



WINNING TOGETHER

HOW BOLD ANIMAL WELFARE POLICIES
CAN HELP LABOUR CONNECT WITH
VOTERS

2022

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Labour's socialist societies are a hugely important part of the Labour Party family and the Labour Animal Welfare Society play a crucial role in campaigning on the rights of animals and promoting animal welfare within our party. We are the Party of the hunting ban and the Animal Welfare Act and that wouldn't be the case without you.

I was proud to support Labour's animal welfare manifesto, particularly the commitment to introduce a powerful animal welfare commissioner looking after the interests of animals at the heart of Government.

I also support enshrining the principle of animal sentience into UK law, and my team pushed hard on this important issue during the passage of Brexit legislation. The fact that the Tories used their MPs in Parliament to reject the amendment to recognise animal sentience shows where their priorities really lie. The Tories have overseen the inhumane badger cull and turned a blind eye to those circumventing the Hunting Act. That's why I am particularly concerned that the protection of animal welfare will be ignored in this government's pursuit of trade deals.

I would be delighted to have the support of the Labour Animal Welfare Society, and if elected leader I would look forward to working closely with you, drawing on the expertise and experience of the Labour Animal Welfare Society to keep developing this vital agenda.



SIR KEIR STARMER MP

Statement provided to the Labour Animal Welfare Society during the Labour Leadership Election, 2020

FOREWORD

BARONESS SUE HAYMAN



The Labour Party has always placed the welfare of animals high on its policy agenda. It was a Labour government that brought forward the landmark Hunting Act and legislation to protect domestic animals with the Animal Welfare Act.

We know that animal welfare is important to a huge number of people in the UK and that during election time a party's position can have a great impact. Look at what happened when Theresa May said she would introduce a vote to bring back hunting with dogs. Conservative voters contacted me to say they could no longer vote Tory if that was their policy.

Recent debates in Parliament on animal welfare include banning cages for farmed animals, ending the inhumane and ineffective badger cull, and suspending trade agreements with the Faroe Islands until the dolphin and whale hunts end.

But there has been no action taken. The Tories talk about animal welfare, carry out numerous consultations, make constant promises, yet deliver very little. Promises to ban fur imports and foie gras have disappeared into the long grass and we cannot trust them to keep the hunting ban, let alone bring in new legislation to strengthen it and close the existing loopholes.

They continue with the badger cull and negotiate trade deals that raise serious questions over animal welfare standards. Most people do not want our standards to be undermined by lower welfare imports. They also believe Parliament should be able to debate, amend and vote on trade deals.

When I consulted on animal welfare policy and then wrote Labour's Manifesto for Animal Welfare for the 2019 General Election, I received a huge response. Most was overwhelmingly positive and once again demonstrated the importance of good animal welfare policy, with many people saying that they would vote Labour for the first time if we were to bring these policies forward.

And this was not just from those living in cities. It is just as important for people living in rural areas - our towns and villages. This report by LAWS explores recent polling which confirms this - most of us really care about animals, whether domestic, farmed or wild, wherever we live.

Animal welfare policy must be put on a serious and credible footing, driven by science and best practice and working with communities, farmers and businesses. We need to continually work to drive up standards in line with the most recent advances and understanding so that no animal is made to suffer unnecessary pain and degradation.

We are in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, with inflation spiralling and energy bills out of control. But this does not mean that we should stop pushing for better animal welfare.

We cannot allow animals to become the innocent victims of our economic crisis. Instead, we need action to strengthen animal welfare law, promote the highest level of care for domestic animals, improve welfare for animals used in sport and research, and increase efforts to protect wild and marine animals.

HOW TO WIN TOGETHER

LABOUR ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY



ANIMAL WELFARE POLICIES MATTER TO VOTERS.

Political parties ignore this fact at their peril.

Cruelty to animals is wrong, just as cruelty to humans is wrong. Causing unnecessary suffering to animals deliberately or through neglect for whatever reason should be prevented whether in the wild, in the home or on farms. It is right that we have laws and regulations to stop cruelty and that those who break these laws are treated as criminals.

This report examines the many opinion polls that have been commissioned in recent years, looking at animal welfare issues along with the political affiliations of those taking part.

The polling evidence is clear. Animal welfare policies are popular with the electorate and, at a practical level, they often cost nothing. The Countryside Alliance document, 'The Elephant in the Countryside, Labour's Rural Problem' (2020) provides more evidence of this fact, despite its clumsy attempt to show the opposite (see page 13 of this report).

No election will ever be won on animal welfare policies alone – nor should it be – but by extending a sense of social justice to animals, the Labour Party would distinguish itself from others and would secure the votes of those who share that same value. It would also be doing something because – quite simply - it is the right thing to do.

Labour and Labour Party members have a long and proud tradition of supporting and improving the welfare of animals. As an example, amongst the supporters of the Humanitarian League (1893-1919) whose aims included the banning of all hunting for sport were Keir Hardie, Thomas Hardy, George Bernard Shaw and Christabel Pankhurst.

As part of Labour's successful election campaign in 1997, the Party published a policy document 'New Life For Animals', containing a comprehensive set of pledges across the spectrum of animal welfare concerns.

The document stated: 'We share our planet with a wide range of creatures. Labour believes it is our responsibility to treat them humanely'. A foreword signed by Tony Blair and Elliot Morley added: 'Labour has consistently shown itself as the only party to trust on issues of animal welfare. We are the only party to have a spokesperson on animal welfare, and want to see policies to improve animal welfare co-ordinated in government. While the Conservatives have blocked measures to improve animal welfare and the Liberal Democrats say one thing and do another, the Labour Party has fought for animal welfare at every available opportunity. Labour is the only party with carefully researched policies and the political will to carry them out.'

The 'New Life For Animals' policy document was widely distributed in advance of the election and proved popular with voters. All of the policy pledges were implemented by Labour when in government following the election.



Labour's 1997 animal welfare manifesto, *New Life For Animals*, was strongly supported by the then leadership of the party.

After victory in the 1997 election, the Labour government implemented a wide range of policies that improved animal welfare.

At the same time, the 1997 Conservative Party manifesto contained just 83 words on the subject of animal welfare, ignoring the pressing issues in the UK, such as hunting with hounds and simply called for more action in the EU.

While in office, Labour had a good track record. As well as the hunting ban, Labour brought in a new Animal Welfare Act, banned fur factory farming, driftnet fishing (which helps protect dolphins and sea birds) and the testing of cosmetics, toiletries, alcohol and tobacco on animals. Labour also refused to license any testing on great apes (such as chimpanzees) and established the National Centre for the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of Animals in Research which provides research into alternatives to animal testing. More recently, the Labour Government and Labour MEPs worked to secure an EU-wide ban on the commercial trade in seal products.

Hunting with hounds, commercial bird shoots and the culling of badgers are issues that have drawn clear lines between Labour and the Conservatives and which still command widespread public support. Labour banned hunting with hounds but, incredibly, repealing the Hunting Act always seems to be on the Tories' agenda and hunts have been active all the while in this hope.

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 – up 3% from 2001. The Labour Party was clearly identified as the party with the best policies on animal welfare (24% thought so compared to 9% for the Tories and 8% for the LibDems).

In July 2011 an ORB poll confirmed that 'animal welfare is something that most people say is important when deciding which political party to support and for one in six (16%) it is "very important".'

Early Day Motions provide further evidence for the commitment of the parties to animal welfare. EDM 193 tabled on 14 June 2021 called for a ban on the import and sale of real animal fur – something that commands massive public support. Of the 119 signatories only 4 were Conservative and one of those (Christian Wakeford MP) subsequently crossed the floor of the House to join Labour.

THE CONSERVATIVE RECORD IS THERE FOR ALL TO SEE

One of the defining issues for political parties when it comes to animal welfare is hunting with hounds. The fact is the Tories cannot be trusted on the subject. The 2019 manifesto pledged to 'make no changes to the Hunting Act', but Liz Truss MP, when asked during her leadership contest, did not deny she would support axing the ban. Commenting at the time, Jim McMahon MP, Shadow Environment Secretary, said: 'The Hunting Act was a landmark moment in the fight against animal cruelty and is one of Labour's important achievements in government,' adding: 'Labour is the party of animal welfare and in government we will go further to protect animal welfare by putting an end to trail hunting'. During another hustings meeting Liz Truss MP refused to open the 'Pandora's Box' of hunting with hounds but added, 'I'm very, very supportive of country sports'. Liz Truss MP is already known for some serious u-turns so her current stance on hunting with hounds may be taken with a pinch of salt.

The Conservative government has already abandoned promises on animal welfare. A pledge to ban imports of foie gras and fur has been kicked into the long grass, seemingly after a cabinet revolt involving, amongst others, Jacob Rees-Mogg MP.

The Animals Abroad Bill has also been abandoned. This bill was designed to tackle many cruel animal practices including trophy hunting and tourist related wildlife abuse by banning the domestic sale and advertising of cruel experiences overseas such as elephant rides.

The sacking of Lord Zac Goldsmith as environment minister, with responsibility for domestic animal welfare, by Liz Truss MP makes clear the Conservatives' direction of travel.

The record of the Tory government on animal welfare is there to be attacked: a legacy of broken promises and failure to act. They have even betrayed their own core vote in rural communities by signing up to post-Brexit trade deals that have a negative impact on British farming and undermine animal welfare. The new Prime Minister has been instrumental in many of these trade agreements.

Tory trade deals that undermine animal welfare and disadvantage British farmers simultaneously is an open goal for Labour, and another example of how a commitment to animal welfare can connect to prospective new voters, including in rural constituencies.

RURAL COMMUNITIES MATTER

The main issues of concern to rural voters include healthcare, housing, transport and support for farming post-Brexit. But a significant number of voters care greatly about animal welfare issues as well. Our analysis in this report shows clearly that animal welfare is important to rural voters, contrary to claims made by the likes of the Countryside Alliance in their lobbying of the Labour Party. Interestingly and importantly, the data shows that residents in rural areas value animal welfare at least as highly as those in urban areas.

As the Fabian Policy Report 'Labour Country' says: 'Often the interests of rural communities and animal welfare go hand in hand'. It goes on to suggest some animal welfare policy ideas that would resonate with rural concerns. For example :

- Enforce by-laws to keep dogs on leads near sheep farms to counter sheep worrying and fatal attacks
- Improve transparency and standards in abattoirs
- Oppose trade deals that diminish animal welfare standards and hurt UK farmers
- Ban Chinese lanterns and dangerous forms of plastic which can hurt pets, wild animals and livestock

THE WAY FORWARD: LABOUR AS THE PARTY OF ANIMAL WELFARE

In 2019, Sue Hayman MP (now Baroness Hayman) produced a comprehensive animal welfare manifesto that (like in 1997) proved very popular with those who saw it, with huge numbers engaging with the consultation process. However, the party must be smarter and more strategically adept at including animal welfare policies in its electoral offer to the country.

Labour cannot afford to repeat the failures raised by Maria Eagle MP in her analysis of the 2015 election defeat (Labour's Rural Problem – Winning Again in Coast and Country). Maria referred to the poor distribution to CLPs and candidates of policy documents and the fact that late awareness of them held back their potential to help win votes.

Maria referred to the three main policy documents published for the 2015 election which included 'Labour Protecting Animals'. Providing an example of their lack of awareness amongst party members and activists, the report quoted one member from Richmond (Yorks) CLP: 'only two people were aware of these documents. No one had read (them)'

Maria also noted that the Protecting Animals document received by far the most relative praise with the pledge to end the badger cull being 'very popular in Stroud with Labour Party activists and the many animal rights groups that operate in the area.' This acclaim was tempered by the notion that it was least relevant to the politics of rural communities. However, the polling evidence shown in this report clearly shows this not to be the case with rural voters at least as interested in animal welfare policies as those in urban constituencies.

A strong set of animal welfare policies published and distributed early to CLPs would be an electoral asset and help to draw clear lines between Labour and the other political parties.

Mahatma Gandhi said "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated". The same thought can be applied to political parties.

This report establishes that animal protection matters to voters. A strong policy platform on animal welfare can help Labour electorally.

In 1997, Labour produced a radical animal welfare manifesto that was strongly supported by the Leader Tony Blair MP. Its policies were subsequently implemented under the Labour government after the election victory. **It is by drawing from all parts of its proud tradition that Labour wins elections, and concern for animal welfare is a core part of that tradition.**

Both Keir Starmer MP and Angela Rayner MP pledged strong support for animal welfare during the 2020 leadership elections (see front and back inside covers). The current leadership of the party should follow the spirit of 1997 by embracing bold policies on animal welfare. As the analysis by Heather Pickett shows, this helps Labour connect with voters in key areas. **Animal welfare is a proud part of the Labour movement: by working and winning together, Labour can attract voters, win elections and improve the lives of animals.**

REVIEW OF RECENT POLLING ON ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES IN THE UK

WITH A FOCUS ON VOTER ATTITUDES IN
LABOUR TARGET SEATS

Analysis for the Labour Animal Welfare Society

by Heather Pickett BSc (Hons.) MSc

September 2022

Introduction

The Labour Party has long been seen as the party of animal welfare, with landmark pieces of legislation, including the Hunting Act and the Animal Welfare Act, being introduced under a Labour government.

In its 2020 report, *The Elephant in the Countryside*, the Countryside Alliance argues that animal welfare is not an important issue for rural voters and that the Labour Party is failing to win rural seats because it is placing too much focus on animal welfare issues.[1]

In this analysis, I will examine the findings of recent polls covering attitudes to a range of animal welfare issues in the UK, including the polling that the Countryside Alliance has used as the basis for its assertions. I will focus on attitudes to animal welfare among Labour voters and among people living in rural areas, and specifically on attitudes of people living in Labour target seats, including rural target seats.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The British public cares deeply about animal welfare

Key findings of recent polls (carried out since 2018) on a range of animal welfare issues suggest that the British public cares deeply about animal welfare, with seven in ten people describing themselves as an animal lover.

On issues affecting wildlife, a majority supports the ban on hunting with dogs, opposes the badger cull, supports bans on the shooting of birds for sport and the use of snares, and wants to see an end to imports of animal fur and wildlife hunting trophies.

On companion animals and animals used in sport, a majority support strengthening the regulation of welfare standards in the pet trade, banning the use of aversive training devices for pets, and banning the use of the whip in horse racing. On laboratory animals, three quarters want more work to be done to find alternatives to using animals in research.

On issues affecting farmed animals and food choices, two thirds support a ban on farrowing crates for sows and a similar proportion state that they consider animal welfare standards in their dietary choices. Almost a quarter of British adults state that they avoid or limit consumption of animal products.

UK consumers generally have limited knowledge of specific farming practices but a majority would like more information on the label about how the animal was reared and slaughtered, believes the UK has generally high farm animal welfare standards, does not want those standards to be undermined by lower welfare imports, and believes Parliament should be able to debate, amend and vote on trade deals.

In general, the polls suggest that concern for animal welfare issues is higher among women than men and, often, higher among older adults.

However, there are some exceptions. For example, younger adults are more likely to follow a diet that eliminates or restricts intake of animal products. In most cases, poll results are broadly similar for ABC1 vs. C2DE social groupings but, again, there are some exceptions.

Animal welfare is an important issue for voters, especially Labour voters

Labour voters generally show higher levels of concern for animal welfare issues than Conservative voters. Concern for animal welfare is also generally high among Liberal Democrat voters and (where data are available) undecided voters.

Compared with Conservative voters, a higher proportion of Labour voters support the introduction of new legislation and strengthening of existing legislation to improve animal welfare and protect animals, nature and wildlife. There are some issues, for example the badger cull, where opposition is about the same across the political spectrum.

Labour voters express a higher level of support for maintaining and strengthening the ban on hunting with dogs. Eight in ten Labour voters indicate that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate or political party that wanted to make fox hunting legal again. This sentiment is higher among younger voters.

Animal welfare is an important issue for voters in Labour target seats, including rural target seats

Animal welfare is at least as important to people living in rural areas as to those living in urban areas, including on rural issues such as the hunting ban and badger cull. A substantial majority of those polled in Labour target constituencies, including rural target constituencies, would like to see the Government pass more laws to improve animal welfare and protect animals from cruelty.

2. KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT POLLS

Key findings from recent polls (carried out since 2018) on a range of animal welfare issues are summarised in Table 2.1. The findings suggest that the British public cares deeply about animal welfare. Seven in ten people (71%) describe themselves as an animal lover. [2]

On issues affecting wildlife, eight in ten (80%) support the ban on hunting with dogs [3] and a majority opposes the badger cull (53% oppose, 15% support). [4] Around three quarters support bans on the shooting of birds for sport [5] and the use of snares [6,7]. A majority wants to see an end to imports of animal fur (73%) [8] and wildlife hunting trophies (81%) [9].

On companion animals and animals used in sport, a majority supports strengthening the regulation of welfare standards in the pet trade (84%), [6] banning the use of aversive training devices for pets (72%) [6] and banning the use of the whip in horse racing (68%) [10]. On laboratory animals, three quarters (75%) [11] want more work to be done into finding alternatives to using animals in scientific research.

On issues affecting farmed animals and food choices, two thirds (67%) support a ban on farrowing crates for sows [6] and a similar proportion (66%) state that they consider animal welfare standards in their dietary choices [2]. Almost a quarter of British adults state that they limit consumption of animal products: 3% vegan (no animal products), 6% vegetarian (no meat or fish), 2% pescatarian (fish but no meat), and 13% flexitarian (occasional meat/fish). [12]

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) conducts a biannual survey of consumers' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours relating to food issues: Food and You 2.[13] Wave 4 of the survey was conducted between 18th October 2021 and 10th January 2022 and involved a total of 5796 adults from 4026 households across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Respondents were asked to indicate if they had concerns about a number of food-related issues, from a list of options. Animal welfare ranked in the top three concerns, cited by 56% of respondents (after food waste at 63% and the amount of sugar in food at 59%). When asked to indicate the extent to which they were concerned about various food-related issues, animal welfare was the issue most likely to cause a high level of concern (35%), followed by the affordability of food (32%) and the safety and hygiene of imported food (31%).

More than a quarter (28%) of respondents reported that they had reduced their intake of meat, poultry or fish in the past 12 months, while 24% indicated that they were willing to reduce their consumption of meat, poultry or fish over the following 12 months. Around a quarter (24%-28%) of those consuming less processed meat, red meat or poultry over the past 12 months cited animal welfare as a reason for reducing their consumption, while more than a third (36%) of those eating less fish over the previous 12 months gave animal welfare as a reason. Around a third of respondents (32%) report that they currently eat meat alternatives. The most common reasons cited for eating meat alternatives were environment or sustainability (41%), animal welfare (35%) and health (35%). Other surveys have reported similar or higher levels of commitment to cutting consumption of animal products (Table 2.1). [2, 14]

The British public has limited knowledge of specific UK farming practices. For example, only four in ten (40%) are aware that calves are commonly separated from dairy cows 24-48 hours after birth, a quarter (25%) are aware that poultry are often beak-trimmed, and just one in seven (14%) is aware that carbon dioxide is commonly used during animal slaughter. [12] Several polls indicate that a majority of the British public wants animal products to be labelled with information about how the animal was reared (Table 2.1). [12, 15, 16]

Although they may have limited knowledge of the specifics, more than three quarters (78%) believe the UK has generally high or very high animal welfare standards on farms. [12] As the UK pursues trade deals with other countries, there is a risk that progress on animal welfare in the UK could be undermined by imports of animal products that do not meet UK production standards, potentially threatening the livelihoods of UK farmers who are obliged to carry the costs of meeting domestic standards.

A majority thinks the UK should not allow imports of food produced to lower standards than those in the UK, including chlorine-washed chicken (80%), hormone-fed chicken (80%), dairy products treated with antibiotics (75%), and meat products without origin labelling (56%) in one survey, [17] and hormone-treated beef (84%), chicken produced to lower standards (82%) and food produced to lower standards (83%) in another survey [18] (see Table 3.1 and Figure 4.2 for more on these surveys).

More than three quarters of UK consumers agree that trade deals should be debated by Parliament to discuss positive and negative impacts before they come into force (78%) and eight in ten (79%) agree that it should be possible for Parliament to amend parts of trade agreements if it thinks there could be negative impacts on the UK. [19] Seven in ten (70%) think Parliament should be guaranteed a vote on whether or not it supports a trade deal and eight in ten (83%) think it is important the public are well informed about the potential impacts of a trade deal before it comes into force. [19]

In general, the polls suggest that concern for animal welfare issues is higher among women than men. On most issues where separate results are reported for different age groups, concern for animal welfare appears to be greater among older adults. However, there are some exceptions. For example, younger adults are more likely to follow a diet that eliminates or restricts intake of animal products. [12]

In most cases, poll results are broadly similar for ABC1 vs. C2DE social groupings but, again, there are some exceptions. For example, a higher proportion of ABC1 respondents support the badger cull (18% vs. 12%, although the total who oppose the cull is similar in both groups: 53% vs. 54%). [4]

3. ATTITUDES TO ANIMAL WELFARE AMONG LABOUR VOTERS

Labour voters generally show higher levels of concern for animal welfare issues than Conservative voters (Table 3.1). Concern for animal welfare is also generally high among Liberal Democrat voters and (where data are available) undecided voters.

Compared with Conservative voters, a higher proportion of Labour voters support the introduction of new legislation and strengthening of existing legislation to improve animal welfare and protect animals, nature and wildlife. [8, 21, 22] There are some issues, like the badger cull, where opposition is about the same across the political spectrum. [4]

Table 2.1: Summary of key findings from recent polls on a range of animal welfare issues

Poll	Key findings
General attitudes to animals and animal welfare education	
Survey of 4102 UK adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by RSPCA) 13th-25th April 2022 [2]	69% describe themselves as animal lovers 84% agree that animal welfare should be taught in schools
Survey of British adults conducted by One Poll (commissioned by Animal Aid), published 4th April 2022. [20]	71% believe that it is never acceptable to cause pain and suffering to animals.
Survey of Scottish adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by More for Scotland's Animals), published in January 2021 [6]	63% want to see the inclusion of lessons about animal welfare and behaviour on the Scottish national curriculum
Farm animal welfare, dietary choices and food labelling	
Survey of Scottish adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by More for Scotland's Animals), published in January 2021 [6]	67% support a ban on the use of farrowing crates for sows
Survey of 4102 UK adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by RSPCA) 13th-25th April 2022 [2]	66% consider animal welfare standards in their dietary choices. 31% have eaten less meat or stopped eating meat in the last year.
Survey of 2100 UK individuals aged 16+ conducted by Ipsos, 28th-29th January 2022 [14]	46% intend to cut intake of animal products in the future, 58% use plant-based meat alternatives in their diet. 48% use plant-based milk alternatives in their diet
Survey of 1990 UK citizens conducted by Opinium (commissioned by Compassion in World Farming), published 6th December 2021 [15]	68% want meat and dairy products to be labelled with information about how the animals were reared
Survey of 1652 British adults conducted by YouGov, 1st-2nd September 2020 [12]	55% support labels on meat products indicating how the animal was raised and slaughtered
Survey of 2049 UK adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Open Cages) 1st-4th March 2019 [6]	72% believe that, when buying chicken, consumers should know whether the chicken had a healthy life.
Wild animal welfare	
Bimonthly tracker survey of 1627-1817 British adults per wave, conducted by YouGov – latest wave 12th September 2022 [3]	80% think hunting wild animals, including foxes, with dogs should remain illegal (9% think it should be legal again)
Survey of 1676 adults in Great Britain conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Badger Trust) 2nd-3rd February 2022 [4]	53% oppose (15% support) the ongoing cull of badgers in England
Survey of Welsh adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by League Against Cruel Sports) in January 2021 [7]	78% want snares to be made illegal
Survey of Scottish adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by More for Scotland's Animals), published in January 2021 [6]	76% want snares to be made illegal
Survey of 1006 Welsh adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by League Against Cruel Sports) 5th-9th April 2018 [5]	74% think shooting birds for sport should be illegal, increasing to 76% when told how birds are reared 82% oppose the use of cages to breed partridges and pheasants 88% think game birds should have the same or higher standards of welfare than other birds bred for food or eggs 76% oppose the shooting of game birds on publicly owned land in Wales
Survey of 1687 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Humane Society International) 22nd-23rd February 2022 [8]	73% support (7% oppose) banning the import and sale of animal fur
Survey of 1687 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Humane Society International) 22nd-23rd February 2022 [9]	81% support (5% oppose) banning imports of wildlife hunting trophies
Companion and sport animal welfare	
Survey of Scottish adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by More for Scotland's Animals), published in January 2021 [6]	84% support strengthening the regulation and enforcement of welfare standards in the pet trade (including breeders and online sales) 72% support a ban on the use of aversive training devices for pets such as electric shock collars and spray collars
Survey of 2106 adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Animal Aid) 29th March – 2nd April 2018 [10]	68% oppose the use of the whip in racing
Laboratory animal welfare	
Survey of 1011 British individuals aged 15+ conducted by Ipsos (commissioned by the Office for Life Sciences) 31st August – 17th September 2018 [11]	75% agree that more work needs to be done into alternatives to using animals in research

Labour voters express a higher level of support for maintaining and strengthening the ban on hunting with dogs. [3,23] Eight in ten Labour voters indicate that they would be less likely to vote for a candidate or political party that wanted to make fox hunting legal again. [24] This sentiment is higher among younger voters.[24]

In terms of imports of animal products that are produced to lower standards than required in the UK, or that would be illegal to produce in the UK, Labour voters show higher levels of opposition than Conservative voters in many, but not all, cases (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Key findings from polls on a range of animal welfare issues by vote in the 2019 election or voting intention at the time of the survey

Poll	Key findings	Conservative	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Undecided
Animal protection					
Survey of 10,018 UK adults by Focaldata (commissioned by #Don'tBetrayAnimals coalition) 11th-20th April 2022. [21]	Proportion (%) that supports (strongly) the UK government passing more laws to improve animal welfare and protect animals from cruelty	71 (43)	77 (51)	79 (51)	
Survey of 1687 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Humane Society International) 22nd-23rd February 2022 [8]	Proportion (%) that thinks the government should increase its level of animal protection	56	74	64	
Survey of 3416 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by RSPB) 17th-20th September 2018 [22]	Proportion (%) that thinks the current laws to protect nature and wildlife should be strengthened	57	72	70	
Hunting with dogs					
Bimonthly tracker survey of 1627-1817 British adults per wave, conducted by YouGov - latest wave 12th September 2022 [3]	Proportion (%) that thinks hunting wild animals, including foxes, with dogs should remain illegal	72	90	91	
Survey of 1639 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by League Against Cruel Sports) 29th-30th October 2019 [23]	Proportion (%) that thinks illegal hunting should be punishable by a prison sentence (instead of, or in addition to, a fine)	55	71	59	
	Proportion (%) that thinks the law should be amended so that it is illegal to hunt a fox during trail hunting	51	77	67	
Survey of 1072 adults conducted by Survation (commissioned by League Against Cruel Sports) 7th-14th December 2018 [24]	Proportion (%) that would be less likely (much less likely) to vote for a local candidate in a general election if they wanted to make fox hunting legal again	47 (33)	80 (72)	76 (57)	71 (59)
	Proportion (%) that would be less likely (much less likely) to vote for a political party in a general election if they made a commitment to make fox hunting legal again	44 (28)	78 (68)	78 (59)	68 (54)
Badger cull					
Survey of 1676 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Badger Trust) 2nd-3rd February 2022 [4]	Proportion (%) that opposes (strongly) the ongoing cull of badgers in England	57 (25)	58 (28)	58 (27)	
Imports of animal fur and wildlife hunting trophies					
Survey of 10,018 UK adults by Focaldata (commissioned by #Don'tBetrayAnimals coalition of animal protection organisations) 11th-20th April 2022. [21]	Proportion (%) that supports (strongly) the UK banning imports of animal products, such as fur, where farming and production methods are banned in the UK	80 (55)	79 (57)	88 (60)	
Survey of 1687 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Humane Society International) 22nd-23rd February 2022 [8]	Proportion (%) that supports (strongly) banning the import and sale of animal fur	74 (59)	81 (69)	82 (62)	
Survey of 1687 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by Humane Society International) 22nd-23rd February 2022 [9]	Proportion (%) that supports (strongly) banning imports of wildlife hunting trophies	82 (72)	86 (77)	87 (17)	
Food labelling and imports of food produced to lower welfare standards					
Survey of 1990 UK citizens conducted by Opinium (commissioned by Compassion in World Farming) published 6th December 2021 [15]	Proportion (%) that supports labelling of meat and dairy products with information about how the animals were reared	66	80	71	
Survey of 1646 British adults conducted by YouGov, 10th-11th June 2020 [17]	Proportion (%) that thinks it would not be acceptable to allow imports of chlorine-washed chicken to the UK	73	90	92	
	Proportion (%) that thinks it would not be acceptable to allow imports of hormone-fed chicken to the UK	75	88	90	
	Proportion (%) that thinks it would not be acceptable to allow imports of antibiotic-treated dairy products to the UK	72	82	84	
	Proportion (%) that thinks it would not be acceptable to allow imports of meat without labels showing its origin	89	88	94	

4. ATTITUDES TO ANIMAL WELFARE IN RURAL AREAS

The Countryside Alliance report, *The Elephant in the Countryside*, states:^[1] “Polling from ORB International in 2019, on behalf of the Countryside Alliance, found that less than one in six UK adults viewed animal welfare as an important rural issue.”

However, the ORB survey ^[25] was worded in such a way that it does not tell us whether respondents consider animal welfare to be an important rural issue because they were asked to select only up to three issues (from a list of 12 issues, plus ‘other’) that they felt were the most important for political parties to address. It is, of course, possible to care very deeply about animal welfare and consider it worthy of the attention of political parties without necessarily considering it to be in the top three most important issues. Unsurprisingly, when asked to select only their top three rural issues for political parties to address, the top responses included ‘hospitals and healthcare’ (49%), ‘local transport links’ (37%) and ‘affordable housing’ (35%). However, it is notable that ‘animal welfare’ did feature in the top three issues for 15% of respondents.

Also unsurprisingly, when asked to select only their top three environmental issues for political parties to address (from a list of 12 issues, plus ‘other’), the top responses included such enormous challenges as ‘climate change’ (58%), ‘use of unbiodegradable plastics’ (55%), and ‘air pollution’ (41%). Yet, once again, it is notable that issues such as ‘fox hunting’ (6%), ‘badger culling’ (3%), and ‘meat consumption’ (5%) did feature in the top three most important issues for some respondents.

Interestingly, a slightly higher proportion of rural residents (16%) included ‘animal welfare’ in their top three rural issues compared with urban residents (14%) (Figure 4.1) and a similar pattern was seen for ‘fox hunting’ and ‘badger culling’, with the former featuring in the top three environmental issues for 9% of rural residents compared with 6% of urban residents, and the latter featuring in the top three for 5% of rural residents compared with 3% of urban residents. These findings do not support the Countryside Alliance’s assertion that animal welfare is not important to rural voters.

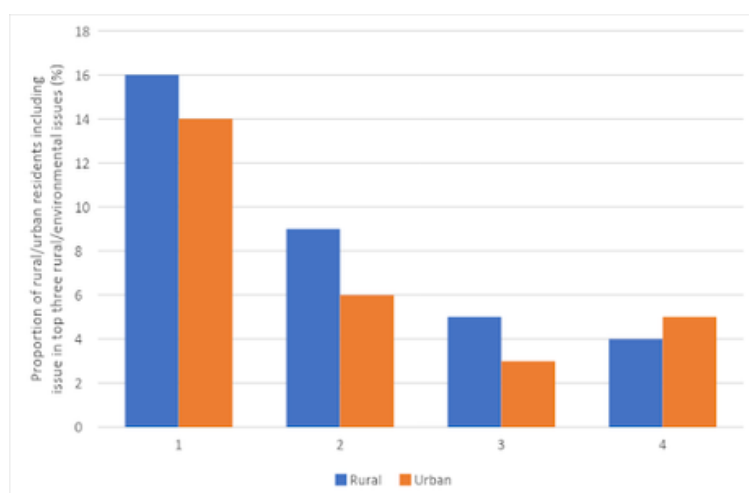


Figure 4.1. Proportion of rural residents (blue bars) and urban residents (orange bars) (1) selecting ‘animal welfare’ in their top three issues facing people living in rural areas that are most important for political parties to address, and (2,3,4) selecting ‘fox hunting’, ‘badger culling’ and/or ‘meat consumption’ in their top three environmental issues that are most important for political parties to address. Survey of 4323 UK adults conducted by ORB International (commissioned by Countryside Alliance) 17th-23rd June 2019.

Other surveys where data are presented separately for rural and urban residents also indicate that concern for animal welfare is at least as high in rural areas. Adults in the UK who live in rural areas (including villages, hamlets or isolated dwellings) are more likely than those living in urban areas and towns to say that the UK should not allow imports from the USA of:

- beef injected with hormones currently prohibited in the UK (89% vs. 82% respectively);
- food produced at lower standards than in the UK (89% vs. 82% respectively); and
- chicken produced at lower standards than in the UK (87% vs. 81% respectively) (Figure 4.2).

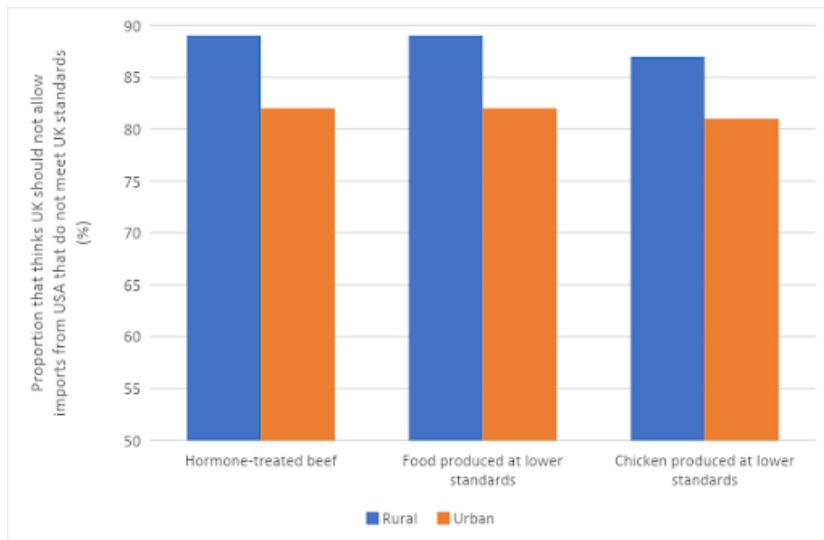


Figure 4.2. Proportion of rural residents (blue bars) and urban residents (orange bars) opposing imports of food from the USA that do not meet UK standards. Survey of 2079 UK adults conducted by Savanta ComRes (commissioned by RSPCA) 10th-13th July 2020.18

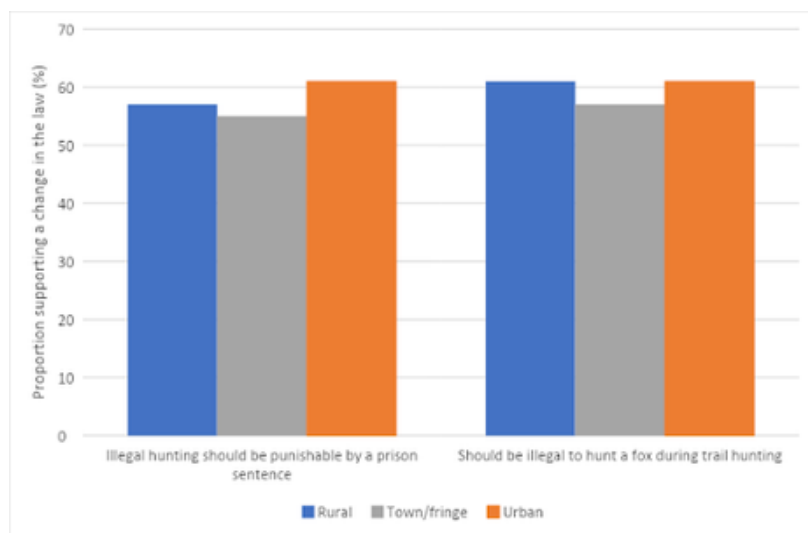


Figure 4.3. Proportion of rural residents (blue bars), town/fringe residents (grey bars), and urban residents (orange bars) supporting strengthening of the ban on hunting with dogs to increase penalties and close the loophole that allows foxes to be killed during trail hunting. Survey of 1639 British adults conducted by YouGov (commissioned by League Against Cruel Sports) 29th-30th October 2019.23

Support for strengthening the ban on hunting with dogs is broadly similar in rural and urban areas of the UK. The proportion of rural residents (57%) supporting a change in the law to allow illegal hunting to be punishable by a prison sentence instead of, or in addition to, a fine, was slightly higher than for town/fringe residents (55%) and slightly lower than for fully urban residents (61%). The proportion of rural and urban residents supporting a change in the law to make it illegal to hunt a fox during trail hunting (where the hunt follows a pre-laid trail) was the same at 61% (with a slightly lower proportion of 57% for town/fringe residents).

5. ATTITUDES TO ANIMAL WELFARE IN LABOUR TARGET SEATS, INCLUDING RURAL TARGET SEATS

A survey of >10,000 UK adults by Focldata (commissioned by the *#Don'tBetrayAnimals* coalition of animal protection organisations) was carried out between 11th and 20th April 2022.^[21] Using the polling data, Focldata completed a constituency-level analysis using MRP (multilevel regression with poststratification). Data on the proportion of adults that would like to see the Government pass more laws designed to improve animal welfare and protect animals from cruelty are presented in Table 5.1 for Labour target seats in England, Scotland and Wales.

The proportion of respondents that would like to see more laws to improve animal welfare ranged from 65% in Don Valley, Glasgow East and Harrow East to more than 75% in High Peak, Stroud, Hastings and Rye, Truro and Falmouth, Southport, Calder Valley, Worthing East and Shoreham, and Camborne and Redruth (Table 5.1). Of the eight target seats where more than three quarters of respondents would like to see more laws to improve animal welfare, five are rural seats. All of the three target seats where less than two thirds of respondents would like to see more laws to protect animals are urban seats.

Table 5.1: Proportion of adults in Labour target seats in England, Scotland and Wales that would like to see the Government pass more laws designed to improve animal welfare and protect animals from cruelty. Source: Focldata, 2022. [21] Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'I would like to see the UK Government pass more laws designed to improve animal welfare and protect animals from cruelty'? The average response nationally was 72% agree (45% strongly) and 11% disagree (5% strongly). Seats currently held by the Conservative Party are highlighted in blue, SNP in yellow, and Plaid Cymru in green. Labour rural target seats in England and Wales listed in the Countryside Alliance report 'The Elephant in the Countryside' are highlighted in bold and marked with *. Note that four target rural seats highlighted in the Countryside Alliance report are not included in the list of target seats here because Labour was not the second-placed party in the last general election (three seats) or because the required swing is greater than 11% (one seat).

Constituency	Region	Majority	Swing Needed	Agree (strongly) %	Disagree (strongly) %
Bury North	North West	105	0.11%	72 (45)	11 (5)
Kensington	London	150	0.17%	71 (45)	11 (6)
Bury South	North West	402	0.40%	73 (46)	10 (5)
Bolton North East	North West	378	0.43%	68 (43)	14 (7)
High Peak*	East Midlands	590	0.54%	77 (50)	7 (4)
Gedling	East Midlands	679	0.68%	75 (48)	9 (4)
Heywood and Middleton	North West	663	0.70%	67 (42)	15 (6)
Blythe Valley*	North East	712	0.87%	69 (44)	14 (7)
Stoke-on-Trent Central	West Midlands	670	1.04%	70 (44)	13 (7)
Chipping Barnet	London	1,212	1.05%	75 (49)	8 (4)
Delyn*	Wales	865	1.13%	72 (46)	11 (5)
Durham North West*	North East	1,144	1.20%	71 (45)	11 (5)
Chingford and Woodford Green	London	1,262	1.30%	75 (49)	8 (4)
Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath	Scotland	1,243	1.32%	70 (45)	13 (7)
Bridgend	Wales	1,157	1.37%	71 (45)	11 (5)
Dewsbury	Yorkshire and the Humber	1,561	1.38%	71 (46)	12 (5)
Warrington South	North West	2,010	1.62%	73 (46)	10 (4)
Ciwyd South*	Wales	1,239	1.71%	72 (45)	11 (5)
Burnley	North West	1,352	1.73%	67 (42)	16 (6)
Birmingham Northfield	West Midlands	1,640	1.90%	74 (48)	9 (5)
Wolverhampton South West	West Midlands	1,661	2.02%	71 (46)	12 (6)
Leigh	North West	1,965	2.09%	68 (43)	14 (8)

Constituency	Region	Majority	Swing Needed	Agree (strongly) %	Disagree (strongly) %
Keighley*	Yorkshire and the Humber	2,218	2.11%	74 (47)	9 (4)
West Bromwich East	West Midlands	1,593	2.21%	69 (43)	14 (6)
Vale of Clwyd*	Wales	1,827	2.45%	71 (45)	12 (6)
Ynys Mon*	Wales	1,968	2.69%	73 (47)	10 (5)
Peterborough	East of England	2,580	2.70%	73 (47)	10 (4)
Derby North	East Midlands	2,540	2.70%	72 (45)	11 (5)
Stroud*	South West	3,840	2.91%	77 (51)	7 (3)
Wrexham	Wales	2,131	3.18%	69 (43)	13 (6)
Aberconwy*	Wales	2,034	3.19%	71 (46)	11 (5)
Pudsey	Yorkshire and the Humber	3,517	3.24%	74 (47)	9 (5)
Vale of Glamorgan	Wales	3,562	3.25%	73 (46)	10 (4)
East Lothian	Scotland	3,886	3.32%	73 (46)	10 (5)
Lincoln	East Midlands	3,514	3.47%	75 (48)	9 (4)
Hyndburn	North West	2,951	3.48%	71 (44)	12 (6)
Hastings and Rye	South East	4,043	3.72%	78 (52)	6 (3)
Wakefield	Yorkshire and the Humber	3,358	3.73%	68 (42)	15 (6)
Glasgow North East	Scotland	2,548	3.76%	69 (43)	14 (7)
Darlington	North East	3,294	3.79%	72 (46)	11 (5)
Watford	East of England	4,433	3.82%	73 (46)	10 (5)
Hendon	London	4,230	3.84%	69 (43)	13 (6)
Wycombe	South East	4,214	3.85%	72 (46)	11 (4)
Truro and Falmouth*	South West	4,561	3.85%	76 (48)	7 (3)
Don Valley	Yorkshire and the Humber	3,630	3.99%	65 (39)	18 (7)
Reading West	South East	4,117	4.08%	75 (49)	8 (4)
Coine Valley	Yorkshire and the Humber	5,103	4.19%	72 (45)	11 (4)
Southport	North West	4,147	4.30%	77 (49)	6 (4)
Redcar	North East	3,527	4.32%	69 (43)	13 (6)
Southampton Itchen	South East	4,498	4.74%	72 (46)	11 (5)
Arfon*	Wales	2,781	4.78%	73 (48)	10 (5)
Stockton South	North East	5,260	4.80%	70 (43)	13 (6)
Broxtowe	East Midlands	5,331	4.82%	73 (47)	9 (4)
Rutherglen and Hamilton West	Scotland	5,230	4.86%	71 (44)	12 (6)
Calder Valley*	Yorkshire and the Humber	5,774	5.00%	78 (51)	6 (3)
Milton Keynes North	South East	6,255	5.00%	74 (45)	9 (5)
Workington*	North West	4,176	5.02%	69 (43)	13 (5)
Norwich North	East of England	4,738	5.12%	75 (48)	8 (4)
Filton and Bradley Stoke	South West	5,646	5.25%	72 (46)	11 (6)
Milton Keynes South	South East	6,944	5.42%	74 (47)	9 (5)
Sedgefield*	North East	4,513	5.43%	69 (42)	14 (6)
West Bromwich West	West Midlands	3,799	5.51%	68 (43)	14 (6)
Ipswich	East of England	5,479	5.53%	72 (46)	11 (6)
Altrincham and Sale West	North West	6,139	5.61%	74 (47)	9 (4)
Blackpool South	North West	3,690	5.63%	69 (44)	14 (6)
Northampton South	East Midlands	4,697	5.75%	70 (44)	13 (6)
Bolsover*	East Midlands	5,299	5.77%	71 (46)	12 (7)
Shipley	Yorkshire and the Humber	6,242	5.78%	75 (48)	8 (4)
Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill	Scotland	5,624	5.83%	68 (42)	15 (8)
Midlothian	Scotland	5,705	5.92%	71 (46)	12 (6)
Wolverhampton North East	West Midlands	4,080	5.95%	68 (42)	14 (5)
Preseli Pembrokeshire*	Wales	5,062	5.97%	74 (47)	9 (4)
Barrow and Furness*	North West	5,789	6.29%	73 (46)	10 (4)
Rushcliffe*	East Midlands	7,643	6.32%	74 (47)	9 (4)
Cities of London and Westminster	London	5,425	6.35%	68 (40)	14 (7)
Rother Valley	Yorkshire and the Humber	6,318	6.49%	70 (45)	13 (6)
Swindon South	South West	6,625	6.53%	74 (46)	9 (4)
Airdrie and Shotts	Scotland	5,201	6.54%	67 (40)	16 (7)
Loughborough	East Midlands	7,169	6.56%	69 (43)	13 (6)

Constituency	Region	Majority	Swing Needed	Agree (strongly) %	Disagree (strongly) %
Worcester	West Midlands	6,758	6.64%	73 (46)	10 (4)
Glasgow South West	Scotland	4,900	6.65%	69 (43)	15 (7)
Copeland*	North West	5,842	6.87%	71 (45)	11 (6)
Pendle	North West	6,186	6.96%	69 (42)	14 (6)
Northampton North	East Midlands	5,507	6.96%	74 (47)	9 (5)
Morecambe and Lunesdale	North West	6,354	7.01%	73 (46)	10 (4)
Worthing East and Shoreham	South East	7,474	7.03%	79 (53)	5 (3)
Motherwell and Wishaw	Scotland	6,268	7.06%	67 (41)	17 (10)
Glasgow East	Scotland	5,566	7.23%	65 (40)	18 (9)
Penistone and Stocksbridge	Yorkshire and the Humber	7,210	7.28%	71 (45)	11 (5)
Ashfield	East Midlands	7,260	7.41%	67 (42)	15 (7)
Uxbridge and Ruislip South	London	7,210	7.48%	68 (43)	14 (6)
Glasgow North	Scotland	5,601	7.74%	74 (48)	10 (5)
Stoke-on-Trent North	West Midlands	6,286	7.83%	67 (42)	15 (6)
Crewe and Nantwich	North West	8,508	7.87%	71 (44)	12 (6)
Glasgow Central	Scotland	6,474	8.07%	71 (44)	13 (6)
Harrow East	London	8,170	8.25%	65 (39)	17 (6)
Newcastle-under-Lyme	West Midlands	7,446	8.32%	70 (43)	12 (6)
Crawley	South East	8,360	8.38%	72 (46)	11 (6)
Clwyd West	Wales	6,747	8.39%	75 (48)	8 (4)
Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Western Isles)	Scotland	2,438	8.42%	70 (43)	13 (6)
Corby*	East Midlands	10,268	8.49%	72 (45)	11 (6)
Scunthorpe	Yorkshire and the Humber	6,451	8.54%	70 (43)	12 (5)
Camborne and Redruth*	South West	8,700	8.64%	76 (48)	8 (4)
Colchester	East of England	9,423	8.83%	74 (47)	9 (4)
Bishop Auckland*	North East	7,962	8.89%	70 (43)	12 (5)
Bournemouth East	South West	8,806	8.94%	75 (47)	8 (4)
Stevenage	East of England	8,562	8.98%	73 (47)	10 (5)
Bolton West	North West	8,855	8.98%	73 (46)	10 (4)
York Outer*	Yorkshire and the Humber	9,985	9.02%	73 (47)	9 (5)
Carmarthen West and Pembrokeshire South*	Wales	7,745	9.20%	72 (46)	10 (5)
Inverclyde	Scotland	7,512	9.41%	70 (43)	13 (7)
Glasgow South	Scotland	9,005	9.49%	72 (46)	12 (7)
Shrewsbury and Atcham	West Midlands	11,217	9.50%	73 (45)	10 (4)
Gloucester	South West	10,277	9.56%	71 (45)	12 (5)
Carlisle	North West	8,319	9.70%	71 (44)	11 (5)
Rossendale and Darwen	North West	9,522	9.75%	74 (47)	9 (4)
Finchley and Golders Green	London	10,815	9.81%	73 (46)	9 (4)
Monmouth*	Wales	9,982	9.94%	73 (47)	9 (4)
Macclesfield	North West	10,711	9.94%	74 (46)	9 (4)
Dunfermline and Fife West	Scotland	10,699	10.00%	72 (44)	11 (5)
Scarborough and Whitby*	Yorkshire and the Humber	10,270	10.33%	73 (46)	9 (4)
Croydon South	London	12,339	10.39%	73 (46)	10 (5)
South Ribble	North West	11,199	10.41%	72 (46)	10 (5)
Glasgow North West	Scotland	8,359	10.52%	72 (45)	12 (6)
Welwyn Hatfield	East of England	10,955	10.52%	73 (46)	9 (5)
Dunbartonshire West	Scotland	9,553	10.58%	67 (42)	16 (9)

The Focaldata survey [21] looked at attitudes to legislation aimed at improving animal welfare and also at attitudes to the prohibition of imports of animal products that would be illegal to produce in the UK. On average, seven in ten (72%) agreed that they would like to see the Government introduce more laws to protect animal welfare and prevent cruelty. The proportion in agreement in 31 Labour target seats classified as rural (as listed by the Countryside Alliance [1]) was comparable with the average for the UK (Figure 5.1). The proportion agreeing was higher than the UK average in 17 of the rural target constituencies, the same in five, and lower in nine. In all cases, a substantial majority (more than two thirds) was in agreement.

More than three quarters (77%) agreed that imports of animal products should be banned if the farming and production methods used are illegal in the UK. The proportion in agreement in the same 31 Labour target seats classified as rural was again comparable with the average for the UK (Figure 5.2). The proportion agreeing was higher than the UK average in 19 of the rural target constituencies, the same in five, and lower in seven. In all cases, a substantial majority was in agreement.

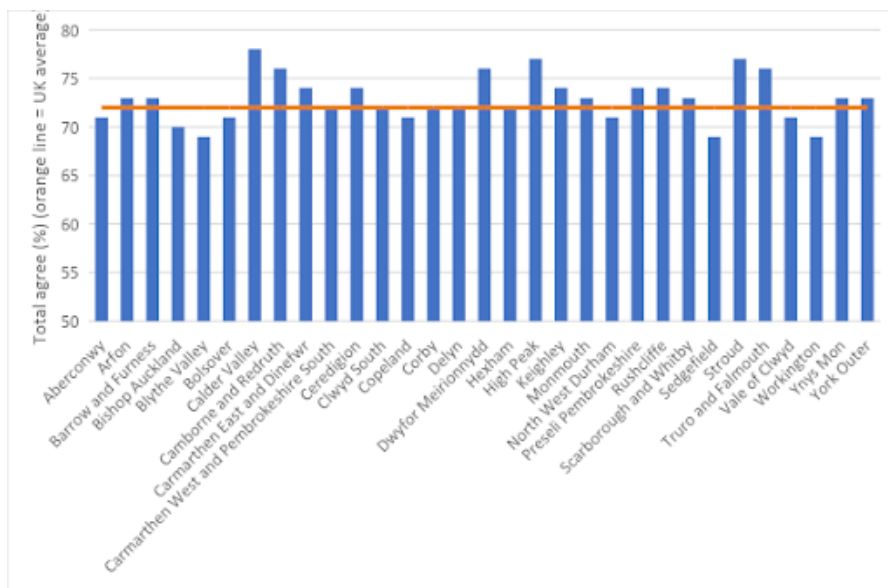


Figure 5.1. Proportion of respondents agreeing with the statement 'I would like to see the UK Government pass more laws designed to improve animal welfare and protect animals from cruelty'. Survey of 10,018 UK adults by Focaldata (commissioned by #Don'tBetrayAnimals coalition) 11th-20th April 2022.²¹ Orange line = all UK respondents. Blue bars = Labour rural target seats (as listed by the Countryside Alliance [1]).

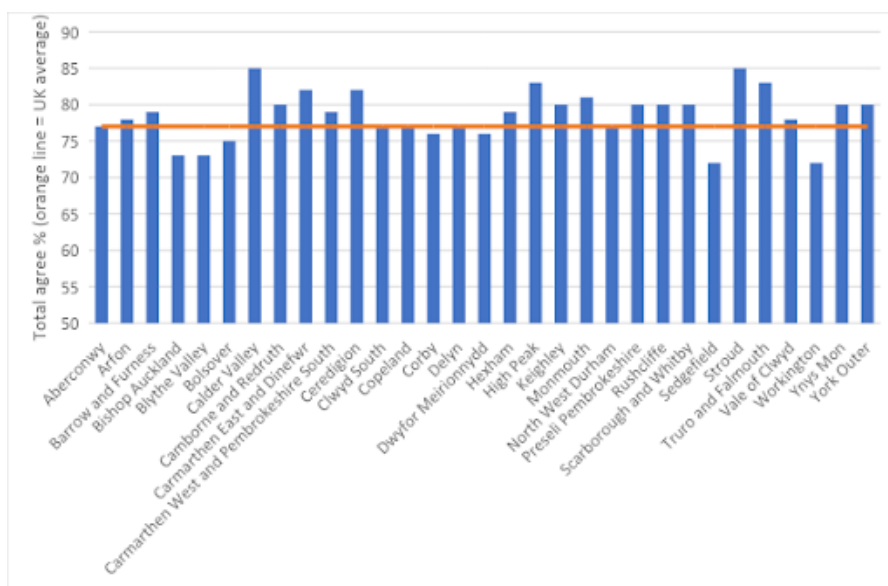


Figure 5.2. Proportion of respondents agreeing with the statement 'The UK Government should ban the importation of animal products, such as fur, where farming and production methods are banned in the UK'. Survey of 10,018 UK adults by Focaldata (commissioned by #Don'tBetrayAnimals coalition) 11th-20th April 2022.²¹ Orange line = all UK respondents. Blue bars = Labour rural target seats (as listed by the Countryside Alliance [1]).

6. CONCLUSIONS

The British public cares deeply about animal welfare. A majority supports the fox hunting ban, supports bans on shooting birds for sport and on the use of snares, opposes the badger cull and the use of the whip in horse racing, supports bans on imports of animal fur and hunting trophies, and believes the Government should increase the level of animal protection.

UK consumers generally have limited knowledge of farming practices but a majority would like more information on the label about how the animal was reared and slaughtered, believes the UK has generally high farm animal welfare standards, does not want those standards to be undermined by lower welfare imports, and believes Parliament should be able to debate, amend and vote on trade deals.

Labour voters generally show higher levels of concern for animal welfare issues than Conservative voters. Concern for animal welfare is also generally high among Liberal Democrat voters and (where data are available) undecided voters.

Animal welfare issues are at least as important to rural voters as to urban voters. Support for laws to improve animal welfare is high in Labour target seats, including in rural areas.

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I was pleased to stand for election recently on the Labour Party's most comprehensive and progressive animal welfare manifesto in our history. Animal welfare issues have been very much at the forefront of my campaigning activity since first being elected an MP in 2015.

I have actively campaigned against the government's Badger Cull. I have marched against the cull and supported organisations such as the Badger Trust who advocate protection of this endangered species. I have argued for vaccination and improved farming methods as a better method of TB control, and faced down attacks from Farmers Weekly and others for taking that position.

I am pleased Labour is committed to strengthening and properly enforcing the Hunting Act. There are still too many hunts getting away with hunting foxes with dogs and avoiding prosecution. I want to see tougher legislation introduced to tackle hunting of deer and mink, and hare coursing. I have regularly clashed with the BASC over hunting and countryside sports concerning wild animals. Similarly, I was proud of our policy to end the importing of fur and want to ensure that commitment is kept.

Recently I have been highlighting the systematic illegal killing of hen harriers because of managed grouse moors, whose owners see this beautiful bird of prey as a menace to grouse. I would like to see an eventual ban on grouse shooting and rewilding of these heavily managed moors.

The international pastime of rich hunters who partake in trophy hunting is cruel, archaic, immoral and unjustifiable. I have called for a ban on this cruel pursuit and attended parliamentary briefings on the campaign. I was very disappointed that the government consultation on banning trophy hunting has been temporarily halted, we must keep up the pressure on the government to act.

I regularly highlight the persecution of animals worldwide, such as elephants and big cats being hunted, polar bears being killed and turtles being slaughtered. I have criticised whaling operations in Japan that are claimed to be for "scientific research". One post on the terrible killing of a Minke Whale being killed reached 11,453,575 accounts online and I will keep using my platform to expose this.

International animal welfare is not always about the hunting, and I have also spoken out about natural disasters like the recent Australian wildfires that have devastated the animal population and the habitat animals need to survive.

As you can see, animal welfare issues are extremely close to my heart. If I were elected deputy leader I would ensure that our party continued to stand up to vested interests on animal welfare and I would work with organisations like LAWS to do so.



ANGELA RAYNER MP

Statement provided to the Labour Animal Welfare Society during the Labour Deputy Leadership Election, 2020



Because animals need LAWS

Founded in 1992, LAWS is an organisation for Labour members and supporters who care about animals.

The mission of LAWS is to:

- Give support and advice to the Labour Party on animal welfare issues
- Educate, promote and organise discussion on animal welfare matters
- Influence policy and decision making at all levels of the Labour movement to improve the lives of animals

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