

130th Open Meeting Programme

Tuesday 25th November 2025

09:30 Registration

10:00 Welcome and introductions

Presented by Giles Webber, ADCH Chair, and Rebecca Cooper, ADCH Executive Director

10:15 Less is More: Making Pet Advice Clear and Actionable

Presented by Linda Cantle, ADCH Trustee and Director of Operations – Pet Services at Woodgreen

New pet owners are excited but often overwhelmed. In this short session, we'll look at ways to make advice clear and easy to follow, to help pet owners feel confident and pets settle happily.

10:45 Legislative Update

David Bowles, RSPCA and Chair of the ADCH Legislative Committee, will provide an update on current legislative developments affecting the sector

11:00 Networking and Refreshments

11:15 All for Cats – From Rescue to Prevention

Presented by Mike Elliott, Cat Welfare & Operations Director at Cats Protection and ADCH Governance Committee Chair, and Richard Lythgoe, Senior Community Operations Manager at Cats Protection

As the sector increasingly struggles to meet demand for traditional 'rescue' services, how do we focus more on prevention to reduce demand and how do we measure success?

11:45 Update on reduced priced medicines from the Animal Charity Pharmacy

Pre-recorded presentation from Dr Sue Paterson FRCVS, Chair of Trustees of The Animal Charity Pharmacy

The Animal Charity Pharmacy will provide an update on the work of the charity in setting up a low-cost pharmacy for ADCH members to purchase reduced price veterinary medicines.

12:00 When the going gets tough, the tough think strategically

Presented by Vanessa Waddon, Chief Executive Officer at Hope Rescue, and Giles Webber, Chief Executive of Birmingham Dogs Home and ADCH Chair

This session will explore how ADCH members are adapting and responding to current challenges across the sector. Two member organisations will share their experiences, strategies, and ideas for staying resilient and effective during difficult times. The session will include short presentations followed by open discussion and questions, offering a chance for shared learning and practical insight.

12:30 Updates from Sponsors

Updates from Petplan and Pets Foundation

12:50 Updates from Members

13:10 Updates from ADCH Committees

13:30 Complimentary Buffet lunch and further opportunity for networking

Pre-booked tours of Newcastle Dog & Cat Shelter take place at 14:00, 14:30, and 15:00.

Please ensure that you have booked your slot.