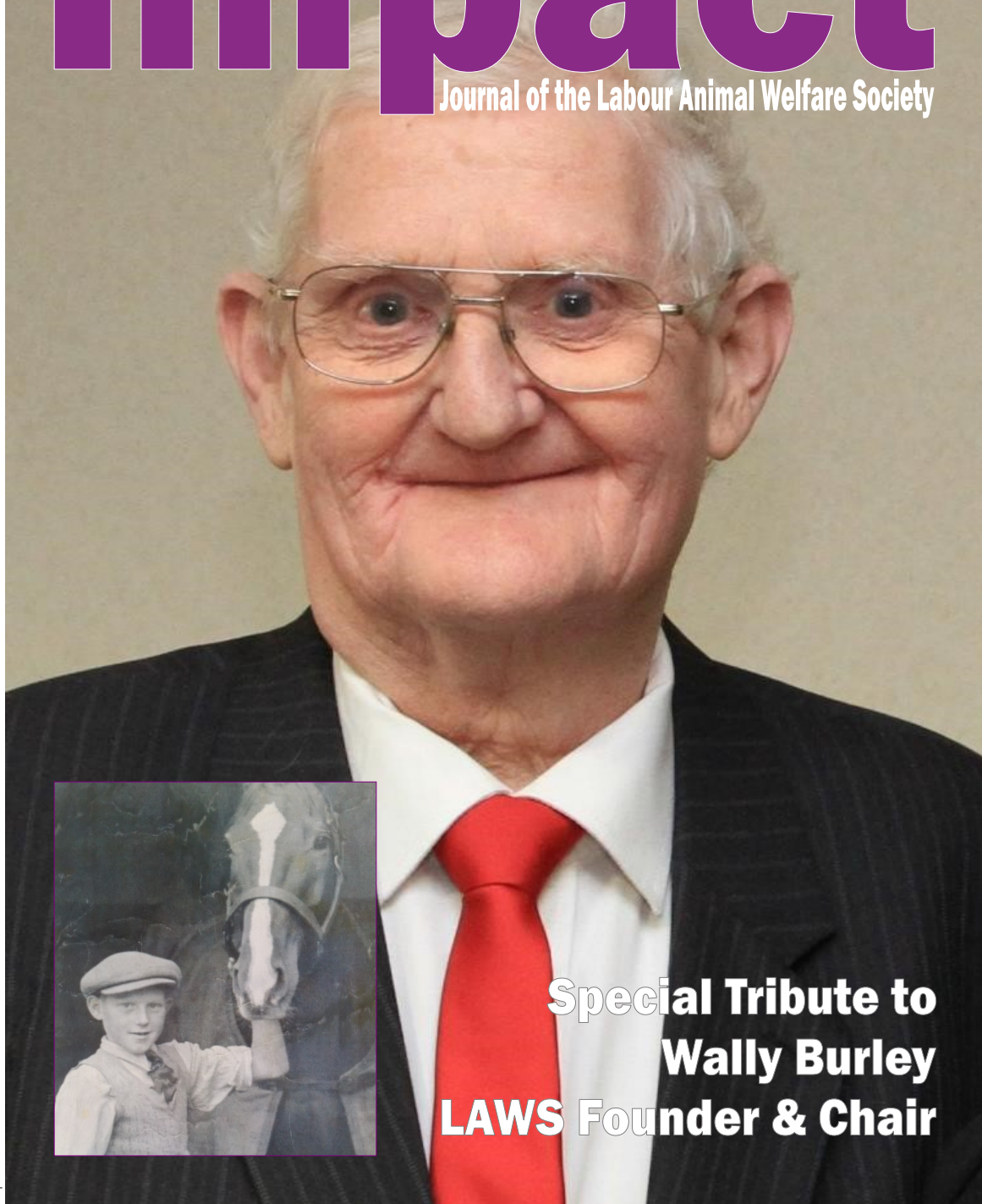


Impact

Journal of the Labour Animal Welfare Society



**Special Tribute to
Wally Burley
LAWS Founder & Chair**

Future Policy

By Dr Nick Palmer, Former Labour MP

Older members will recall the huge success of the 1997 animal welfare programme New Life for Animals, which attracted support far beyond traditional Labour voters and led to an end to fur farming in Britain, significant improvements in the protection of farm animals, the ban on using animals to test cosmetics, the Animal Welfare Act and the Hunting Act.

Since then, animal welfare has only featured marginally in Labour programmes, and indeed in 2010 it was not mentioned at all. This is now changing. Jeremy Corbyn MP and the then Shadow Secretary of State for DEFRA, Kerry McCarthy MP, commissioned Nick Palmer and Michelle Thew to write a proposal for a substantial policy draft which would command widespread public support and would be a major step forward for animals. Nick is the former Labour MP for

Broxtowe and was for many years on the LAWS NEC; Michelle is the former Labour candidate for Bexhill and Battle and Chief Exec of Cruelty Free International.

Michelle and Nick consulted a wide range of animal welfare and protection organisations and produced a 16-page draft, including features such as:

Defending and strengthening the Hunting Act

Ending the badger cull

An end to the puppy and kitten farm trade

Compulsory CCTV in slaughterhouses

Assistance for elderly people with companion animals when they go into care

End cruel practices on shooting estates, intensive rearing of "game" birds

Guaranteeing funding for the police Wildlife Crime Units

Increase dog-fighting penalty

Quadrupling shotgun licence fees and tighten ownership

End "encouragement" use of whip in horseracing

Phasing out "severe" animal experiments and setting a reducing cap on numbers

The consultation was announced by the current Shadow Secretary of State Rachael Maskell in her Conference speech and received a very warm welcome at the LAWS fringe meeting, where it was formally launched. The draft also has strong support from Sarah Champion, who has been responsible for animal experiments in the Home Office.

The document will soon be on the LAWS website. We'd like to encourage members to send support and any comments or suggestions they have to:

animallabour@aol.com

Members are also asked to seek endorsements from CLPs, Labour MPs and councillors. This is the biggest initiative in animal welfare from a political party for many years, and we are excited to be in the driving seat!

Editorial

By Maria Micallef (Wally's daughter)



On 27th August 2016, the Chair and founder of the Labour Animal Welfare Society Wally Burley passed away after a long time in hospital. My wonderful dad founded LAWS in 1992, he was an active labour loyalist who joined the Labour Party when he turned 15 who had a passion for animal welfare. A vegetarian for over 50 years and a vegan for the last 5 years he founded LAWS to combine his two passions: animal welfare and the Labour Party. My dad was a kind, generous, inspiring, principled person with who there was no grey area – you always knew exactly where you stood and he would never hold back from telling you exactly what he thought. He was proud of his commitment to animal welfare and the Labour party, his dedication to the movement was recognised in 2014 when he received an MBE in acknowledgement of his lifelong work.

My wonderful dad was fair to everyone and gave everyone a chance, he was a man without greed, prejudice or hate – for him it was simple, treat everyone fairly and with respect and you would get the same in return. He also had this attitude towards animals and was a fervent believer that the behaviour of animals stemmed from how they were treated.

My dad was a humble man who never sought the limelight and was happy to work tirelessly behind the scenes to improve the lives of all both animal and human. He had an instrumental role in the campaign to ban fox hunting and worked closely with Mike Foster and others at this time. Dad will be greatly missed by so many for his kind nature and unwavering commitment to the labour movement and animal welfare but the work of LAWS will continue as still so many things need to be done to improve the lives of animals and protect them. Dad would want the fight for animals to continue and would expect LAWS to be at the centre of this fight.

On behalf of my mum, myself and the rest of the family, thank you to so many people for their kind words, which have been a great comfort at this difficult time.

Maria

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Time to end Trophy Hunting

By Kevin Flack, IFAW



In recent years great concern has been expressed about trophy hunting especially in regard to lions, polar bears and elephants. In 2015 when Cecil the lion was shot as a trophy, it caused widespread global concern and highlighted that trophy hunting for endangered or

threatened species still continues today, with little or no management of this process.

From an animal welfare point of view trophy hunting raises serious concerns as the killing of the animals is often inhumane (instant deaths are rare, especially if bow and arrows are used as

weapons), some animals may not be killed but end up wounded and suffering a great deal (Cecil took 40 hours to die after he was shot), and the welfare of the non-targeted animals that witnessed the kill or who depend biologically or socially on the animals killed may be greatly compromised.

- Labour Animal Welfare Society -

Furthermore, the purported economic benefits from the perceived value of trophy hunts to local communities are often greatly exaggerated, and may in fact deprive local communities of alternative economic revenues (such as eco-tourism) that could be more lucrative in the long term.

IFAW believes that trophy hunting has little conservation value, often leads to increased and often unsustainable hunting of the target species, leading to population decline and may even help to drive a black market in wildlife trophies with re-export permits. The scale of the trade is under reported and leaves individual countries to assess the trade to see if it is sustainable, which is not sufficient to monitor the impacts on an entire population. It does not consider the value of other forms of conservation initiatives, like eco-tourism, which has a far greater value to country economies

and for conservation as a whole.

Key information

- The illegal wildlife trade globally is estimated to be worth nearly £14 billion a year.
- The purported economic benefits from the perceived value of trophy hunts to local communities are often greatly exaggerated.
- Trophy hunting may in fact deprive local communities of alternative economic revenues, such as eco-tourism, that could be more lucrative in the long term.
- Trophy hunting is inhumane and may seriously compromise the animal welfare of both targeted and non-targeted animals. Cecil took 40 hours to die after he was shot.
- The majority of trophy hunters are from developed countries such as the United States or Western Europe.

Trophy hunters frequently target the

genetic traits of individuals that make them the most successful in the wild, thereby negatively affecting the reproductive success of future generations.

In conclusion

Long term and truly ecologically sustainable conservation depends on the protection of species from human exploitation and loss of habitat. Claims of population or species conservation, funding community development, as a secondary source of meat, or combatting poverty are not valid justifications for trophy hunting and are contributing to population distortion and decline in some cases. We would also like to see the EU remove the personal household exemption clause from the trophy hunting regulations.

To find out more, please go to: www.ifaw.org

Labour Conference

By Mark Glover, LAWS NEC

With a heavy heart but in the full knowledge that it was what Wally would have wanted. LAWS had a stall in the exhibition area of this year's Labour Party Conference and also staged its, now famous, karaoke on the Monday evening.

A book of condolences attracted many deep, heartfelt and poignant messages from visitors to the stand, including from many of Wally's long term friends and colleagues who included Hillary Benn MP.

The stand proved to be popular among delegates and many new people – including a significant number of young visitors – signed up to receive more information about LAWS.

The karaoke event proved to be one of the best ever and included a fitting tribute and celebration of Wally. Wally loved the annual



karaoke, which he instigated and which, thanks to his commitment to it, has become a conference favourite. This year 2014 winner of the Voice Jermain Jackman attended and led the way in how to sing! There was a fantastic

range of participants and songs. Thanks to all for making the event a success.

Monday evening's fringe and members LAWS meeting was very well attended and saw the launch of the Labour Party's proposal for a 'Comprehensive animal



protection reform' plan. Shadow environment Minister Rachael Maskell MP spoke at the event, introducing the document which is now out for consultation and comment. Rachael gave a robust presentation demonstrating a serious commitment to animal welfare policy.

Her commitment to the cause was reflected in her speech to the conference in which she said: 'Animal welfare is at the heart of what we all care about, whether

our wildlife, domestically, commercially or internationally, protecting endangered species.' Rachael also re-affirmed Labour's commitment to ending the badger cull referring to badgers as 'another community that needs Labour' and stating that 'When every shred of evidence says bovine TB will be beaten with better testing, vaccination, better biosecurity and animal husbandry.....Labour

will end the badger cull and prioritise ending bovine TB.'

Please contact Mark if you would like to receive a copy of the Labour draft policy document.

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IT'S NOT THE
FOXES
WHO ARE
SLY

10 YEARS SINCE
THE BAN, YET FOXES ARE
STILL BEING HUNTED.
IT'S TIME TO STRENGTHEN
THE HUNTING ACT.

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