

**ANIMAL PROTECTION MANIFESTO 2017**

**PUTTING AN END  
TO ANIMAL CRUELTY  
AND EXPLOITATION**



**OUR ANIMALS MANIFESTO**

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## **INTRODUCTION**



“I’m honoured to represent a party that has consistently and unwaveringly defended animals. Compassion for animals is in the Green Party’s DNA. Greens will stand shoulder to shoulder with animal advocates across Britain as we face a challenging future.

A government led by Theresa May is a government committed to launching a bloodthirsty plot to bring back foxhunting, committed to a cruel and ineffective badger cull and a government that wholeheartedly supports grouse shooting – a blood sport that requires the destruction of the natural environment and causes untold damage to our wildlife.

Only a strong Green opposition will fight a united front against cruelty and animal suffering.

Our pledges on farming – requiring CCTV in slaughterhouses, promoting a reduction in meat consumption, ending the use of cages, and working for the complete replacement of animals in research and testing have never been matched by other parliamentary parties. And these are not just promises, but policies I – in the European Parliament – stand up for every day.

We need more Greens in Westminster to fight this battle now more than ever.”

**Keith Taylor MEP, Green Party Animal Spokesperson**



“This general election could signal the end of hard-fought and hard-won animal protection legislation. Due

to our out-dated voting system, a Conservative government – with a majority of MPs but not of votes – is even committed to repealing the ban on hunting with hounds, in the face of overwhelming public opposition.

The threatened “hard Brexit” could erase EU animal welfare standards without equivalent national legislation being enacted, and trade deals with the likes of America, India and China risk further erosion of protections.

The Green Party has always held the strongest animal protection policies of any parliamentary political party in Britain. Only the Greens are prepared to take on big business by opposing

all forms of factory farming, and working for the full replacement of animals used in research and testing.

Elected Greens have a long history of standing up for animals: as well as my work in Parliament, Green MEPs, Assembly Members and councillors have achieved success in many areas such as reducing animal-testing requirements, strengthening slaughter rules, banning snares locally and helping save the Wildlife Crime Unit.

As Brexit looms, we must mobilise to strengthen national animal protection measures and maintain our influence in Europe and beyond.

I am proud to present our animal protection policies for 2017 and to offer my full support to all those campaigning for a kinder, more compassionate world.”

**Caroline Lucas,  
Green Party Co-Leader**



“A Tory hard Brexit threatens a bonfire of the regulations that have safeguarded our environment and protected animal rights. But Brexit could be an opportunity to move towards an ecologically sustainable farming system; one that refocuses

land management to encourage biodiversity, improve animal welfare and help tackle climate change.

It is essential that post-Brexit farming subsidies are retargeted. This would include incentives and funding to transform animal agriculture and create high welfare systems, as well as promoting a shift towards plant-based diets and agriculture.

Through my work in the European Parliament I have actively supported measures to ban cages for farmed rabbits and introduce stricter controls on antibiotic use.”

**Molly Scott Cato, Green Party candidate for Bristol West and Member of the European Parliament**

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# THESE ARE OUR SEVEN KEY PLEDGES TO END ANIMAL SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF HUMANS:



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## 1. END FACTORY FARMING TAKING ANIMALS OUT OF CAGES AND PUTTING THEM BACK IN THE FIELDS

Industrial animal farming condemns millions of animals to short, painful lives in barren factory farms and damages the environment, food security and our health. We will end factory farming and live exports and introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses.

We would encourage a reduction in the consumption of animal products to benefit the climate and the environment, tackle deforestation and land grabbing, protect human health and social justice as well as promoting animal welfare.

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## 2. STRENGTHEN AND EXTEND THE HUNTING ACT AND CONTINUE OUR STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE BADGER CULL

Greens have consistently opposed the badger cull, with prominent Greens joining wounded-badger patrols and Green MP Caroline Lucas leading Parliamentary debates opposing the cull. We will continue to push for science-led control of bTB, where the culling of badgers clearly has no place. We oppose all forms of

hunting and will strengthen the Hunting Act, including ending the use of dogs below ground. We will end all commercial driven shooting. We will ban the manufacture, sale and use of snares; there is no place for these instruments of torture in our countryside.

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### 3. PROTECT HABITATS AND WILDLIFE BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD

Wildlife cannot survive without a home, which is why we support a new Nature and Wellbeing Act. We will transfer the EU Habitats and Birds Directives into UK legislation and oppose any attempts to weaken them. We will ensure that our valuable wild spaces are properly protected and will prioritise action to reverse both habitat loss and the precipitous decline in our wildlife.

- » We will take action to protect pollinators, including developing pollinator-friendly pesticide strategies.

- » We will also continue to push for an end to whaling and keeping cetaceans in captivity
- » We will introduce a domestic trade, import and export ban for all ivory.
- » We will guarantee funding for a dedicated Wildlife and Animal Crimes Unit in every police force and take coordinated action to tackle wildlife crime both in the UK and across the globe, recognising its link to global crime networks.



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### 4. COMPLETELY REVIEW COMPANION ANIMAL-BREEDING AND LICENSING LEGISLATION TO STOP THE SUFFERING OF UNWANTED AND INADEQUATELY CARED-FOR COMPANION ANIMALS

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

the trade and keeping of primates as companion animals. We will guarantee adequate funds for tackling dog fighting and tougher penalties for those involved.

We will introduce a register of convicted animal abusers to help address associated crimes such as child abuse, and encourage programmes to prevent re-offending.



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## 5. END THE SUFFERING OF ANIMALS IN EXPERIMENTS

Greens want to see an end to animal testing and experimentation. We will ensure that research funding is directed towards modern human-biology-based techniques, increase transparency and ensure that outdated secrecy laws cannot be used to withhold information

on animal experiments. We will immediately end toxicity testing on animals, the use of primates and address late-stage failure of new pharmaceutical products by overhauling drug-development and test rules.

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## 6. END THE SUFFERING OF ANIMALS USED FOR OUR ENTERTAINMENT

We believe that animals should never suffer for our entertainment and will end the use of all animals in circuses and ensure this country does not supply funds to support bullfighting and other festivals that involve cruelty

to animals. We will introduce much tougher welfare rules and more monitoring of animal racing, stop the use of the whip in horse racing and end greyhound racing.

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## 7. ENSURING POLICY-MAKING NEVER FORGETS ANIMALS

We need to ensure that animal protection is seen as an important goal of Government policy; creating an Animal Protection Commission

would ensure that animals aren't forgotten in the decision making process.





# Green Party

for the common good



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[www.greenparty.org.uk/animal-protection-manifesto-2017.html](http://www.greenparty.org.uk/animal-protection-manifesto-2017.html)