

# LABOUR ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY POLICY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



# POLICY FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

Our policy is based on the shared belief that cruelty to animals is wrong, just as cruelty to humans is wrong. Causing unnecessary suffering to animals deliberately or through neglect for whatever reason is wrong whether in the wild, in the home or for commercial gain. It is right that we have laws and regulations to prevent this happening and that those who break these laws are treated as criminals.

Such a belief is part of a good society.

Thanks to the Labour government we have a framework of law to protect animals which ought to send a clear signal to those who seek to inflict or to justify suffering. There are, however, areas where legal protection needs to be extended or where we need better regulation and enforcement. Sadly much still needs to be done to ensure existing laws and regulations are properly enforced.

We need to send clear messages about preventing abuse and cruelty through our education system. We should ensure that our many public bodies adopt the best practice in relation to all aspects of animal welfare and we are pleased that many local authorities have adopted our Charter for Animals.

In areas such as experimentation on animals, blood sports and the farming of animals for food we still have to argue our case. We should campaign for these policies from the standpoint

that inflicting pain and suffering unnecessarily, for sport or any other reason is wrong.

Increasingly animal welfare and environmental issues are linked and international. We should be proud of this country's record around animal welfare under Labour and we should continue to argue internationally for measures to protect animals. We should ban the import of animal products which could not be legally produced here, and we should prevent the export of animals into conditions that would be illegal here.

The links between the way we treat animals and the level of violence in society is established, and animal abuse and domestic violence are often linked. Continuing to be vigilant over animal welfare is good for us all, as well as good for the animals.

*'But just as the Labour government failed to remain sensitive to the values of our voters on issues like inequality and the extent of state influence, so too we failed to achieve everything we could have in animal welfare.'*

**Ed Miliband MP, Leader of the Labour Party**

# INTRODUCTION

There are four times the number of animals under human control in the UK as there are people. It is simply inconceivable that this enormous number of animals are all treated with care and meet their deaths with dignity and as required by law. Undercover investigations carried out by animal welfare groups and documentary programs all too frequently disclose cruelty and human behaviour that no decent society should tolerate.

Nearly a billion animals are slaughtered in the UK every year - that is 31 animals every second.

All of this happens to animals which are in the control of people and it is we who have the responsibility to act correctly and to legislate where necessary to ensure that what we all feel ought to happen does happen.

Cruelty to pets and to wild animals still makes the news regularly. Abuse through various "sports" still takes place. We still conduct vast numbers of experiments of animals. We are not really a nation of animal lovers.

**MORI polling in 2005 showed that 14% of respondents said that animal welfare was an issue that would be 'very important' in helping to decide which party they would vote for. The Labour Party was clearly identified as the party with the best policies on animal welfare.**

Animal welfare is an area where the Labour Party used to be clearly ahead of the other main parties but during the 2010 election the issue was conspicuous by its absence. Prior to the 1997 election victory, the Labour Party produced a document - 'new life for animals' - which set out principles and specific goals for animal welfare under a Labour government.

To its great credit, during its term in office, Labour achieved many of these goals. Fur farming is now banned and the commitment to a free vote on hunting with hounds led to this cruel practice being outlawed. Labour's Animal Welfare Act was very welcome and could have provided the basis for

many future improvements to animal welfare. We still have to do much more.

New Life for Animals set out what Labour stood for - these principles and objectives included:

- Better treatment of animals reared for food
- Protection for species threatened with extinction
- Protection against cruelty for wild animals
- The highest possible welfare in the laboratory - and cruelty-free testing of cosmetics
- Maximum journey times - and better conditions during transit
- Dog registration - to fight irresponsible ownership
- Ocean sanctuaries for whales - and no more commercial whaling
- A Europe-wide embargo on trapping exotic birds

After 13 years we can set out the more detailed policy objectives which flow from these principles, under the general headings of:

- Animals and Farming (p.4)
- Animals and Blood Sports (p.6)
- Animals and Consumer Choice including the fur trade (p.9)
- Animals and Experimentation (p.11)
- Animals as Companions and Pets (p.13)
- Enforcement and Policy (p.14)

Animal sentience in the Lisbon Treaty: *"In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage."* (Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union. Official Journal of the European Union C 115, 09.05.2008)

# ANIMALS REARED FOR FOOD

The growing evidence of the environmental damage and poor welfare associated with intensive production methods used to rear animals for food - often taking place behind closed doors - points to the fact that action is needed to ensure farm animal welfare is properly regulated and regulations are enforced.

- **All livestock farmers, transporters and slaughterers should undergo compulsory training in animal welfare.** Without an understanding of animal welfare, workers in these jobs may inflict avoidable suffering on the animals in their care. Slaughterers should undergo retraining and rigorous assessment every three years.
- **CCTV cameras should be installed in all slaughterhouses** to help vets and appropriate independent parties monitor activities, to support training and retraining, and to provide evidence for prosecutions. The footage must be made available to independent parties outside of the slaughterhouse.
- **Slaughterers.** There should be fixed criteria for what constitutes a 'fit and proper person' referred to in Defra's guidance notes on training and licensing slaughterers. Those with convictions for violence, sexual assault or animal cruelty should be prevented from becoming slaughterers.
- **A ban on the enriched cage for laying hens.** While the EU ban on the battery cage (which comes into force in 2012) is welcome, the enriched cage that would currently be permitted as an alternative is not adequate to satisfy the basic needs of hens. The space required by the EU directive in 'enriched' cages is only slightly more than that required for battery cages.
- **End intensive farming.** Recognising the impact that intensive farming has on animal welfare, human health and the environment there should be a realistic but urgent declared timetable for ending the intensive farming of animals for food.
- **A ban on the export of live animals and a maximum journey time of eight hours for all animals.** Animals suffer considerable distress and discomfort in transit and many die. Currently, there may be no live animals being shipped from the UK to continental Europe but there is nothing to prevent this in the future. Looking beyond the UK, each year millions of farm animals are trucked on long journeys across Europe. The UK should press our EU partners to place a maximum limit of 8 hours on journeys to slaughter or for further fattening.
- **Tackle health problems caused to fast-growing meat chickens.** Today's broiler (meat) chickens have been pushed, through genetic selection, to reach their slaughter weight in about 40 days (around twice as fast as 30 years ago). Their legs fail to keep pace with the rapidly growing body and often buckle under the strain. As a result each year millions of broilers suffer from painful, sometimes crippling leg disorders. The heart and lungs, too, cannot keep pace with the overgrown body and millions of broilers succumb to heart failure. Breeding birds are often kept in a state of permanent hunger. A higher priority must be given to leg strength in breed selection programmes and selecting for even faster growth rates must be stopped. In addition, the industry should be encouraged to slaughter birds at a higher age

than the current norm (this means that the birds could be allowed to grow more slowly) and/or to use slower-growing breeds.

- **Address welfare problems of zero grazing and high yielding dairy cows.** Genetic selection for high milk yields has led to a range of serious welfare problems including a high incidence of lameness and mastitis, chronic hunger and digestive disorders. The pressures on high yielding cows are so great that many are prematurely culled after just 3 lactations due to infertility and severe loss of body condition. There needs to be a fundamental shift within the dairy industry towards cows with lower milk yields. In addition, some cows are being kept in zero-grazing systems in which they have no or very limited access to the outdoors and pasture. Such systems should be prohibited.
- **Press for an EU-wide ban on the cloning of animals for food production, on the sale of meat and dairy products from clones or their offspring and on the import of clones, their offspring and semen and embryos of clones or their offspring.** Cloning leads to severe health and welfare problems for both clones and their surrogate dams. It is likely that cloning would be used to produce multiple copies of the highest yielding cows and fastest growing pigs but selective breeding has already led to major health problems for such animals. The European Food Safety Authority has concluded that “genetic selection for high milk yield is the major factor causing poor welfare, in particular health problems, in dairy cows” and that genetic selection of pigs for rapid growth has led to leg disorders and cardiovascular malfunction. The cloning of the most fast growing and high yielding animals will lead to an even higher proportion of animals suffering.
- **Set a clear date for the commencement of the ban on the beak trimming of laying hens.** In 2002 the Labour government banned beak trimming from 2011. The ban was deferred as the industry had not taken sufficient steps to prepare for it. The Tory led government has already said it will delay the ban until 2016. Scientific research shows that the correct way to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism is not to beak trim the birds, but to keep them in good conditions – in

particular to provide opportunities for them to forage and ground-peck - and to select for birds that are less prone to feather pecking. The Austrian egg industry and some UK farmers have successfully phased out beak trimming.

- **World Trade Organisation (WTO).** The increased costs often associated with improved welfare make UK and other EU farmers vulnerable to imports from third countries produced to lower, and so less costly, welfare standards. This makes it difficult for the EU to maintain its welfare reforms and introduce improvements. WTO rules are generally thought to prevent the EU from restricting imports on welfare grounds. In conjunction with our EU partners, the UK government should work to secure changes to WTO policies that allow the UK and the EU to safeguard their farmers from unfair competition from low welfare imports.



*Livestock's contribution to gaseous emissions and climate change is enormous. According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation: 'It currently amounts to about 18 percent of the global warming effect – an even greater contribution than the transportation sector worldwide.' (Livestock's long shadow. FAO. 2006)*

# WILDLIFE & BLOODSPORTS

The passing of the Hunting Act through a free vote showed that parliament agreed with the majority of the population who believe abusing animals for sport is wrong. Spurious claims by hunting apologists about the economic damage and the impact on rural communities have been shown to be bogus. Far from any case for lifting the ban there is a much stronger case for ensuring it is enforced and those who break the law are treated as the criminals they are.

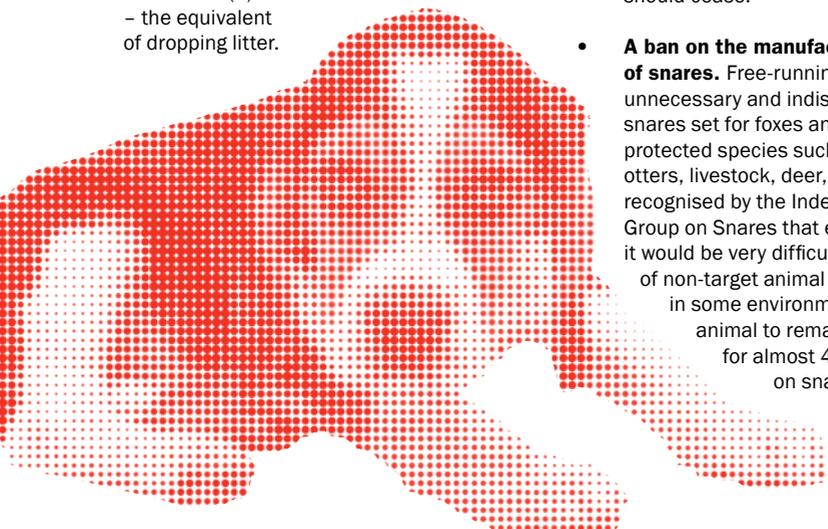
Inflicting suffering for sport or entertainment is wrong and hunting foxes is as ludicrous in a modern society as badger or bear baiting or cock fighting.

- **There should be no badger cull.** Bovine TB is a problem created by intensive farming conditions and can be resolved without killing badgers. Badgers should not be made scapegoats for poor husbandry.
- **Hunting with hounds.** Whilst the ban on hunting with hounds is very welcome its practical implementation is still a challenge. Anyone convicted under this Act is not listed on the national criminal database and, hence, does not receive a criminal record as hunting with hounds is currently defined as a low level crime (5) – the equivalent of dropping litter.

*'I am in favour of animal rights as well as human rights. That is the way of a whole human being.'*  
**Abraham Lincoln**

Hunting with hounds should be moved to the list of notifiable offences and the law needs to be properly enforced.

- **An end to all government culls on wildlife.** Governments have endorsed or promoted the killing of some species including the ruddy duck, grey squirrel, hedgehog, pigeons, herring gulls and boar. These attempts are ineffective, expensive and unnecessary and should cease.
- **A ban on the manufacture, sale and use of snares.** Free-running snares are cruel, unnecessary and indiscriminate. Legal snares set for foxes and rabbits also catch protected species such as badgers and otters, livestock, deer, and even pets. It was recognised by the Independent Working Group on Snares that even with best practice, it would be very difficult to reduce the number of non-target animal captures below 40% in some environments. It is legal for an animal to remain caught in a snare for almost 48 hours. Current laws on snaring are unenforceable as it is difficult to establish what is and



isn't a legal snare and it is often not possible to check when an illegal snare was set and who set it, meaning a prosecution is unlikely. New legislation banning all snares is urgently needed.

- **The government should continue to support the prohibition of and seek a permanent end to all whaling.** There is no method of killing whales that does not cause the animals' prolonged and unnecessary suffering. Firing an explosive harpoon from a shifting platform into a moving animal can never guarantee instantaneous death and may result in considerable suffering for the harpooned animal. Commercial whaling has continued despite the ban agreed by the International Whaling Commission and is expanding in Japan, Norway and Iceland. Meanwhile tens of thousands of smaller whales, dolphins and porpoise are slaughtered in appallingly cruel hunts in Japan, the Faroe Islands and elsewhere every year despite clear evidence that the meat is contaminated with mercury and other toxic pollutants posing a threat to public health. Labour should not simply oppose commercial whaling, but seek a permanent end to this cruel and outdated industry and should actively pursue all possible political and economic measures to this end, including through bilateral and multilateral negotiations.
- **Bycatch: Labour must push for and expedite all measures to eliminate fisheries by-catch of whales and dolphins and other non-target species.** An estimated 300,000 whales and dolphins are drowned in fishing gear every year around the world. This enormous toll represents the single greatest killer of these animals and in some cases is threatening species with extinction. A Labour Government should both advocate and implement, as a matter of urgency, all possible mitigation measures to drastically reduce and ultimately eliminate bycatch of whales and dolphins and other non-target species such as marine turtles seabirds and sharks.
- **Bring an end to the shooting of seals in UK waters.** The UK is home to globally important populations of grey and common seals. Large but unrecorded numbers of these seals are being killed each year by fish

farmers an estimated 3,000-5,000 seals are shot in Scottish waters alone. Common seals are suffering what has been described by scientists as a 'frightening decline in Scottish and UK waters'. A Labour government should pursue all non-lethal measures to deter seals in conflict with fisheries and should ban all killing of seals.

- **Wildlife crime legislation.** The last Labour manifesto contained a welcome promise to review wildlife crime legislation. Importantly any review should look at enforcement as well as the legislation and all wildlife crime should be recordable.
- **A ban on the production of game birds for 'sport' shooting.** Approximately thirty-five million pheasants and five million partridges are mass-produced every year so that they can be shot for sport. Wildlife around the rearing sites is exterminated. The battery cage system of rearing pheasants and partridges should be banned. The Labour government, on 15 March 2010, introduced a Code of Practice for game bird production which would have ended the use of the battery breeding cage system for pheasants (but not for breeding partridges). Among the first acts of the new Hunting and Shooting Minister Jim Paice was to overturn the ban by introducing a new Code of Practice which allows the use of 'enriched' cages.

As long ago as 1947 Dr Harry D. Lillie, in a speech to University College said, after spending several months aboard a British Antarctic whaling vessel: *'The gunners themselves admit that if whales could scream the industry would stop for nobody would be able to stand it.'*

# ANIMALS IN ENTERTAINMENT, HORSE AND GREYHOUND RACING

Although many people attend events involving animals, they may not be aware of the suffering of the animals involved. Action is needed to eliminate this unnecessary suffering for frivolous purposes.

- **There should be a complete ban on all performing animals in circuses.** Touring circuses may cover thousands of miles each year carrying animals from site to site in transporters and cages on the backs of lorries. The animals spend most of their lives in temporary, highly unsuitable accommodation and may be confined for hours, even days, in their travelling cages with their only respite being either limited time in an exercise cage, being rehearsed, or performing. It is impossible for a travelling menagerie to provide circus animals with the facilities they need. Labour's Environment Minister Jim Fitzpatrick, along with 94% of the population wanted to ban wild circus animals before the 2010 election but he ran out of time to bring in the necessary legislation.
- **The publication of comprehensive data on equine mortality, sickness and injury and an independent audit of all racecourses.** Currently, no such published data exists and the level of suffering within the horse racing industry remains hidden from the public. An independent audit should be commissioned in order to determine what steps can be taken to reduce equine mortality and injury.
- **A ban on the whip and review of use of 'bearing reins'.** The use of the whip in horse racing is cruel and counter-productive. Bearing reins were a form of harness, now banned (in part following protests following the publication of the book *Black Beauty*), that were uncomfortable, even painful for horses. A modified form is now used in trotting races and at horse fairs and is still a cause for concern.
- **A proper fund to be established for retired Thoroughbreds.** Around one thousand horses come to the end of their racing career each year and disappear from official records. Only a small number are granted a decent retirement. The fate of the majority is to pass from owner to owner and eventually end up at a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard. The industry needs to take responsibility for these animals.
- **A national register of racing greyhounds, including their micro chipping at birth.** This would allow dogs to be tracked throughout their racing lives and into retirement. Improvements to track layout, surfacing and kennels are required to ensure that dogs do not suffer injury or poor welfare at racetracks. Such improvements are a win/win solution to the problem. Improved animal welfare conditions could end the sustained criticism of greyhound racing, and in doing so offer a boost in attendance, and therefore gate receipts/gambling revenue, currently being sought.

# CONSUMER CHOICE

The consumer has the ability to improve animal welfare conditions and to help reduce global warming by making simple, everyday choices on what they purchase. These choices can have no cost implications (they can even save money) and can be undertaken immediately so their impact can be swift.

Many of us are concerned about what is in our food and how other products are produced and increasingly this has led to systems of labelling. There is also much that can be done by our major public bodies which are consumers on a grand scale and can influence whole markets.

- Proper labelling of food products should be made mandatory.** This should include a welfare label and, where appropriate, one showing method of slaughter. The Farm Animal Welfare Council (before the Tory led government dissolved it) said that 'labelling on animal welfare grounds has the potential to benefit both consumers and farm animals.' EU law requires eggs and egg packs to be labelled as to farming method. Such mandatory labelling should now be extended to meat and dairy products. In addition, there is currently no onus on manufacturers to declare whether their products are suitable for vegetarians or vegans. This affects people with allergies and sensitivities, as well as people who have made ethical decisions about their diet.
- Meat consumption** is increasing globally at alarming rates and its impacts for animals and on human health, the environment and climate change are now beyond doubt. It would be negligent for any government to ignore the consequences of a diet high in meat. The UN's top climate scientist Rajendra Pachauri has said "People should consider eating less meat as a way of combating global warming. UN figures suggest that meat production puts more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than transport." Friends of the Earth say that imports into Britain of Brazilian beef, and soy to feed our own factory-farmed animals, resulted in the deforestation of 1,220 square miles of land
- in 2009. According to Animal Aid, if everyone in Britain gave up eating meat for just one day each week the reduction on greenhouse gas emissions would be the equivalent of taking more than 5 million cars off the road. Meat-free policies are already being introduced around the world. Cape Town has already endorsed a call for one meat-free day a week and Ghent in Belgium has brought in a policy to promote one meat-free day a week. It is a historically-proven idea and sensible. <sup>1</sup>[The government should consult on ways to encourage less meat consumption to benefit public health, animal welfare and the planet.](#)
- Public procurement** The public sector spends more than £2.2 billion on food each year, including meals in schools, hospitals, care homes and prisons. Most chicken and pork used in public sector meals is factory farmed, most of the eggs are battery eggs. Public bodies should only use food that has been produced to high health, environmental and animal welfare standards. Only cage-free eggs and 'free-range' meat should be purchased.
- Proper choice for vegans in schools and hospitals.** Surveys show that, while vegetarians are better catered for than in the past, vegans are not being offered healthy and nutritious foods in schools and hospitals.
- Vouchers for non-dairy milk.** Currently, low-income parents are given vouchers for milk but these cannot be exchanged for non-dairy milks. Evidence suggests that soya is a nutritious and safe alternative to dairy milk and people preferring soya to dairy or those who are lactose intolerant, which includes many from Asian communities, should not be penalised.

<sup>1</sup> Researchers from Oxford University have analysed the health implications of eating a lower-meat diet. Their report, for Friends of the Earth, concluded that such a diet could prevent 45,000 deaths a year in the UK with a saving to the NHS of £1.2 billion.

# THE FUR TRADE

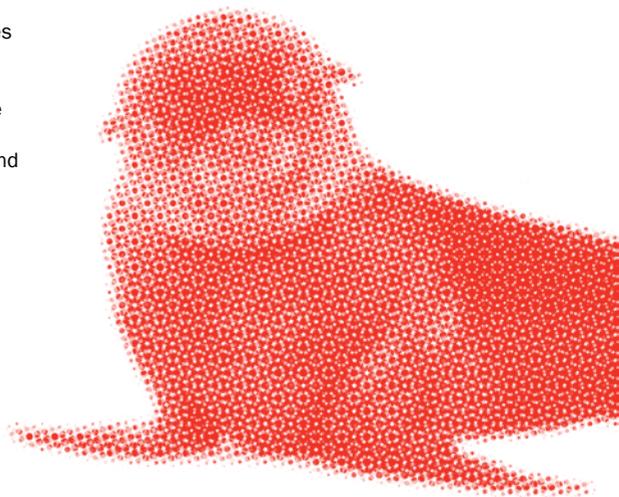
One of Labour's great achievements in animal welfare was to ban fur factory farming and Labour Ministers and Members of the European Parliament were prominent in the successful move to ban the trade in commercial seal products throughout the EU. The UK was also at the forefront of banning the use of the cruel leghold trap (gin traps) – one of the main methods used to catch wild animals for their fur. It is time to end the hypocrisy of allowing the sale of real fur when the methods by which it is produced have been banned.

'We could (when in government) have taken our opportunity to institute mandatory labelling of fur products...'

**Ed Miliband MP**

- **Ban the sale of fur products.** Israel has already discussed a bill to ban the fur trade and the UK, along with the whole of the EU, already bans the trade in seal products (including fur), cat and dog fur and all whale products. The EU also bans the use of the leghold trap. It is now time to close the anomaly in the UK and ban the sale of all real fur items as they are inherently cruel and totally unnecessary.
- **Introduce Fur labelling.** Recent advances in the quality and look of fake fur make it difficult for many consumers to tell the difference between items made with fake fur and those made with real fur. There is evidence that consumers are confused and some may be purchasing items made or

trimmed with real fur believing the fur to be fake. Prior to the EU ban on seal products, the Trade Descriptions (Sealskin Goods) (Information) Order 1980 required that all products made from or containing sealskins carried a label. President Obama has recently signed legislation requiring all real fur on sale in the USA to carry a label. As an interim measure, before the sale of real fur is banned and, as a measure to protect consumers and animals, a labelling order requiring all other real fur on sale to carry a label that clearly states the item is made using real animal fur should be brought in as a matter of urgency. Labour's National Policy Forum voted in favour of labelling real fur in 2008.



# EXPERIMENTS ON ANIMALS

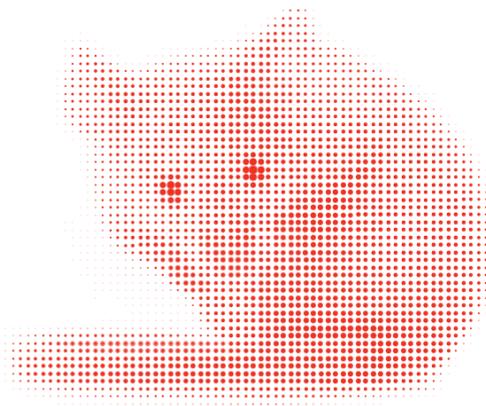
Experiments on animals are not good science and money spent on these procedures becomes unavailable to alternative, more appropriate and effective research. Animals do not naturally contract many human diseases including heart disease, many cancers, HIV and Parkinsons and these conditions are often artificially induced to then study them. Treatments tested in this way are often ineffective in humans. Claims are frequently made, with little justification, that animal testing has or will lead to cures for many human ailments. Such claims help to secure research funding.

- **The Labour Party should have an aspiration to end animal experiments at the earliest time, and deploy every effort into the development of a range of alternative methods.** As an early step, the next government should:
  - Eliminate experiments where no significant medical benefit is realistic and/or suffering is involved
  - Rigorously enforce the new Directive 2010/63/EU and support other EU initiatives to reduce animal suffering, including by eliminating animal experiments for unimportant purposes, and accelerate the validation of non-animal alternatives.
- **Recognition of the medical, social and economic benefits of the use of non-animal methods in regulatory testing and scientific research.** To its great credit the Labour government established the National Centre for the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of Animals in Research which provides research into alternatives to animal testing. The UK should now aim to become a world-leader in modern scientific technologies such as *in vitro*, imaging, microdosing and computer techniques, which replace the use of animals.
- **Commitment to fund long-term, targeted strategies for the replacement of animals in scientific research and regulatory testing.** This should include the development of a strategy for replacement with appropriate stakeholders and experts, commitment to substantial funding and a real commitment to the education, promotion and use of alternatives throughout industry and academia.
- **A ban on the use of all non-human primates in experiments.** Their level of sentience and highly developed social skills makes it both unethical to cause them pain and distress during procedures and extremely difficult to meet their behavioural needs in the laboratory.
- **The Government should produce a strategy for the targeted reduction of the number of animals used in experiments in the UK and the suffering which individual animals are permitted to experience.** There should be an annual review of success against key performance indicators. This process should encompass as a minimum:
  - An immediate review of procedures which involve substantial suffering and/or are not for the direct purpose of human health and safety. Examples of immediate bans that should take place

- include procedures that involve substantial severity, recreational drug testing, food additives and botox testing.
- Every two years, a formal “thematic review” of specific animal tests and areas of animal research should be conducted and timetables set for replacements. The review should be undertaken by all stakeholders, including animal welfare organisations.
  - An express prohibition on duplication of animal experiments and tighter regulation of animal procedures to ensure the use of non-animal alternatives (including a requirement for greater evidence of the absence of alternatives and the relevance of the proposed animal test for human health should a license be granted).
  - A strategy for the review of the usefulness of animal research and the validity of animal research by disease/topic in order that further reductions in animal testing can take place for those procedures which perform below criterion for a) usefulness or b) validity.
- **Commitment to open public debate and more complete and transparent review of animal procedures for the benefit of human health as well as animal welfare.** This will include introduction of a short public consultation period before licences are granted to ensure that the use of non-animal alternatives is fully explored and that licenses are not granted when ethically inappropriate. A commitment is also needed to ensure that the Freedom of Information Act applies to animal experiments in the same way that it applies to all other aspects of public life, so that the experiments can be discussed on an informed basis. Withholding of genuinely confidential information and information which could identify individuals should continue to apply.
  - **A ban on using animals in all forms of weapons testing.** Before coming to power Labour stated: “It is Labour policy to forbid the use of animals in the testing and development of weapons.” Since then the use of animals in warfare research has tripled. The ban should be extended to include the use of animals in any tests related to biological or chemical weapons.

‘The question is not, can they reason, nor can they talk but rather, can they suffer?’

**Jeremy Bentham,**  
**19th century philosopher**



# COMPANION ANIMALS, EDUCATION AND THE PET TRADE

- **Animal cruelty and human violence – a proven link.** It is now recognised that there is a strong connection linking animal abuse and violence towards people. Cruelty to animals needs to be taken more seriously. As well as often being a crime in itself, it can be an indication of other violence whether past, present, or future. [A multi-departmental governmental committee is needed to look at this important issue.](#)
- **Safe houses for pets.** Working with other relevant agencies, including local authorities and animal welfare organizations, the government should provide secure facilities for pets owned by people or families requiring temporary accommodation in safe housing. Women, in particular, are all too frequently the victims of domestic violence. Sometimes the victims will not seek refuge for fear of leaving the family pet behind where it may be abused or even killed. Safe houses are generally not in a position to take animals in and so a separate infrastructure is required.
- **Children should receive lessons on animal welfare** and be encouraged to show kindness towards animals, building on the existing work of education officers of animal welfare charities.
- **Compulsory microchipping for all dogs in the UK.** This would mean that stray dogs could more easily be returned to their owners – cutting the number of dogs that are put down. The Control of Dogs Order 1992 requires that owners ensure that their dogs wear a collar and tag when in public. The Order could easily be amended to make microchipping a requirement. Most dog wardens already have microchip readers.
- **Dangerous dogs – ‘deed not breed’.** Dog attacks are not the result of the dogs’ breed but by the way it has been bred, its upbringing, environment and training. Owners must be responsible for the dogs in their care and sensible precautions should be taken when children are around dogs. An effective control system is needed – the equivalent of an ASBO – that would impose rigorous and compulsory conditions (e.g. attending dog training classes) on owners whose dogs show unwarranted or potential aggression *whatever their breed.*
- **A Positive List of species that make suitable pets.** Many species traded as exotic pets are wholly unsuited to a captive life in close proximity to people. Restricting the types of species kept as pets by way of a ‘positive list’ or approved list of suitable species would significantly improve animal welfare, species conservation, and public and animal health. Any species commonly wild caught for the pet trade should not be imported into the UK, including primates and other mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish.
- **Improved standards in pet shops.** Essential changes are needed to improve animal welfare in pet shops and to raise standards of local authority enforcement. New requirements such as regular, qualified local authority inspections; 24-hour supervision of animals in pet shops; records kept by pet shop managers of veterinary treatment and post-mortem examinations and improved fire safety should all be at the pet shop manager’s expense and/or reflected in the licence fee.
- **Breeders to take responsibility for the animals they sell.** Anyone selling, breeding or dealing in ‘pet’ animals should be levied a fixed proportion of their income to support sanctuaries. Breeders, pet shops and farms

do not routinely conduct home checks and, as a result, many animals are sold to inappropriate homes and end up dumped at sanctuaries. Sanctuaries are forced to rely on donations. Breeders should have to make financial provision for the animals they create.

- **Review of dog breeding legislation and ban on sale of dogs in pet shops.** The battery farming of dogs to supply the pet trade is a scandal that has been going on for years. Unscrupulous breeders often keep dogs in crowded, filthy and poorly lit conditions.

Their pups are usually not vaccinated or treated for worms and often taken away from their mothers too early. These puppies are then sold via the internet or newspaper adverts and purchasers will be unaware of the conditions in which they were bred. All puppies should be microchipped (see above) prior to sale and entered on an appropriate database. All advertisements for puppies should, by law, include the breeder's registration or license number.

---

# ENFORCEMENT AND POLICY

It is important to have proper laws and a system for regulation but pointless if the laws are not policed and regulations are not enforced. This requires that police forces and local authorities give animal welfare issues the appropriate priority and that sufficient resources are available.

- Animal Welfare Liaison Officers in every police force. Proper enforcement of animal welfare legislation is crucial and with the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act this issue becomes even more important. Police forces already have wildlife liaison officers with specialist knowledge of wildlife legislation and the government should ensure that there are equivalent officers in every police force covering animal welfare law.
- Local Authorities and Animal Welfare Charters. Within local authorities we should take every opportunity to ensure that animal welfare concerns are addressed at a local level. Existing Dog Wardens should become Animal Welfare Wardens with responsibility to administer and enforce the Animal Welfare Act. Many authorities have already adopted Animal Welfare Charters. The adoption of a charter should be compulsory.
- An effective ban on the sale of pets at markets. The sale of pets in markets and public places was outlawed in 1983 by an amendment to Section 2 of the Pet Animals Act 1951. The law banning pet fairs was clarified by the findings of a Judicial Review in 2006, but these events continue masquerading as animal shows at which deals take place and animals are sold.
- Due consideration of Animal Welfare when considering new policy and legislation. Animal sentience and its implications for policy makers in the EU is already established by the Lisbon Treaty – see box at page 3. A similar provision should be made law for both national and local legislators.

# ANIMAL STATISTICS IN THE UK

These vast numbers underline our duty of care towards the animals we share our lives with.

In 2009, the number of farm animals slaughtered were: **2,595,000 cattle, 15,977,000 sheep, 8,954,000 pigs, 866 million poultry** (which includes 15 million turkeys and 14 million ducks and geese).<sup>2</sup>

**30 million laying hens produce 8,964 million eggs** each year in the UK – an average of 297 eggs/hen. In addition, as an unwanted by-product of egg production, **30 million day-old male chicks** are killed – mostly by being macerated.

**13,208,000 litres of milk are produced each year by 1,864,000 dairy cows** (7,084 litres from each cow).

UK fishing vessels landed **581 thousand tonnes** of sea fish (including shellfish) in 2009.

**35 million pheasants and 5 million partridges** are bred every year in the UK and released for shooting. 18 million of these are shot and retrieved – the remainder are run over, starve, eaten by predators, etc.<sup>3</sup>

More than **32 million salmon and 7.5 million rainbow trout** were bred and killed in UK fish farms in 2009.

More than **3.6 million** scientific procedures were carried out on animals in 2009<sup>4</sup>. (One procedure generally means one animal).

Almost 1 in 2 UK households have pets (excluding fish). There are **24 million**<sup>5</sup> pet animals in the UK.

In 2009 the UK imported **322,476 mink and fox skins**.

**295,607** reptiles (mostly wild caught) were imported into the UK by the pet trade in 2009<sup>6</sup>.

There are more than a million horses in the UK. **420** racehorses die each year at UK racecourses.

In 2009 more than **107,000 dogs** were collected as strays by local authorities – only 42% were successfully reunited with owners.<sup>7</sup>

## SUMMARY

	UK population	Number slaughtered each year in UK
Sheep	32,038,000	15,977,000
Pigs	4,724,000	8,954,000
Cattle	10,025,000	2,595,000
Poultry	159,288,000	866,000,000
Day-old male chicks		30,000,000
Pheasants and partridges	40,000,000	18,000,000
Farmed salmon and trout		39,720,000
Pets	24,000,000	
Animals in laboratories		3,600,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>270,075,000</b>	<b>981,246,000</b>
<b>IN ADDITION</b>		
Sea fish		581,000 tonnes caught
Eggs		8,964,000,000 produced
Milk		13,208,000 litres
Mink and fox skins		322,476 imported

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/general/auk/latest/excel/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Animal Aid

<sup>4</sup> Home office. Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, 27 July 2010

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.pfma.org.uk/overall/pet-population-figures-.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Animal Protection Agency

<sup>7</sup> Dogs Trust

'The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.'

**Gandhi**

'Killing animals for sport, for pleasure, for adventures and for hides and furs is a phenomenon which is at once disgusting and distressing. There is no justification in indulging in such acts of brutality.'

**Dalai Lama**

'How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.'

**Anne Frank**

'...to destroy living and conscious beings merely for luxury and pleasure is truly barbarous and unjust.'

**Porphyry, AD232, Tyre, Phoenicia.**



[www.labouranimalwelfaresociety.org.uk](http://www.labouranimalwelfaresociety.org.uk)

[info@labouranimalwelfaresociety.org.uk](mailto:info@labouranimalwelfaresociety.org.uk)

Published by Labour Animal Welfare Society,  
13 Camborne Court, Camborne Road, Walsall WS5 3JE

Design and print courtesy of the BUAV