ANIMAL WELFARE
The Great Debate

GENERATION KIND

YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO RESEARCH

Support for vulnerable pet owners

and speak **for and against** it being introduced

This brief has been produced as part of the *RSPCA's Animal Welfare: The Great Debate* and is a starting point for the research you will need to do into the subject in order to ensure a successful debate. The points for or against a subject may not be RSPCA policy and represent some of the wider thinking around the subject.

- Although the National Health Service (NHS) and other social services exist to support those in need, there is little or no State support for vulnerable people who need help with their pets.
- People who own pets can face unforeseen circumstances which threatens the wellbeing of their beloved pet - such as an accident or ill health (for the pet or the owner), as well as other tragic circumstances such as domestic abuse where the animal can also be threatened or harmed and even where the owner escapes the abuse, there may be difficulties in finding safe places that will also take pets.
- Currently pet owners are able to access support from an animal welfare charity, they either have to pay the full cost of treatment and/or accommodation (which can rise to many thousands) or pay for annual or monthly pet insurance which may cover some of the costs.
- Some people think vet and accommodation costs are unaffordable, especially if they have to pay upfront or the vet practice doesn't let the owner pay over a long period of time.

FOR

Here are some points **in favour** creating a system of State support for vulnerable pet owners – what other points can you find?

- Section 58 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local councils to protect the person's property - which would include pets - for instances when the owner persons is being cared for in hospital. But this does not cover all eventualities and not all councils appear to offer this service.
- Support for vulnerable people exists in terms of medical and social care, so this should be extended to pets, which are sentient beings which also find themselves in a vulnerable situation. State support could help owners in these times of need.
- As a nation of animal lovers, we can all help to look after the UK's animals.

AGAINST

Here are some reasons why a system of State support for vulnerable pet owners **shouldn't be** created – can you find any more?

- When acquiring a pet it is important that the owner ensures they have the means to care for that animal in all eventualities. This means that there should be sufficient money set aside as well as alternative arrangements for keeping the pet safe and provided for should the owner be unable to.
- If people are worried about money they should get pet insurance to help cover veterinary costs.
- The NHS and social services are already stretched in caring for people, there is not the means to extend this system to cover animals.

Information you may want to find out

- How many people have pet insurance?
- What other arrangements can pet owners make for their animals should they be unable to look after them?
- How much does vet treatment cost – how much money would a State support service need?
- How many people have pets and does that justify a State support system? Are there organisations that already exist to help owners with the veterinary and accommodation costs for their animals?

Potential sources of information

- RSPCA website: **www.rspca.cymru**
- RSPCA facts and figures: **http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts**
- PDSA: **www.pdsa.org.uk**

MAE EICH TÎM YN MYND I YMCHWILIO I

Cymorth i bobl fregus sydd ag anifeiliaid anwes

a siarad **o blaid ac yn erbyn** cyflwyno system cymorth iddynt

Mae'r briff hwn wedi'i lunio fel rhan o Ddadl Fawr yr RSPCA: Lles Anifeiliaid ac mae'n fan cychwyn i'r ymchwil y bydd angen i chi ei wneud i'r pwnc er mwyn cael dadl lwyddiannus. Mae'n bosibl na fydd rhai pwyntiau o blaid neu yn erbyn pwnc yn bolisi gan yr RSPCA, ac mae'r pwyntiau yn cynrychioli peth o'r meddylfryd ehangach am y pwnc.

- Er bod y Gwasanaeth Iechyd Gwladol (GIG/NHS) a gwasanaethau cymdeithasol eraill yn bodoli i gefnogi'r bobl hynny sydd mewn angen, prin yw cefnogaeth y Wladwriaeth, os o gwbl, i bobl fregus sydd angen help gyda'u hanifeiliaid anwes.
- Mae pobl sy'n berchen ar anifeiliaid anwes yn gallu wynebu amgylchiadau annisgwyl sy'n bygwth lles anifail sy'n golygu'r byd iddynt – megis damwain neu afiechyd (i'r anifail anwes neu'r perchennog), yn ogystal ag amgylchiadau trasig eraill megis cam-drin yn y cartref lle gall yr anifail hefyd fod dan fygythiad neu'n cael ei niweidio a hyd yn oed pan fydd y perchennog yn dianc rhag y cam-drin, mae problemau yn gallu codi wrth ddod o hyd i le diogel a fydd hefyd yn derbyn anifeiliaid anwes.
- Ar hyn o bryd mae perchnogion anifeiliaid anwes yn gallu cael cymorth gan elusennau lles anifeiliaid, neu mae'n rhaid iddynt dalu cost lawn triniaeth ac/neu lety (sy'n gallu codi i sawl mil o bunnoedd) neu dalu am yswiriant anifeiliaid anwes yn flynyddol neu'n fisol a allai dalu am beth o'r costau.
- Mae rhai pobl o'r farn bod costau milfeddygol a llety yn anfforddiadwy, yn enwedig os oes rhaid iddynt dalu ymlaen llaw neu os nad yw'r filfeddygfa yn gadael i'r perchennog dalu dros gyfnod hir o amser.

O BLAID

Dyma rai pwyntiau **o blaid** creu system cymorth gan y Wladwriaeth ar gyfer perchnogion bregus anifeiliaid anwes – pa bwyntiau eraill allwch chi eu canfod?

- Mae Adran 58 Deddf Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Llesiant (Cymru) 2014 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i gynghorau lleol ddiogelu eiddo'r unigolyn – a fyddai'n cynnwys anifeiliaid anwes – mewn achosion pan fo'r perchennog yn derbyn gofal yn yr ysbyty. Ond nid yw hyn yn cynnwys yr holl amgylchiadau posibl ac nid yw pob cyngor lleol fel petaent yn cynnig y gwasanaeth hwn.
- Mae cymorth i bobl fregus yn bodoli o ran gofal meddygol a chymdeithasol, felly dylid ymestyn hyn i anifeiliaid anwes, gan eu bod hwythau yn fodau ymdeimladol sydd hefyd mewn sefyllfa fregus. Gallai cymorth a chefnogaeth y wladwriaeth helpu perchnogion yn ystod cyfnodau anodd.
- Gan ein bod yn gyffredinol yn bobl sy'n caru anifeiliaid, gallwn ni i gyd helpu i ofalu am anifeiliaid y Deyrnas Unedig.

YN ERBYN

Dyma rai rhesymau pam **na ddylid** creu system cymorth gan y Wladwriaeth ar gyfer perchnogion bregus anifeiliaid anwes – ydych chi'n gallu canfod rhagor?

- Wrth gael anifail anwes mae'n bwysig bod y perchennog yn sicrhau bod ganddynt fodd i ofalu am yr anifail hwnnw mewn unrhyw amgylchiadau. Mae hyn yn golygu y dylid neilltuo digon o arian yn ogystal â sicrhau trefniadau amgen ar gyfer cadw'r anifail anwes yn ddiogel a darparu ar ei gyfer pe na bai'r perchennog yn gallu.
- Os yw pobl yn poeni am arian dylent gael yswiriant anifeiliaid anwes i helpu i dalu am gostau milfeddygol.
- Mae'r GIG a'r gwasanaethau cymdeithasol eisoes dan bwysau yn gofalu am bobl, nid yw'r adnoddau ar gael i ymestyn y system hon i gynnwys anifeiliaid.

Gwybodaeth y byddech o bosibl am chwilio amdani

- Faint o bobl sydd ag yswiriant anifeiliaid anwes?
- Pa drefniadau eraill y gall perchnogion anifeiliaid anwes eu gwneud ar gyfer eu hanifeiliaid os na allant ofalu amdanynt?
- Faint mae triniaeth milfeddyg yn ei gostio – faint o arian fyddai ei angen ar wasanaeth cymorth gan y Wladwriaeth?
- Faint o bobl sydd ag anifeiliaid anwes ac a yw hynny'n cyfiawnhau system gymorth gan y Wladwriaeth? A oes sefydliadau/mudiadau eisoes yn bodoli i helpu perchnogion â chostau milfeddygol a llety ar gyfer eu hanifeiliaid?

Ffynonellau posibl i gael gwybodaeth

- Gwefan yr RSPCA: **www.rspca.cymru**
- Ffeithiau a ffigyrau'r RSPCA: **http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts**
- PDSA: **www.pdsa.org.uk**