. The use of animals on campus needs to be more closely controlled and restricted, especially in the square and areas where large numbers of people pass by.
4. Loud noises and a lot of people can be stressful for many animals, and some can react unpredictably when they feel such stress. This can put both people and the animal(s) in danger of harm.
5. The square and many parts of the campus are also not typical or suited for many animals due to lack of grass and a lot of concrete.
6. The use of animals for Pet Therapy Sessions has proven to be popular with students and cause little or no stress to the animal.

Union Resolves:

To mandate the Student Union;

1. For all SU events where animals may be used, including those run by Clubs or Societies, avoiding harm to the animals will be a key and compulsory element of the risk assessment process and will involve the animal welfare society where possible.
2. For all SU events where animals are used as themes, these should be checked to ensure they do not promote illegal or unethical activities such as hunting, factory farming and mistreatment of animals.

¹ <https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/-/goats-for-votes>

² <https://www.facebook.com/events/946636925463556/>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ueaaws/>

3. To exclude Pet Therapy Sessions in the above resolves unless there is significant risk to the animal(s), to ensure a positive presence of animals on campus.
4. Provide Clubs and Societies with events guidance as part of committee training which includes information on animal welfare and the risks that are associated when using animals for events.
5. Where possible to provide alternative ideas for Clubs and Societies when planning to use animals, whilst allowing those societies to be autonomous and creative.
6. When animals are essential for a club/society event; to mandate the Activities and Opportunities officer to investigate the use of open spaces for the event and put in place all possible health and safety measures to ensure the wellbeing of the animal(s).
7. To mandate the Campaigns and Democracy Officer to produce a statement confirming the Union's commitment to Animal Welfare and support Animal Welfare Society in their campaigns.