



AN INTRODUCTION

Would you like to see Animal Issues
addressed in your church?



Are you a
Christian concerned
about Animal
Welfare Issues?





“Christian Concern for Animals”

Cover photos:

Greyhound - Stephen Nash Photography - Ringpress Books Ltd

Fox - Eric Ashby - for The League Against Cruel Sports

Chicken and Cow - Compassion in World Farming.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA)

WHO ARE WE?

We are an Anglican (Church of England) organisation founded over 30 years ago. We are called to make Christians and others aware of the need to care for the whole of creation. In particular, we are concerned with the abuse of animals.

Intensive farming, the food chain, experimentation, diseases associated with animals, the ill treatment of pets and the killing of animals for pleasure all raise ethical questions. Animal issues are theological issues and should be on the churches' agenda.

We believe that God has given us a responsibility towards sentient beings with whom we share God's world. The Bible teaches us that God has given us 'dominion' not 'domination' over animals (Genesis 1:26). This means 'loving care' not 'ruthless exploitation'.

We teach respect for all creation and highlight the ways in which animals suffer as a result of human neglect, exploitation and cruelty. We acknowledge our own part in not caring for the environment and the need for awareness and education to bring about change.



WHAT DO WE DO?

We encourage churches to include animal welfare concerns in their prayers. Worship and thanksgiving are at the heart of Christian life and embrace all that God has made. We encourage and help churches to hold animal blessing services and to be aware of the need to care for God's creation.



Photograph - with kind permission of CIWF

Through education and lawful action we advance the conservation and well being of animals and co-operate with other organisations, religious and secular, that have similar aims.

We produce a regular magazine. Animalwatch (free to members) containing articles and information about animal welfare issues, interests and events. This provides a means by which the members can share ideas, stories and concerns.

We publish a series of pamphlets about animal issues and aim to ensure that our materials are balanced and theologically and scientifically sound.

We help arrange major services and events focusing on animal care. We promote awareness through exhibitions, meetings, talks and preaching.

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE?

We believe that the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it (Psalm 24:1). We believe that the Bible teaches us to care for animals. In the Hebrew Scriptures there are many rules governing animal welfare and our duty towards them.

In the New Testament, Jesus teaches us that God cares for his creatures, 'Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them' (Mt 6:25). He taught about rescuing animals in distress, 'If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not pull it out on a sabbath day?' (Lk 14:5) and the need to protect and care for animals.

We believe that God so loved the world (the cosmos), not just human beings that he sent his Son to redeem the whole of the created order and as St Paul writes, through Jesus, God has reconciled all things to himself. (Col. 1:15-20)

We believe that we have a duty to care for 'all creatures great and small' because 'the Lord God made them all'. To abuse creation is to abuse the Creator.

DO WE HAVE A THEOLOGICAL BASIS?

Yes, we have put this theological statement in our Constitution:

Christians acknowledge all existence as dependent on the originating and sustaining will of God, and the universe as the work of his creative mind. But God's ultimate purpose in creating this universe lies beyond it, in an eternal order of goodness and love, where his glory will be fully revealed in the blessedness of his creatures as they rejoice in the perfect communion with him and with one another.

The unfolding story of the cosmos can, therefore, be truly understood only as a pilgrimage under God to this fulfilment. But this story, though cause for endless wonder, thankfulness and praise, is also

marked by pain, sorrow and frustration. In St Paul's words, 'We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains and still does' (Romans 8:22).

On this planet a crucial event has been the birth of our own species which, though sharing a God-given biological basis with other terrestrial life, is endowed with unique powers of thought and feeling. These not only enable us to be more aware of good and evil, but also give us unprecedented capacity to promote one or the other. As a result the fate and quality of life of other sentient beings, and indeed the very survival of life itself, turn on human behaviour.



Photograph - RSPCA Photo Library

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Through prayer, study and action we can all do something to help. We all eat - and we can all make sure that we buy food that has not been produced by exploitation or cruelty.

If like us, you are committed to giving a Christian voice to oppose the unnecessary suffering of animals and to educate others about animal welfare issues, please become a member.



Photograph - RSPCA Photo Library

WHO CAN JOIN?

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 18 who shares our aims and objectives and who pays the annual subscription. Our members include all kinds of people - bishops, veterinary surgeons, politicians, farmers, parish priests and poets. Members receive regular copies of Animalwatch free of charge.

IS THE MEMBERSHIP GROWING?

Yes, in the last few years we have had a considerable increase in our membership which is very encouraging — but there is always room for more. There is still much that we can do together.

IS A.S.W.A. a REGISTERED CHARITY?

Yes, we are. We are registered as a religious charity to teach Christian beliefs about God and his creation. This means that if you are a taxpayer you can pay your subscription or give a donation by Gift Aid so that we can claim the tax you have paid on your gift. All our officers and active members are volunteers. Our charity number is 1087270.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER:

- Membership is a minimum of £20.00 per annum
- Members receive three magazines per year. (please complete enclosed form)
- Corporate membership also available at £25.00 per annum
Youth Membership - £5.00 per annum.
Concessions available for those on housing or similar benefits - please apply to the Secretary:
- Life Membership - £250
- Overseas membership: Cheques or International money orders in £ Sterling please. or via Pay Pal on the ASWA website.

PUBLICATIONS:

This Introductory leaflet that you are reading is available free of charge.
Please specify quantities required.

A) Liturgy & Worship

1. Prayers and Readings (for use at the burial of an animal) (50p)
2. Animal Welfare Patterns of Worship (comprehensive collection of material for animal welfare services) by Revd H Broadbent (£1.50)

B) Animal Welfare Sunday

Free information packs available to clergy and church workers. (Also available on-line)

C) Specialist subjects

1. Hunting with Hounds and Shooting (£1) by Louise Clark.
2. The use of animals in laboratory experiments (£1) by The Revd H Broadbent
3. Thinking about Vegetarianism (£1) by The Revd H Broadbent
4. Worshipping with the Whole Creation (£1) by The Revd H Broadbent
5. The Bible and Animal Welfare by Revd Helen Hall - (£1)
6. Animals in War by Louise Clark (£1)

OTHER MATERIALS

1. Christmas cards (6 for £5.00)
2. Enamel badges (£1.50)
3. Cloth shopping bags with ASWA logo (£4)

The above materials are available from the Correspondence Secretary.

ASWA

THE ANGLICAN SOCIETY FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Gift Aid Donation Form

I,

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:.....

declare that I want The Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA), registered charity 1087270, to reclaim tax on all donations I have made since 29th June 2001 and all donations I make thereafter.

(NOTE: you must pay an amount of income tax or capital gains tax equal to the tax which ASWA reclaims on your donations, currently 28p for every £1 you give).

This replaces the current Covenant system. Now we can reclaim tax on all donations, provided you are a tax payer.

Signed:

Date:

Please return this form to:-

Helen Hellier, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8GT

MEMBERSHIP FORM

To: Helen Hellier, PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire RG27 8GT

Please enrol me as a subscriber to the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals.

I enclose cheque/p.o. for.....

Or Banker's Order Form (see below) (The Banker's Order should be returned to the Treasurer, not the Bank)

NAME: (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

ADDRESS:

..... Postcode:.....

Email:

Signature: Date:.....

How/where did you hear about ASWA?

BANKERS ORDER FORM

To: (YOUR BANK)

Address:

Your Account Number:

Please pay to Account number 00532154 of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals at Lloyds Bank (30-97-86) 67/69 Old Brompton Road London SW7 3JX the sum of

£

Immediately and on 1st January each year until further notice in writing.

Signed

NAME: (BLOCK CAPITALS)

ADDRESS:

..... Postcode:.....

Email:.....

Telephone:..... Date:.....



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Putting Animals on the Agenda of the Christian Church

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