

Ethical Policy Statement: Investments, Suppliers and Fundraising

The charitable objects of the RSPCA are to promote kindness and to prevent or suppress cruelty to animals by all lawful means.

The RSPCA will take all reasonable steps to ensure that any decisions taken in respect of its corporate investments, supplier and fundraising relationships are consistent with its animal welfare policies as agreed and revised from time to time by the governing Council of the Society.

The RSPCA will ensure that its investment managers apply appropriate screening criteria, and will work with independent screening companies to develop their criteria to reflect the Society's considered animal welfare position.

The RSPCA will also have regard to its animal welfare policies in all decisions taken in respect of all its activities including communications, campaigning and marketing.

The RSPCA will not knowingly invest or engage in collaborative fundraising or promotional activities with any company or business whose activities are run counter to the RSPCA's animal welfare policies and/or where an association with a company or business could be expected to bring the organisation into disrepute.

Before engaging in any corporate promotion or fundraising activity with a third party, the RSPCA will seek a clear statement on any activities or business in which they may be engaged which may conflict with the Society's animal welfare policies. In considering whether to engage with such companies, the Society will take into account, inter alia, any past or present activity involving animals, any company policies on animal welfare and their willingness to work with the RSPCA to achieve real and lasting advances in animal welfare through increased public awareness and achievement of the RSPCA's aims and objectives

The RSPCA will seek, where possible, to source and/or advise the use of products from companies whose products have been manufactured and produced in a manner consistent with the Society's animal welfare policies. The RSPCA recognises, however, that, for reasons of supply or the requirements of national or international regulatory legislation, some essential products may not meet its animal welfare criteria at the present time. Where no alternative currently exists the RSPCA will, with reluctance, purchase such products in the interests of providing animals in its care with an appropriate diet, environment and veterinary treatment necessary to ensure their welfare. At the same time the RSPCA will seek to engage with such companies with a view to encouraging them to develop and apply stronger animal welfare policies and, jointly, to exert greater pressure upon the regulatory authorities in order to accelerate positive change which benefits animal welfare in both international and national requirements for animal testing.