

Greens for Animal Protection:

Statement from Adrian on behalf of Martin Hemingway and Tina Louise Rothery

Animals are sentient beings, the Green Party rightly recognises this and campaigns on issues around dietary and fashion exploitation of animals, around blood sports, animal experimentation, animals in entertainment. We are both fully in support of the animal rights work of the GPEW, and will actively support this work as Leaders.

Although neither of us has had a primary focus in our campaigning work on animal rights issues – we both respect and support the work of animal rights campaigners and the challenges they take on. It is hard to tackle all the priorities that so urgently need addressing and we're grateful for the work of Greens for Animal Protection in ensuring GPEW is seen to act and take animal rights seriously.

We have been supportive, in GE campaigns, in hustings etc, of various parts of the animal rights movement in relation to hunting, shooting, fishing. and animal welfare in agriculture. Both of us are concerned too that the UK will now (post-Brexit) accept lower animal welfare standards and increased food-miles whilst reducing our own regulations.

Martin left the National Trust in reaction to their continued support for hunting and shooting on Trust land, and has written letters to the Press on grouse shooting and upland management. As a councillor he supported the opposition to circuses involving live animals on Council land. Martin is a vegetarian and grows much of his own food on an allotment nearby.

Although Tina has not campaigned on animal rights specifically, her own life choices reflect her concern for the welfare of animals and abhorrence of their abuse in/for farming, sports, entertainment, clothing and products. Becoming a vegetarian nearly 30 years ago, she believes that a campaign to encourage GPEW members to commit to meat-free-Mondays would be a way of 'walking the talk' as a party and 'being the change we wish to see'. Although only a small step, she hopes it could lead to an avalanche of awareness that will have a meaningful and exponential impact.