



advocates
for animals

The **OneKind** Manifesto for Animal Welfare

HumanKind. AnimalKind. OneKind.
www.onekind.org.uk



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Advocates for Animals is a campaigning animal welfare charity working to improve the lives of animals in the UK, Europe and beyond. We effect positive change for animals through high-profile campaigns, political lobbying, investigations and public education.

Our OneKind campaign recognises animals as sentient beings and builds on the connections between people, animals and the natural world in a positive, inspiring and practical way.

Our OneKind vision is to create OneKind world in which all animals are valued, respected and treated with compassion.

Our OneKind mission is to inspire and empower people to end the exploitation and abuse of animals.

A note on devolution

The OneKind Manifesto has been produced by Advocates for Animals in preparation for the United Kingdom General Election in 2010.

As animal welfare is a devolved issue (apart from the regulation of animal experiments) legislation to implement these recommendations in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales would be a matter for the devolved administrations. Reforms made along these lines by Parliament would be likely to extend only to England and, in some cases, Wales. In all cases, however, the policies that we recommend could be implemented by any administration to improve the welfare of animals throughout the UK, and in some cases beyond.

Further information

The OneKind Manifesto covers a selection of the animal welfare issues that Advocates for Animals would like government to address over the next parliamentary session, and beyond. For more information on these or any other issues please contact the Policy Department, Advocates for Animals, 10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PG,

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Introduction

The UK has a reputation as a nation of animal lovers.

Voters regularly write to their MPs and other representatives to voice their concerns about animal welfare,¹ and a significant proportion of Britons donate to animal charities.²

This general concern for animals has been illustrated repeatedly in European surveys on public attitudes and in other research.³

That's good news for animals, at home and abroad. Our knowledge of animal sentience, animal behaviour, and animals' needs is growing all the time and we can share it. A fundamentally compassionate nation can lead by example and help to bring change for animals around the world.

But even in the UK, there are still too many animals suffering needlessly, too many animal welfare issues waiting to be addressed.

This OneKind Manifesto from Advocates for Animals sets out some key recommendations for the next UK government, and the next Parliament.

Compassion, respect and protection of animals must be the responsibility of everyone. That's what OneKind is all about. But Parliament can make a significant difference by setting a clear agenda to prioritise the welfare and protection of animals.

So that the way our country cares for animals – all animals – keeps moving with the times.

And getting better.

Advocates for Animals' recommendations lie in five key areas:

- Animal sentience
- Animals used in food production
- Animals used in experiments
- Welfare of wild animals
- Secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

1. 'Politicians' mailbags are still dominated by letters on a variety of animal welfare issues.' Associate Parliamentary Group on Animal Welfare <http://www.apgaw.org/membership.asp> accessed 2.2.10.
2. 8% of charity donors gave to animal causes between 2005/06 and 2007/08. UK Giving 2008 NCVO/Charities Aid Foundation.
3. Eurobarometers 2005 and 2007, European Commission.



Animal sentience

Most people in the UK agree that animals have a level of awareness and the ability to feel and suffer.

Most people in the UK agree that animals have a level of awareness and the ability to feel and suffer in ways that are comparable, if not identical, to ours. Acceptance and understanding of the scientific concept of animal sentience ought to underpin all consideration of the needs and rights of animals.

In 1997, the European Union recognised in a binding Protocol to the Amsterdam Treaty that animals were sentient beings and that it must ensure improved protection and respect for their welfare. In 2009, independent research carried out for Advocates for Animals revealed that 91% of people believed that animals were sentient.⁴

Yet millions of animals suffer needlessly every day. More and more, animals are marginalised, neglected, and exploited – in factory farms, in laboratories and in the countryside. Advocates for Animals believes that the key to ending animal cruelty and suffering is to foster greater recognition of the fact that animals – like us – have thoughts and feelings. And to change the way we live alongside them.

OneKind living

We believe that government could and should take a greater lead in this respect. Government-led public education can promote a range of lifestyle changes

that can improve the lives of both animals and people. Encouraging people to eat less meat and other animal products, but from higher welfare systems, can benefit human health and the environment as well as being better for animals. Similarly, choosing cosmetics, toiletries and household products that have not been tested on animals can make a positive difference.

Humane education

It is in everyone's interest to pay more attention to animals: for example, integrating learning about animal sentience and welfare into the school curriculum can help to foster long-lasting humane attitudes and combat violent behaviour towards both animals and humans. To create a more compassionate society we need structures and standards, as well as aspirations.

Key Recommendations

- Government education for consumers on humane lifestyle choices.
- Humane education about animals as part of children and young people's learning.

4. Source: 1,085 adults 16 and over, living in Scotland. Scottish Charity Engagement Monitor April 2009, nfpSynergy.



Animals used in food production

Farmed animals must be given a 'life worth living'.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council – a government body providing science-based policy advice – has recently recommended that standards for farmed animals should focus on achieving a positive state of good welfare. Eurobarometers in 2005⁵ and 2007⁶ showed that people were concerned about farmed animal welfare and were prepared to pay more for higher standards. Many in the UK believed that this country did not accord enough importance to farmed animal welfare.

To achieve higher standards, we need a fundamental review of many farming systems. Enhanced standards should be promoted by an independent, protected animal welfare label, so that consumers can make informed choices about animal welfare. Those choices must be assisted by early education about the realities of food and farming. Public procurement policies must put positive animal welfare principles into practice.

Factory farming

In some areas, the need for reform is particularly urgent. Much industrial livestock production in the UK today is characterised by the use of systems where animals are confined in cages or narrow crates, or kept in overcrowded, barren conditions. Animals are bred for fast growth rates or high yields. Many are subject to painful mutilations such as tail-docking or beak-trimming in an attempt to adapt them to systems that fail to provide for their behavioural needs.

Animal transport

The long distance transport of live animals continues to cause great suffering. While animals ought to be slaughtered as close as possible to their place of rearing, many animals have to make lengthy final journeys to slaughter. Very young dairy calves are taken away from their mothers for export to veal rearing systems which would not be permitted in the UK. Sheep and cattle are also exported for slaughter.

Farm licensing

Almost every commercial activity involving animals, including slaughter and driving livestock vehicles, is subject to a licensing scheme or competence assessment. Yet farmers do not have to show that they can meet appropriate standards. To achieve uniform standards, we recommend that livestock farming should become a licensed activity.

Key Recommendations

- Positive standards for a good life for farmed animals.
- Public procurement policies to promote animal welfare.
- No journey to slaughter lasting more than eight hours.
- No export of animals for slaughter or further fattening.
- Licensing of livestock farms with a nominated person responsible for animal welfare.
- An end to painful mutilations.

5. Attitudes of consumers towards the welfare of farmed animals. Eurobarometer. June 2005.

6. Attitudes of EU citizens towards animal welfare. Eurobarometer. March 2007.



Animals used in experiments

In 2008, animals were used in almost 3.7 million scientific procedures in the UK.

While it is illegal to cause pain and suffering to animals kept as pets, legal experimentation almost invariably involves subjecting sentient animals to physical and/or mental pain or distress. Additional factors such as transportation, handling, confinement, environmental deprivation, isolation and over-crowding can also cause suffering and have negative consequences on animal welfare.

A European Commission survey in 2006 showed a high degree of public concern for animals used in experiments.⁷ Out of 42,655 citizens responding, 93% believed that more needed to be done to improve the welfare/protection of animals used in experiments. An issue that provokes particularly strong opposition is the use of primates.

Policy objectives

The objective of ending experiments on animals as soon as possible should be put at the heart of policy and legislation.

Key themes of policy and legislation must be accountability, transparency and independence. Such principles would be expected by the public.

All efforts must be made to ensure that data is shared whenever possible to prevent unnecessary duplication of procedures.

Setting high standards for the regulation of animal experimentation will benefit UK science and industry as well as animal welfare.

Support for replacement

The ultimate aim should be to replace the use of all animals in scientific procedures with advanced non-animal techniques. The UK Government should aim to be a world leader in the development and production of such modern cutting-edge technologies.

The principle of replacing animals with non-animal techniques is the most important of the Three Rs – reduction, replacement and refinement – that inform both UK and European legislation and provide opportunities substantially to reduce animal suffering. Streamlining the validation of new methods would make an essential contribution to this.

Key Recommendations

- Support, promote and invest in replacement as the most important of the Three Rs.
- Timetabled phase-out of primate use, starting with wild-caught primates.
- Encourage data-sharing.
- Streamline validation of alternatives.

7. http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/results_citizens.pdf



Welfare of wild animals

Free-living wild animals in the UK are as vulnerable, and as capable of suffering, as farmed animals and pets.

Many legal 'pest' control and species management projects involve harming and killing animals in large numbers. And so we see the shooting of seals, the snaring of foxes and rabbits, the culling of grey squirrels, ruddy duck, seagulls and most recently, the proposed culling of badgers in Wales.

Non-lethal management

Increased emphasis on non-lethal controls, such as exclusion, deterrence, vaccination and immuno-contraception is essential. These techniques are becoming increasingly available and practicable, but the habit of killing wild animals in the name of management is deeply entrenched. That tradition needs to change.

Cruelty to wild animals

Wildlife crime must also be more robustly addressed. Cruel acts such as the poisoning of raptors, snaring of badgers, hares and rabbits, airgun and crossbow attacks on swans, deer and other animals, baiting of foxes and badgers are illegal and widely abhorred. Sadly, however, they are not rare.

Ban snares

Snares are indiscriminate traps that capture and kill. The UK is one of a minority of European states that still allows these cruel devices to be used in the name of predator or 'pest' control. They are widely abused by setting them so that they lock and tighten around the animal, resulting in horrific injuries and death. Even when legally used, they

cause unnecessary suffering to foxes, hares and rabbits, to non-target animals including protected otters and badgers, and to farmed animals and pets.

No return to fox-hunting

The Hunting Act 2004 must be supported and upheld. The Act has a high success rate in prosecutions and enjoys wide public support. It is inconceivable that Parliament could countenance a return to the days when chasing and killing a sentient mammal was legal and, even worse, a sport.

Authorities

We recommend the setting up of a Wild Animal Welfare Council with a remit similar to the Farm Animal Welfare Council. We also suggest that wildlife management and large-scale developments should be required, as a matter of course, to carry out an Animal Welfare Impact Assessment so that the potential effects on welfare can be mitigated.

Key Recommendations

- Focus on non-lethal management techniques.
- Prohibit possession and use of snares.
- Uphold the Hunting Act 2004 and encourage more stringent enforcement.
- Establish a Wild Animal Welfare Council.
- Provide for Animal Welfare Impact Assessments.



Secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Acts

Regulations are needed to implement the new law protecting domestic and captive animals.

Following the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (and the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006), the progress of much-needed secondary legislation has been slow.

Time to regulate animal sanctuaries

There are still no regulations to govern sanctuaries for pets, farmed animals and wild animals. These can do excellent work but they need to be well funded and run by knowledgeable people. Some sanctuaries get into difficulties when they cannot afford to provide properly for the animals they have taken on – and the animals can suffer. Others, regrettably, are little more than a pretext for trading in animals. This is an entirely unregulated area and the need for reform is urgent.

Wild animals in circuses

The circus life is no life for wild animals. It involves confinement, lack of appropriate companionship, constant travelling, being made to perform unnatural tricks, and sometimes outright cruelty. Public opinion polling has shown that over 80% of people would support a ban on wild animals in circuses.⁸

Exotic pets

The fashion for acquiring unusual pets has led to an increase in the numbers of animals being kept in the wrong conditions by the wrong people. Iguanas, turtles and terrapins, chipmunks, snakes, primates and parrots (to name but a few) all have very specialist physical and

behavioural needs which are difficult for private owners to meet. Clear recommendations about suitable and unsuitable species, supported by legislation, are needed to protect these animals from a miserable existence.

Consistent standards

Finally, a coherent animal welfare regime must be implemented and enforced consistently. Local authorities have most of the responsibility for enforcement of animal welfare regulations, through licensing regimes and animal health officials – but they cannot do this on their own. Councils are autonomous as regards their allocation of budgets, but more support and resources could be provided by government. For example, standards of modern practice could be drawn up centrally and provided to authorities as guidance and a guarantee of consistency.

Key Recommendations

- Licensing and registration of animal sanctuaries.
- An end to the use of wild animals in circuses.
- Restrictions on the sale of exotic animals and greater protection for those already in private keeping.
- Standards of modern practice for local authorities involved in licensing pet shops, boarding kennels, riding stables and other commercial activities involving animals.

8. TNS System Three Omnibus. 1,032 adults aged 16 and over. 3 – 10 January 2008.