



# Animal Welfare: The Great Debate

**Heats:** March 2019 in council chambers across Wales

**Final:** June 2019 in National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

<https://education.rspca.org.uk//education/teachers/secondary/thegreatdebate>



## Animal Welfare: The Great Debate

**Since 2015, RSPCA Cymru has held this event – Animal Welfare: The Great Debate with KS3 students from schools across Wales. Following its continued success, we are inviting all schools across Wales to take part in our 2019 events which include regional heats.**

The final will take place in the old voting chamber of the National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay.

During the final, 11 to 14 year old students from schools across Wales will debate the question: 'Whose responsibility is animal welfare?' – weighing up the various responsibilities of the different agencies involved, namely Welsh Government, local government, the RSPCA, vets, the police and the public.

Prior to the final debate, regional heats will take place at venues across Wales in March 2019 where

students will debate special subjects on the issues of animal welfare.

To sign up to take part in this free event, please fill out the form [here](#).

Please note we expect demand to be high and places will be given on a first come, first served basis.



*Thank you very much for the time and effort put in by everyone and it is surprising how things like the generous lunch and the dramatic setting make the students feel valued and appreciated by the generation above which is so important.*

*The Great Debate participating teacher*





## Before the event and the heats

We want to enthuse the students about the topic of animal welfare in advance of the event, so they can carry out their research and develop their arguments. With this in mind, our team will make contact with all participating schools and will aim to make arrangements for our education officers to visit the school and talk to the students. This visit will give an introduction to the event. At this stage the school will be allocated the case its team will be arguing, and students can ask any questions they may have. Schools will have a visit prior to both the heats and the final if they are the winning school.

Prior to the final, heats will take place in council chambers across Wales, as near as possible to the schools who have registered their interest to take part. Special subjects, on the issues of animal welfare, will be given to each participating school for them to research and prepare their debates in

advance. Refreshments will be provided for the participating pupils. Each school can bring up to eight students to take part: four to debate, two to act as press and media officers and up to two to observe. The heats will start at 9.30am, and will be finished by 12–1pm. At each heat, a winning team will be selected to go through to the final in Cardiff in June 2019.



*Fantastic! The trickle down effect will have manifold consequences in terms of confidence, literacy, self-perception...this is really formative stuff and as a school we are so grateful that the students had this chance.*

*The Great Debate participating teacher*





## The final

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The event will be held in Cardiff in the original debating chamber of the National Assembly for Wales. Up to four students from each school will deliver their argument, either in favour of, or against, a particular stakeholder being most responsible for animal welfare. A further one or two students from the school will act as media officers, live Tweeting during their school's presentation and could potentially go on to write-up a report for their school website or newsletter. Up to two more students can attend to observe. Throughout the day there will be opportunities for the students to use the Assembly voting system to answer a number of questions. The event will also be filmed and photographed so the students will be able to access and share memories of their performances.

Lunch will be provided for all attending.

The event will be conducted through the medium of English but if your students would like to deliver

in Welsh, then we can provide simultaneous interpretation from Welsh to English.

All students taking part will receive a certificate and at the end of the day five special awards will be given out. These will be judged by RSPCA staff and will be for:

- Future campaigner
- Future politician
- Future journalist
- Animal welfare champion
- The Great Debate winning school

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*They loved using the technology to vote but I think that really being taken seriously by such an impressive panel was very significant for them.*

*The Great Debate  
participating teacher*





## What happens now?

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If you would like to find out more about this event or have any questions then please contact the RSPCA Cymru team by email at:

[greatdebate@rspca.org.uk](mailto:greatdebate@rspca.org.uk)

or phone: **0300 123 8909**.

You can watch a short video clip about previous events by clicking [here](#).

Learn more about how you can include animal welfare in your lessons by visiting the RSPCA education website, which has free activities, lesson plans, photos and other resources to help you. Go to: [education.rspca.org.uk](http://education.rspca.org.uk) and select the Teachers section.