



Animal Friendly Church Certificate Application Guidance notes



Guidance Notes

Animal Friendly Church status Certificates are presented by the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA) to churches which take animal welfare and care of all of God's creatures seriously as part of Christian mission and ministry. Any Anglican/Episcopalian church in England, Wales and Scotland may apply for the Certificate. Church includes chaplaincies in schools, universities, hospitals and other contexts or institutions. A church applying should appoint a designated person who will act as the first point of contact for communication between the church and ASWA.

ASWA welcomes detail and photographic evidence to support your application and bring it to life; for example a picture of a bird box or animal blessing service. If your church's animal friendly projects and activities have been reported in your local press, please do send cuttings of newspaper reports or (if available) links to radio broadcasts accessible on-line.

In order to qualify for AFC status, we would ordinarily expect churches to be able to tick at least one box in every applicable section. (Clearly, if none of the questions apply, a community cannot possibly meet any of the criteria; we would not exclude anyone on this basis. For example, some chaplaincies would have to tick 'not applicable' for every question within the 'buildings and grounds' section.) We also require that 'Animal Welfare Sunday' is marked at some point during the month of October. (Again, we acknowledge that they may be good pastoral or logistical reasons why the designated Sunday may not be practical in a particular context. If it can be kept more successfully and meaningfully on an alternative date around that time, we would of course encourage that option.)

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The certificate is presented to churches which show that they making a conscious and sustained effort to operate in an animal friendly way as a church family.

Set out below are some of the ways in which this can be put into practice. Obviously, not everything will be practical for every church community. We award Animal Friendly Church Status to churches which are making a conscious effort in their particular circumstances

Buildings & Grounds

This section assesses how your church takes animal welfare into account in the care and management of the church building and churchyard or car-park.

Animal-friendly cleaning products and hand soaps refer to those items that are not tested on animals (this includes ensuring individual ingredients are not tested on animals). There are several brands of animal-friendly products of this kind on the market, such as Bio-D and Astonish (available at many discount stores), and products that carry the BUAV leaping bunny symbol, and those listed in the Naturewatch good shopping guide (available from <http://naturewatch.org/compassionate-shopping/compassionate-shopping-guide>). Some own-brand products of some retail outlets, including but not limited to, M&S, the Co-op and Morrisons are also animal-friendly and BUAV approved.



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To be considered humane, pest control methods **must avoid** the use of glue traps and poisons, which cause prolonged suffering to the animal; poison can result in the death of birds of prey and other animals that feed on rodents.

Worship

This section assesses the ways in which your church includes animal welfare within the context of worship.

Education

This section assesses the ways in which your church includes issues of animal welfare in its study, discipleship and Christian growth programmes.

Fellowship

This section assesses the ways in which your church takes animal welfare into consideration when hosting fellowship events, such as meals or other social events. For meat, egg and dairy items, or products containing these items, it is important to bear in mind that animal welfare standards can vary greatly. Soil Association certified organic products provide the highest possible welfare standards.

Other

This section covers items not covered by the preceding sections.

Animal Friendly Church Prize Application Notes

All applicants for Animal Friendly Church Status will be automatically entered into our competition for the ASWA Annual Animal Friendly Church Prize, given to the church community which has impressed us most with its commitment to animal welfare.

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals
P O Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8GT
Email: angsocwelanimals@aol.com