

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Port Health & Environmental Services	Dated: 20/01/2026
Subject: Animal Health and Welfare Service – Annual Review of Animal Health Fees	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	Providing Excellent Services Dynamic Economic Growth Statutory duties under the Animal Health Act 1981
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	n/a
What is the source of Funding?	n/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	n/a
Report of:	Katie Stewart Executive Director of Environment
Report author:	Susie Pritchard Assistant Director Animal Health & Welfare

Summary

The City of London Corporation has statutory duties under the Animal Health Act 1981 and related legislation, which are delivered by the Animal Health and Welfare Service (AHWS). Duties include rabies controls for Greater London and protection of animal welfare in transport, which are delivered through the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre (HARC).

As the service has considerable expertise in animal health and welfare, it also provides services to other authorities, carrying out licensing inspections for activities under The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving animals) Regulations 2018. Fees are charged for advice and administration through an annual contract charge, and for individual inspections through listed fees. The income from this activity serves to offset the cost of statutory duties carried out by this team of inspectors.

Members are asked to note that the fees listed are applicable to operators applying for animal activities licenses within the City of London, and to Local Authorities requesting City of London services. Typically, there are no licensable animal activities undertaken within the City of London, and so these fees are presented as a single schedule.

The inspection fees for the Animal Health Team are based on the estimated duration of each type of inspection. The average proposed increase for the forthcoming financial year 2026/27 is 6%.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

1. Approve the level of fees for the licensing of animal activities for the City of London area, and
2. Approve the same fees as chargeable to other local authorities requesting inspection services.

Main Report

Background

1. The City is the Animal Health Authority for Greater London. It operates Heathrow Animal Reception Centre (HARC) to fulfil its statutory duties for animal health and welfare in relation to imports.
2. The Animal Health & Welfare Service (AHWS) also provides services to other authorities relating to animal licensing and related activities across Greater London and the Home Counties.
3. The Animal Health Team, consisting of six regulatory officers specialising in animal health and welfare legislation, carry out enforcement work relating to illegal imports of animals found in Greater London. This is a statutory responsibility of the City of London under the Animal Health Act 1981. As a specialist team working solely in animal health, they are also contracted by 32 London Boroughs and Home Counties authorities, to undertake licensing inspections under The Animal welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2018. Licensable animal activities include pet shops, dog breeders, dog and cat boarding, hiring of horses, animal exhibits, the keeping of dangerous wild animals, and zoos.
4. There are no licensable animal activities within the City of London although occasional exhibitions of live animals, which are licensed by the authority in which the animals are normally kept, may be observed. It should be noted that the fees would be applicable to operators within the City of London, as well as to other

authorities requesting inspection services. For practicality, Members are therefore asked to consider setting the level of fees for the City of London area and approving the rates charged to other local authorities, through a single schedule of charges.

5. Fees are charged for advice and administration through an annual contract charge, and for individual inspections through listed fees that are reviewed annually. Higher fees are charged for local authorities that do not have a current Service Level Agreement and so do not pay an annual contract charge. This allows for improved cost recovery for ad-hoc services.

Current Position

6. The Animal Health fees for licensing inspections are based on the typical number of hours which each type of inspection takes. A review has been carried out to ensure timings are as accurate as possible, and fees have been adjusted to account for the increase in staffing costs.
7. A new inspection fee has also been introduced for 2026/27, as the keeping of primates is now a licensable activity. The team have developed and delivered four training events for licensing officers which have been attended by 110 officers from 62 other authorities to date.

Options

8. Increases the fees for 2026/27 as presented in appendix 1, reflecting the increase in pay costs for the year ahead. RECOMMENDED
9. Do not increase the fees for 2026/27. This would result in not fully recovering the cost of undertaking these activities. NOT RECOMMENDED

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. Strategic Implications - The proposals referred to in this report aim to achieve the following Corporate Plan aims of:

Providing Excellent Services

- Protect and promote public, animal, and environmental health (including at our borders) and consumer protection.

Dynamic Economic Growth

- Promote the UK as a place that is open, innovative, and sustainable.

11. Financial implications – The proposal aims to facilitate the cost recovery on services offered to other authorities. The forecast income for this activity for

2025/26 is £250. The fee increases are anticipated to result in an income of £265k for 2026/27.

12. Resource implications – None identified.

13. Legal implications – The City Solicitor has reviewed the statutory obligations and related fees and charges and has advised that the fee structure is appropriate.

14. Risk implications – As fees increase year on year to facilitate cost recovery, it is possible that some authorities will take services in house. However, this is considered unlikely given that the fees charged by the City are based on cost recovery only.

15. Equalities implications – None identified following a test of relevance.

16. Climate implications – None

17. Security implications – None

Conclusion

The proposed charges for the Animal Health Team take in to account the cost of providing these services. Fee increases will support cost recovery of the Animal Health and Welfare Service.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: 2026/27 fees for Animal Health licence inspection services.

Background Papers

Heathrow Animal Reception Centre – Annual Review of Fees - Port Health & Environmental Services – 25/11/2025

Susie Pritchard

Assistant Director – Animal Health & Welfare

T: 020 8745 7894/5

E: susie.pritchard@cityoflondon.gov.uk