



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report To Arts, Culture And Recreation SPC

21st January 2019

Item No. 3

Progress Report on the Welfare of Horses

Following on from a Motion submitted by Cllr Deirdre Heney at the September SPC:-

“Following a recent successful prosecution by Gardaí in a court case involving animal cruelty against a carriage horse owner in Dublin, and in order to reduce/eliminate cruelty to horses in our city, that Dublin City Council:-

Part 1 of this Motion was referred to the Transportation SPC

2: Work with An Garda Síochána, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the DSPCA, the Control of Horses Act 1996, Dublin City Council's Control of Horses Bye-laws 2014 in order to bring about greater enforcement of existing legislation and

3: Arrange the introduction of routine welfare checks of horses (including checks on harnessing etc.) by a qualified equine veterinarian or suitably qualified authorised officer”.

The control of Carriage Horses falls under the Transportation SPC.

The Control of all other Horses falls under the remit of the Licensing Unit. Our contractor seizes horses in accordance with the Dublin City Council's Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2014. These seizures can be very difficult and often can only happen with the assistance of An Garda Síochána and late at night. When horses are seized they are examined by the contractor's Vet if needed. Also DCC employs a Vet on a contract basis.

The Dublin Regional Horse Working Group was established in 2017. Membership of the group includes:

1. The four Dublin Local Authorities
2. Department of Agriculture, Food & Marine
3. An Garda Síochána
4. DSPCA
5. Fettercairn Youth Horse Project
6. Clondalkin Equine Club
7. Youth Service
8. Traveller Development Groups
9. Voluntary groups/rescue centres
10. UCD Veterinary Services with a particular focus on:

Indiscriminate breeding, Animal welfare, Education and awareness and Legislation.

There has been a lot of progress made especially in the education and Indiscriminate breeding areas. A horse aware week will take place in the Cherry Orchard area from 28th January 2019 to 2nd February 2019. A number of schools will be visited between 28th of January and 1st February with an open day to be held in the Cherry Orchard Equine Centre on the 2nd February.

A number of castration clinics and chip and snip clinics have taken place also in order to curtail indiscriminate breeding.

When a horse owner applies for a licence the DCC Vet examines the stables where the horse is kept and ensures it has an equine number.

**Patricia Colfer,
Administrative Officer,
Licensing Unit.**