

THE GREEN PARTY. PUTTING AN END TO ANIMAL CRUELTY AND EXPLOITATION

OUR ANIMAL MANIFESTO



Green Party

The Green Party has always held the strongest animal protection policies of any parliamentary political party in Britain. We are the only party prepared to take on the corporates by opposing factory farming and working for the replacement of all animal experimentation. Elected Greens have a great record on these issues: as well as the work of Caroline Lucas in Parliament, Green MEPs, Assembly Members and councillors have achieved success in many areas such as reducing animal-testing requirements, strengthening slaughter rules, banning snares locally and helping save the Wildlife Crime Unit.

Natalie Bennett, Green Party Leader

(pictured top right speaking against live exports)



“ I am proud to be a voice for animals in Parliament. From leading a parliamentary debate and successful vote on opposition to badger culling to pushing the government to promise a ban on the use of wild animals in circuses, I have led on many of the animal issues that have come up in Parliament. On live-animal exports, I helped secure a debate and have called on the government to change existing legislation to allow ports such as Ramsgate to refuse the trade.

On animal testing, I've been working hard to hold the government to account over its promise made in the Coalition agreement to reduce the number of experiments and I have been a vocal campaigner on maintaining the ban on hunting with dogs, on the need to stop pet-shop sales of puppies and kittens and on the need for CCTV to be compulsory in slaughterhouses. Along with other elected Greens I am opposed to TTIP and any erosion of animal-protection laws resulting from trade agreements. ”

CAROLINE LUCAS, MP FOR BRIGHTON PAVILION (pictured second from top)

The seven key areas of focus in our plight to end animal suffering at the hands of humans:

1. End Factory Farming - taking animals out of cages and putting them back in the fields

We will ban cages for hens and rabbits and ensure that dairy cows have access to pasture. We will support sustainable farming and introduce strict welfare standards. Industrial animal farming condemns millions of animals to short, brutal lives in barren factory farms and damages the environment, food security and our health; it cannot be justified. We will also end live export for slaughter and fattening, limit live transport and introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses. We would encourage a reduction in the consumption of animal products for the benefit of the environment, human health and animal welfare.



2. Strengthen and extend the Hunting Act and continue our strong opposition to the badger cull

Greens have consistently opposed the badger cull, with Green Party Leader Natalie Bennett joining the wounded-badger patrols and Green MP Caroline Lucas leading the Parliamentary debate opposing the cull. We will continue to push for science-led control of bTB, where the culling of badgers clearly has no place. We oppose all forms of hunting and will strengthen the Hunting Act, including ending the use of dogs below ground. We will end all commercial driven shooting. We will ban the manufacture, sale and use of snares: there is no place for these instruments of torture in our countryside.



3. Protect habitats and wildlife both at home and abroad

Wildlife cannot survive without a home, which is why we support a new Nature and Wellbeing Act and will protect the EU Habitats and Birds Directives against any attempts to weaken them. We will ensure that our valuable wild spaces are properly protected and will prioritise action to reverse both habitat loss and the precipitous decline in our wildlife. We will take action to protect pollinators, including developing pollinator-friendly pesticide strategies. We will also continue to push for an end to whaling and keeping cetaceans in captivity. We will guarantee funding for the Wildlife Crime Unit and take coordinated action to tackle wildlife crime both in the UK and across the globe, recognising its link to global crime networks.



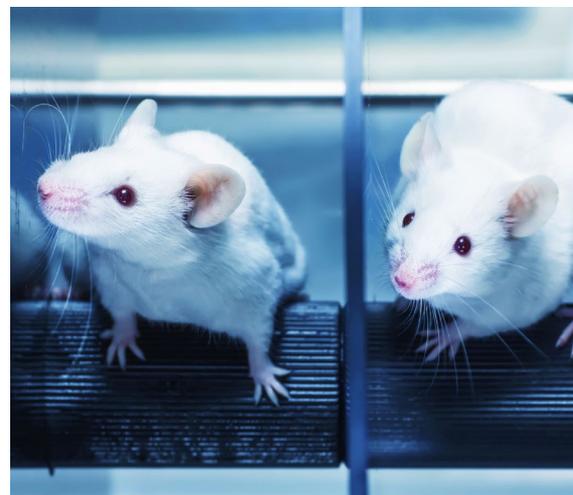
4. Completely review companion animal-breeding and licensing legislation to stop the suffering of unwanted and inadequately cared-for companion animals

Too many animals end up on the street, in rescue centres or in homes that do not meet their needs. Irresponsible breeding also fuels dog attacks and suffering owing to unnatural conformation and inbreeding. We will tighten the law regulating the breeding and sale of companion animals and will ban the import of animals for the exotic companion animal trade. We will end the trade and keeping of primates as companion animals. We will guarantee adequate funds for tackling dog fighting and tougher penalties for those involved.



5. End the suffering of animals in experiments

Greens want to see an end to animal testing and experimentation. We will ensure that research funding is directed towards modern human-biology-based techniques, increase transparency and ensure that outdated secrecy laws cannot be used to withhold information on animal experiments. We will immediately end toxicity testing on animals, the use of primates and address late-stage failure of new pharmaceutical products by overhauling drug-development and test rules.



6. End the suffering of animals used for our entertainment

We believe that animals should never suffer for our entertainment and will end the use of all animals in circuses and ensure this country does not supply funds to support bullfighting and other festivals that involve cruelty to animals. We will introduce much tougher welfare rules and more monitoring of animal racing, stop the use of the whip in horse racing and end greyhound racing on an oval track.



7. Giving animals a voice in policy-making

We need to ensure that animal protection is seen as an important goal of Government policy; creating an Animal Protection Commission would ensure that animals aren't forgotten in the decision making process.



OUR PLEDGES IN DETAIL

There are many issues that impact negatively on animals in the UK and beyond. Many campaigning organisations, dedicated volunteers and animal lovers work hard to make things better for animals. However without political will and action many of the problems will remain. Greens pledge to provide that political will and are happy to support these pledges.

1. End Factory Farming - taking animals out of cages and putting them back in the fields

Industrial livestock farming is bad for animals, damages the environment, reduces food security and has a negative impact on human health. We must end the intensification and industrialisation of animal farming and instead support sustainable farming with very strict welfare standards.

In particular we will support:

- A complete ban on cages for egg-laying hens and for rabbits and on zero-grazing units for dairy cows.
- Improved food labelling and better traceability of our food to prevent fraud as illustrated by the horse-meat scandal. Mandatory labelling of meat and dairy products to indicate method of production, country of origin and method of slaughter.
- Mandatory CCTV in all slaughterhouses.
- Tougher regulations on animal transport, including a maximum limit of eight hours and an end to live export from the UK.
- Action to stop the overuse of antibiotics in intensive animal farming to suppress the diseases that are inevitable when animals are kept in crowded and stressful conditions.
- The proper implementation of the EU ban on the routine preventive use of antibiotics on farm animals when no disease is present, ensuring there are mandatory targets for a reduction in antibiotic use in both humans and farm animals and publishing annual national surveillance data on the impacts on human health of antimicrobial resistance, prioritising mortality data.
- A reduction in the consumption of meat, dairy and other animal products, with promotion of and education about alternative diets. Subsidies and tax measures that support a move to pasture and land-based animal farming.
- A review of the Government Buying Standards to ensure that public procurement uses only meat, milk and eggs that have been produced humanely and sustainably.
- A ban on the cloning of farm animals and the sale of clones and their offspring as well as a ban on the sale of products from those animals.

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- Action on fish farms to improve welfare and tackle the high levels of contagious disease, which affects wild fish as well as those in captivity.
- Continue research to improve welfare measures applied when fish are killed for food.
- An end to the shooting of seals at fish farms.
- The accurate recording of greenhouse gases resulting from farming methods.
- The use of international development funding and intergovernmental agreements such as UN Sustainable Development Goals to press for movement towards sustainable and humane food production worldwide.
- Action to reduce the use of human-edible crops to feed farm animals, aiming for a 33% reduction by 2025 and a 50% reduction by 2035, since it is an inefficient and environmentally damaging way of feeding people.
- Action to reduce food waste. The meat of almost two billion animals is thrown away each year in the EU. This practice must be ended by taking action along the whole of the food chain.
- A ban on the sale of foie gras.

2. Strengthen and extend the Hunting Act and continue our strong opposition to the badger cull

The Green Party has been opposed to the badger cull from its inception and is against the exploitation and suffering of wild animals in the name of sport.

- The Green Party will immediately end the badger cull and introduce the cattle-control measures that are showing very promising results in Wales.
- We oppose all forms of hunting and will strengthen the Hunting Act, including ending the use of dogs below ground and will introduce a closed season for hares.
- We will insert a ‘reckless’ provision to ensure the killing of wild mammals during a trail hunt cannot be passed off as an ‘unfortunate accident’ and will increase the punishments available to the courts so that the Hunting Act is brought into line with other animal-protection legislation.
- We will end all commercial driven shooting, including grouse shooting, and will outlaw the use of cages to rear game birds.

3. Protect habitats and wildlife both at home and abroad

Wildlife cannot live without a home yet habitats are increasingly damaged and fragmented. We support a new Nature and Wellbeing Act and will require coordinated action across all levels of government to reverse the drastic decline in wildlife and habitat degradation. Priority will be given to creating a green network of wildlife habitats.

In addition we will:

- Take action to arrest the alarming decline in UK pollinator populations.
- Ratify a New Pesticides Act based on a precautionary principle of pesticide use.
- Ban commission-based selling of pesticides and ban local authorities from using pesticides.

Illegal wildlife trade is causing great suffering, wiping out species across the globe, and is linked to other serious organised crimes. Greens will establish a domestic strategic plan for tackling wildlife crime in the UK, which will include:

- Continuing the UK's leading role in international forums to end the illegal wildlife trade, protect wildlife and promote conservation.
- A ban on the import of wild-caught animals destined for the companion animal trade.
- Tighter restrictions on the species that can be imported and traded.
- An end to the keeping of wild animals, including all primates, as companion animals or household companion animals.
- Improving the range of deterrents that the police and courts can use against wildlife criminals.
- Carrying out an impact assessment on the threats that wildlife crime, including cybercrime, poses to animal welfare and incorporating it into policies and practice to combat wildlife crime.
- Increased support for actions aimed at gathering data on the illegal wildlife trade, including a commitment to long-term funding of the National Wildlife Crime Unit. (NWCU)
- Improved public education and awareness initiatives in support of demand-reduction strategies.
- Empowering police forces to develop and implement local wildlife-crime strategies and providing resources to enable the courts to develop expertise in wildlife crime and adopt sentencing guidelines for wildlife crime.
- Ensuring all UK tour operators, travel affiliations and national tourist boards adopt the Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism and actively ensure their holiday excursions and related activities have a minimal impact on the welfare of animals, both wild and captive.
- Ensuring that the European ban on seal imports is implemented fully; banning the import of products made from real fur and ensuring that real fur is clearly labelled until a ban is in place; pressing the EU to ban the factory farming of fur.

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- Working for stronger international protection of endangered sea creatures and an end to any killing of cetaceans in European waters and lobbying for a worldwide end to this practice.
- Extending the Animal Welfare Act to cover fishing activities and include protection for lobsters, crabs and other crustaceans.
- Undertaking research to quantify the scale of the problem of ghost fishing gear affecting marine animals in UK waters.
- Enabling fishermen to return abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) to all major UK ports and investing in recycling schemes for ALDFG in the UK.
- Joining and playing an active role in the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) – a powerful alliance of governments, industry, IGOs and NGOs that will save millions of marine animals and create safer, cleaner oceans.

4. Completely review companion animal-breeding and licensing legislation to stop the suffering of unwanted and inadequately cared-for companion animals

Companion animals bring much joy and comfort to many people but far too often the breeding and selling of these animals does not put their needs first, resulting in suffering.

Greens will push to:

- Completely review and update existing dog legislation, particularly on dog control.
- Update the rules on selling animals and tackle problems associated with the advertising of companion animals online.
- Tighten the law regulating the breeding and sale of cats and dogs, with mandatory licensing of breeders of more than one litter and a ban on the sale of puppies younger than eight weeks and without the presence of their mother.
- Place controls on breeding certain breeds to prevent exaggerated characteristics likely to cause suffering.
- Introduce much stricter regulation on the ownership of air guns and crossbows to prevent injury or death to cats and other animals shot by such weapons.
- Provide adequate funding and robust regulations to ensure the success of compulsory micro-chipping legislation.
- Promote neutering of companion animals.
- Tackle the increased incidence of illegal imports of dogs and puppies into the UK.
- Introduce regulations to make it illegal to use aversive training aids such as electric-shock collars.

5. End the suffering of animals in experiments

Greens want to see an end to all animal experimentation and will ensure that research funding is directed away from failing animal models of human disease and towards modern human-biology-based techniques, which offer greater opportunities to cure disease and improve product safety.

We will work to end animal experiments but believe immediate action must be taken to:

- Stop the use of primates, cats and dogs in research and the importation of monkeys for use in labs.
- End the use of live animals in military training.
- Stop toxicity testing on animals.
- Stop the use of genetically altered animals.
- Stop the use of outdated secrecy laws to withhold information on animal experiments and ensure that data is shared.
- Stop government funding of animal experimentation and ensure it does not support companies that outsource their animal trials to countries outside the UK.
- Provide greater funding for non-animal research methods and link the funding for the Research Councils to a target for funding the development of humane alternatives to animal experiments.
- Put an immediate end to animal suffering in the most extreme experiments.
- Increase transparency and ensure that all findings of animal research, including negative findings, are published.
- Initiate a comparison of currently required animal tests with a set of human-biology-based methods to ascertain which is the most effective means of predicting the safety of medicines for patients.

6. End the suffering of animals used for our entertainment

Greens believe that animals should not be used in any sport nor form of entertainment that causes pain and suffering (including psychological distress).

We will:

- End the use of the whip in horse racing and conduct a full review of the sport.
- End the use of animals in circuses and travelling menageries and exhibitions.
- Take action over greyhound racing: ending racing on oval tracks, introducing licensing, independent regulation, public reporting of injury statistics and passport tracking of dogs from birth to death.

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- Ensure UK taxpayers' money is not used to fund bullfighting nor other festivals that involve animal cruelty.
- End the keeping of captive whales and dolphins for commercial purposes.
- Enforce greater protection of wild animals used in TV advertising, film and stage, encouraging strict regulation to restrict use unless all of the animal's physical and behavioural needs can be met.

7. Giving animals a voice in policy-making

- Greens support the proposal to create an Animal Protection Commission to establish animal welfare as a significant goal of government policy.
- We will ensure animal welfare is included as a significant direct factor in Policy Impact Assessments, which will be mandatory for all government proposals that could affect animals.
- We will include animal welfare in the National Curriculum so that all children learn about responsible companion animal care and respect for animals.