

THE NEED

The Episcopal Network for Animal Welfare (ENAW) serves as the American counterpart of the UK-based Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA). There is a growing need for such an immediate witness in the USA in order to draw more involvement, membership, and action on behalf of animals in our nation and Church.

BELIEFS

Striving to live out the Beatitude of our Lord, “Blessed are the merciful,” ENAW believes that ending animal cruelty in all its forms and striving for mercy for all creatures is an essential task of the Church. We are concerned by the lack of attention by the Church to the cruelties committed against animals in laboratories, factory farms, puppy mills, fur farms, slaughterhouses, and wherever animal exploitation occurs. We believe that our treatment of animals, “the least of these,” is of major importance to all Christians and has implications for our health, environment, and world hunger, all of which demand our attention. ENAW believes in non-violence for all of God’s creatures and is dedicated to the ongoing pursuit of God’s Peaceable Kingdom on earth.

PROJECTS AND GOALS

Projects and goals include (but are not limited to):

- Providing a presence and witness in the Episcopal Church for animal welfare.
- Praying for the welfare of animals and the end of animal exploitation.
- Developing a consistent, coherent theological position for animal welfare in the Episcopal Church and necessary resources and educational materials.
- Providing a community for those concerned about animal welfare in the Episcopal Church to find support and encouragement.
- Encouraging and providing liturgies, services, and prayers that include all God’s creatures and acknowledge animals in our liturgical calendar.
- Encouraging creative dialogue among clergy and laity about animal abuse and welfare in local parishes and Dioceses.
- Serving as a resource for those who are grieving the loss of animal companions.
- Serving as a resource for clergy and lay ministers for animal friendly sermons and educational programs.
- Developing a program whereby parishes can gain designation as “animal-friendly congregations.”

- Advocating for animal welfare in the Episcopal Church at the national and local level through legislation and resolutions, and aiding in the implementation of such resolutions.

- Participating and initiating activism locally, nationally, and within the Episcopal Church itself to combat animal cruelty and protect animals.

- Partnering with like-minded individuals, organizations, and denominational groups to develop a network of animal welfare groups.

RESOLUTIONS

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S POSITION

The following resolution was adopted by the Episcopal Church’s General Convention in 2003:

Resolution D016

Topic/Title: Stewardship: The Protection of Animals from Cruel Treatment

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 74th General Convention recognize that responsible care of animals falls within the stewardship of creation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church encourage its members to ensure that husbandry methods for captive and domestic animals would prohibit suffering in such conditions as puppy mills, and factory-farms; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church’s Peace and Justice Office identify existing guidelines to educate its members to adhere to ethical standards in the care and treatment of animals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church, through its Office of Government Relations, identify and advocate for legislation protecting animals and effective enforcement measures.

THE WORLDWIDE ANGLICAN RESPONSE

In 1998 the Lambeth Conference adopted the following resolution:

Resolution 1.8 Creation

This conference: (a) reaffirms the biblical vision of creation according to which: Creation is a web of inter dependent relationships bound together in the covenant which God the Holy Trinity has established with the whole earth and every living being.

- (i) the divine Spirit is sacramentally present in creation, which is therefore to be treated with reverence, respect and gratitude;
- (ii) human beings are both co-partners with the rest of creation and living bridges between heaven and earth, with responsibility to make personal & corporate sacrifices for the common good of creation;
- (iii) the redemptive purpose of God in Jesus Christ extends to the whole of creation.

ANIMAL FRIENDLY CONGREGATIONS

We are beginning to build a directory of “Animal Friendly Congregations” throughout the Episcopal Church, USA. There is a growing need for such a designation both to increase awareness of animal welfare issues at the local level and to provide a resource for those who are seeking to join churches which are “animal friendly.”

Congregations who would like to apply for status as an “Animal Friendly Congregation” and be listed in our Directory must have the approval of the Senior Clergy Person and agree to do the following:

1. Support and uphold members engaged in animal welfare ministries.
2. Hold an “Animal Blessing” service annually.
3. Provide pastoral care and prayer for members grieving the loss or illness of a pet.
4. Serve vegetarian fare during Lent and provide vegetarian options at community meals.
5. Agree not to hold fundraisers that center upon the killing of animals (pig roasts, sport hunting, lobster broils, etc.)



Visit www.enaw.org for information and to join on-line with Episcopal animal advocates across the country.

Members are invited to join our listserv!

EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



“Giving voice to every creature under Heaven”

The Mission of the Episcopal Network for Animal Welfare is to create an inclusive and mutually supportive venue for Episcopal animal advocates with a variety of interests and gifts; and to offer our presence, passion, enthusiasm and resources to help equip the churches to give meaningful voice to every creature under Heaven, especially where neglect, cruelty, degradation and commercial exploitation are concerned.

www.enaw.org