

**WALES GREEN PARTY**

**MANIFESTO 2021**

**ON ANIMAL PROTECTION**



**FROM FACTORY FARMING AND THE BADGER CULL TO PUPPY BREEDING AND PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY, ONLY THE GREENS UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR ACTION IN WALES TO SAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF ANIMALS FROM LIVES OF MISERY.**

**GREENS ARE, AT HEART, A COMPASSIONATE AND CARING PARTY AND THIS EXTENDS TO OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANIMALS. WE ENVISION A WORLD WHERE WE NO LONGER EXPLOIT ANIMALS, AND WHERE LEGISLATION PROVIDES THE PROTECTION THAT ANIMALS DESERVE.**

**GREENS WILL STAND UP FOR ANIMALS, AND WE WILL BE A VOICE FOR ALL ANIMALS IN WALES. WE SHALL ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT A MOVE AWAY FROM DIETS DOMINATED BY MEAT AND OTHER ANIMAL PRODUCTS.**

## **GENERAL**

### **IF ELECTED TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT, GREENS WILL:**

- Appoint a new Welsh Government Commissioner for Biodiversity and Animal Protection to reverse the decline of biodiversity in Wales. The Commissioner will develop a task force and set of plans for the recovery of Welsh ecologies, landscapes, animals and plant life. The Commissioner will also strengthen animal welfare laws to ensure that both farmed and companion animals enjoy high welfare standards from the beginning to the end of their lives.
  - Recognise animal sentience in law. This basic premise is essential in order to protect the status and welfare of animals and is the first step towards best practice for each species.
  - Add animal welfare to the school curriculum. Animal welfare can be incorporated into a variety of areas of learning, ensuring an understanding of animals as sentient beings from childhood and beyond.
- The adoption of higher legal standards for farmed animals, including mandatory and substantive access to grazing.
  - Higher animal welfare measures to be rewarded through farm support payments.
  - Tougher regulations on animal transport and a real end to live exports .
  - A ban on the importation of foie gras and any product that is the result of force feeding.
  - Tightened regulations on the sale and use of loud fireworks and also sky lanterns
  - Imported food to be farmed to the same standards (or higher) as Welsh producers.
  - A crack down on planning authorities permitting large scale poultry units in rural Wales as the Green Party is pledged to phase out all forms of factory farming.
  - Support for plant-based diets, including a plant-based option served on every public sector menu as standard.

## **ANIMAL TESTING**

Greens want to see an end to all animal experimentation and will call for a strategy that ensures that research funding is directed away from animal-disease models and towards modern methods including mannequins, mechanical- and computer-based models, micro-dosing imaging, DNA chips, microfluidics chips and the use of human tissue, which offer greater opportunities to cure disease and improve product safety.

### **GREENS WILL SUPPORT ANY ACTIONS THAT REDUCE ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS.**

In particular, action should be taken to:

- Stop non-medical experiments.
- Stop the use of primates, cats and dogs in research.
- Stop the importing of non-human primates for use in Welsh labs, as a step towards ending primate research.
- Stop the use of outdated secrecy laws to withhold information on animal experiments and ensure that data are shared.

## **FARMED ANIMALS**

Millions of animals in Wales live short, brutal lives in barren factory farms.

Factory farming is a highly inefficient way of producing food. It damages the environment and treats animals as machines, not as sentient beings.

### **GREENS ARE COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO FACTORY FARMING AND WILL PUSH FOR:**

- Mandatory CCTV in all Welsh slaughterhouses as is now law in England.
- A ban on the non-stun slaughter of farmed animals.
- Introduction of mandatory standards for food served in the public sector including local sourcing and high animal welfare standards and high-quality vegan and vegetarian options.

- Ensure that Welsh Government funding does not support companies that outsource their animal experiments to other countries.
- Provide greater funding for research and development of non-animal research methods.

## COMPANION ANIMALS

Companion animals are increasingly being traded across country borders, yet companion-animal welfare is regulated at national level. The Welsh Parliament can improve welfare standards by tightening regulations in Wales.

### GREENS WILL SUPPORT MEASURES TO:

- Legislate to ensure Wales deals with stray animals in a humane way, using programmes based on neutering and not culling.
- License dog and cat breeders and owners.
- Introduce compulsory micro-chipping of cats.
- Introduce a dog registration scheme allowing dogs to be more effectively traced back to their owners.
- Make it illegal to sell young puppies and kittens unless the mother is present.
- Prohibit the importation of exotic animals for the pet trade.
- License animal sanctuaries to ensure high welfare standards for the animals in their care.
- Increase penalties for perpetrators of animal abuse.
- Undertake a review of legislation surrounding the selling of animals, including regulation of animals sold online.

## ANIMALS IN SPORT

Greens do not believe that animals should be used in any sport or form of entertainment that causes pain and suffering (including psychological distress). Greens are fundamentally opposed to all blood sports.

### GREENS WILL WORK TOWARDS:

- Supporting the re-homing of circus animals following the ban of use of wild animals in circuses.
- Banning the use of snares.
- A ban on cages for all game birds.
- Maintaining the ban on hunting with dogs.
- Creating a regulatory authority for horse and dog racing to enforce strict animal welfare standards.
- Full traceability of all animals used in sport.
- Extending the Animal Welfare Act to cover all fishing activities.

## WILD ANIMALS

Wild animals are facing many challenges at the current time. The climate crisis and habitat loss is making it increasingly difficult for them to survive. This is on top of illegal poaching and hunting by humans. The Welsh Parliament can help protect wild animals by introducing new legislation and strengthen existing legislation.

### IF ELECTED GREENS WOULD:

- Support the badger vaccination programme and oppose a badger cull.
- Oppose the plans for the M4 relief motorway across the Gwent levels.
- Support farm payments to be linked to eco-system renewal.
- Impose a ban on the importation of wild-caught animals.
- Ban the keeping of wild animals and primates as household pets.
- Work for stronger international protection of endangered sea creatures and an end to the killing of cetaceans in our waters.
- Support a new Wildlife Act to consolidate legislation to protect our precious wildlife.

## TO READ OUR COMPLETE 2021

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