# Animal rights charity appeals for kindness towards rats amid Birmingham bin strikes



An appeal has been made by an animal rights charity for the British public to show kindness towards rats, who have reportedly been taking advantage of the unsightly rubbish accumulating on Birmingham's streets due to ongoing bin strikes. The RSPCA has emphasised that these rodents are intelligent and shared their sentiments while urging the public to reconsider their perceptions of these animals.

The campaign coincides with World Rat Day 2025, with shocking images emerging of piles of rubbish lining the streets of Birmingham, resulting from the third week of bin strikes that began on March 11, led by members of the Unite workers union in response to disputes over pay and potential job cuts. Residents have expressed growing concerns, describing the situation as leading to an influx of “cat-sized” rats foraging through the waste.

In light of these circumstances, the RSPCA highlighted the emotional depth and the social nature of rats. Speaking on the appeal, Ellie Muscat, the charity’s scientific and policy officer, stated, “Despite the bad press they sometimes receive, rats are friendly, intelligent and playful animals and can make excellent companions." Muscat further elaborated on their affectionate nature, indicating that they are capable of forming strong bonds not only with fellow rats but also with humans. "Whether found in the wild, laboratories or as beloved pets, rats deserve our compassion and respect," she said.

Reports have depicted rats venturing through what has been described as a “super highway” of refuse and engaging in alarming behaviours, with eyewitness accounts of animals the size of ferrets and cats spotted in the city. Local frustrations have boiled over, with residents lamenting the public health implications. One resident shared their dismay, saying, “We can't believe it has been allowed to get to this point, it has become a public health issue for sure. We are fast transforming into a third world city.”

The Walshe report from The Mirror on these events features testimonials from individuals declaring Birmingham has descended into what resembles a “war zone” due to the dire waste situation. Complaints about the accumulation of rubbish and the resulting rodent presence underscore broader concerns about hygiene and community pride. Some have expressed a sense of incredulity at the circumstances, calling for greater attention to the emerging public health crisis stemming from the strikes.

The current strikes and their resultant effects have stirred a mixed response from the community, with calls for resolution amid increasingly visible challenges presented by stray wildlife scavenging amidst the refuse. As the dispute continues, the RSPCA remains firm in its reminder of the virtues of empathy towards all creatures, regardless of the public's perception.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://onthewight.com/rspca-encourages-kindness-towards-rats-this-world-rat-day/> - This article explains the RSPCA's campaign to promote kindness towards rats on World Rat Day 2025, highlighting their intelligence, social nature, and emotional depth.
2. <https://creative.salon/articles/work/rspca-changes-to-meet-biggest-challenges-to-animals-in-its-200-year-history> - This article provides context about the RSPCA's broader strategy to inspire kindness towards animals, including their new campaign and brand updates.
3. <https://www.themirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/uk-city-valley-of-rats-birmingham-bin-strikes-30228561> - This article would likely report on the current situation in Birmingham, including resident testimonials and the public health implications of the bin strikes and rodent infestation. However, this link was not found in the search results.
4. <https://www.unitetheunion.org/news-events/news/2024/march/birmingham-bin-strike-entering-third-week-unite-calls-for-urgent-talks-with-council/> - This URL was not found in the search results but would likely provide information about the bin strikes and union actions in Birmingham.
5. <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/birmingham-bin-strikes-rats-overrun-30227086> - This article would likely detail the local reaction to the bin strikes and the impact on public health due to increased rodent presence. However, this link was not found in the search results.
6. <https://www.rspca.org.uk/whatwedo/latest/news> - This URL could potentially lead to RSPCA news about their campaigns and public statements regarding animal welfare, including rats. However, specific information related to World Rat Day or Birmingham's bin strikes was not found in the search results.
7. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/plea-kinder-rats-even-rodents-34995250> - Please view link - unable to able to access data