

John F. Robins, Secretary, Animal Concern Advice Line (ACAL), c/o Animal Concern,
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Animal Concern Advice Line (ACAL) is a recognised Scottish charity: No. SC030982.
Animal Concern Advice Line was established in 2001 to take on the charitable work of Animal
Concern which was founded as the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society in 1876.
E-MAIL: acal@jfrobins.force9.co.uk Website: <http://www.adviceaboutanimals.info>

Councillor Emlyn Dole,
Council Leader,
Carmarthenshire County Council,
County Hall,
Carmarthen SA31 1JP
Wales.

Dear Councillor Dole,

I write concerning the Llandovery Sheep Festival which takes place on the 23rd and 24th of September. Of particular concern is the sheep race which forms part of that event. I have copied this e-mail to whom I believe are members of your staff and fellow Councillors whose remit will involve them in this issue. I would be grateful if you would bring this e-mail to the attention of any others of your staff or colleagues for whom it is relevant.

As the enforcing authority I ask your Council to inform the organisers of Llandovery Sheep Festival that their proposed sheep race will contravene the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and therefore cannot take place.

Under Section 9 (2) of the 2006 Act any person responsible for the welfare of an animal must ensure they meet:

- (a) its need for a suitable environment,
- (c) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
- (e) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

Please note that under the 2006 Act "suffering" means physical or mental suffering which includes stress and fear.

I ask you to view this short video clip on YouTube, the last few seconds of which show the Llandovery Sheep Race from last year: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkpHFXasPQE>

The video shows six or seven sheep with toy jockeys strapped to their backs being chased along a town street by three men while crowds of noisy people cheer them on.

You don't have to have a degree in ovine behaviour studies to know that a busy town centre street is not a suitable environment for sheep, wearing toy jockeys while being chased along the street by three men is not a normal behaviour pattern for sheep and the whole scenario

will cause these animals to suffer substantial fear and stress. This sheep race is not a bit of harmless fun but a criminal offence.

I request that Carmarthenshire County Council take immediate steps to ensure this sheep race does not take place.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
Animal Concern Advice Line