



Green Party Euro 2014



Manifesto on Animal Protection

- *Greens have the strongest policies on animal protection of all the parliamentary political parties and a proven track record of action in Europe.*
- *Greens ARE the voice for animals in Europe.*
- *No party has stronger policies combined with a record of action on animal-protection issues.*



Introduction

from Natalie Bennett, Green Party Leader



“I’m proud to be able to present to you this manifesto, detailing the broad range of work by our Green MEPs and Green Party campaigners on animal issues, issues that are at the core of our party.

From factory farming and the badger cull to puppy farms and bullfighting, only Greens understand the need for cross-Europe action to save large numbers of animals from lives of misery.

Only Greens will stand up for animals in Europe and make a difference. ”

Front cover image: UK Green MEPs Keith Taylor and Jean Lambert, with Swedish Green colleague Carl Schlyter, chosen as the ‘MEP for Animal Welfare 2014’ in the International Fund for Animal Welfare sponsored award.

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Europe must take animal protection seriously:

Greens strongly support the introduction of an animal-welfare framework law covering all categories of animal that are subject to some form of human control – including companion animals, exotic pets, farmed animals and captive wild animals – which will demonstrate that the EU is serious about animal protection.

There must also be comprehensive and accountable Europe-wide implementation of existing rules, such as the Pig Directive, where some countries are turning a blind eye to producers who flout current rules.

Greens also demand that animal welfare be included as a consideration in all trade agreements.



Farmed animals



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

Industrial animal farming – 'factory farming' – is a highly inefficient way of producing food. It damages the environment, creates pollution, overuses water, requires intensive application of drugs to combat infection and disease, reduces food security and treats animals as machines, not as sentient beings.

Greens are completely opposed to factory farming and will push for:

- the adoption of higher legal standards for all farmed animals. In particular, standards must be established to protect the welfare of beef cattle, ducks, geese, rabbits and farmed fish. Standards for dairy cows and goats must include mandatory and substantive access to grazing. Pig farrowing crates to be banned;
- a ban on cages for laying hens;
- improved food labelling and better traceability of our food to prevent further food scandals such as the horse-meat scandal;
- mandatory labelling of meat and dairy products as to the country of source, method of production and the method of slaughter;
- mandatory CCTV in all slaughterhouses;
- tougher regulations on animal transport, including a maximum of eight hours and an end to live export from the UK;
- action on the overuse of antibiotics in intensive animal farming;
- encourage the reduction in consumption of meat, dairy and other animal products, with promotion and education around alternative diets, recognising that animal free diets can be devised and followed for every life stage;
- a ban on the cloning of farm animals, the sale of clones and their offspring and the sale of meat and milk from such animals;
- shift subsidies away from animal farming and towards more sustainable food crops.

Greens in Action:

Keith Taylor MEP has been at the forefront of campaigning against the resumption of live-animal exports from the ports of Dover and Ramsgate.

Green MEPs Keith Taylor and Jean Lambert have been spearheading calls for the new EU Directive on dairy-cow welfare.



As the EU debates a new Trade Agreement with the US (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – TTIP) Greens are demanding that the integrity of our stronger welfare standards not be jeopardized. Jean Lambert MEP said,

“It is imperative that agriculture be kept out of any future free-trade deal with the US, and anywhere else, so we can continue to set our own rules on animal welfare in a way that puts the interests of animals above those of markets.”

Countries must be able to choose to introduce stricter domestic measures prohibiting the import of products that do not meet their own welfare standards, for example foie gras.

Animal Testing



Greens want to see an end to all animal experimentation and will call for an EU strategy that ensures research funding is directed away from failing animal-disease models and towards modern human-biology-based techniques, which offer greater opportunities to cure disease and improve product safety.

Greens will support any actions that reduce animal experiments. In particular immediate action must be taken to:

- stop non-medical experiments;
- stop the use of primates, cats and dogs in research;
- stop the use of genetically altered animals;
- stop the importing of non-human primates for use in 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;

- ensure that EU funding does not support companies that outsource their animal experiments to countries beyond the EU;
- provide greater funding for non-animal research methods.

Greens in Action:

The support of Greens in the European Parliament was pivotal to the successful ban on testing cosmetics on animals.

Green MP Caroline Lucas has supported the campaign to end the UK involvement in the cruel trade in wild-caught primates for research by sponsoring a Parliamentary event and tabling an Early-Day Motion (EDM 957) on this and many other animal issues.

Wild Animals



Illegal wildlife trade, combined with unsustainable legal trade, is devastating species across the globe.

The EU must strengthen and enforce the multilateral agreements on wildlife trade and use its influence to ensure other countries are enforcing their own rules.

Greens will push for:

- the inclusion of wild animals in captivity in the EU Animal Welfare Framework Law, establishing mandatory welfare standards for all individual animals regardless of their use or circumstance;
- a commitment from EU Member States to implement and effectively enforce the requirements of the EC Zoos Directive 1999/22, including a robust licensing and inspection procedure and the humane closures of non-compliant zoos;
- an end to the use of wild animals in circuses and travelling menageries and exhibitions;
- an end to the keeping of captive whales and dolphins for commercial purposes;
- greater protection for wild animals used in TV advertising, film and stage, encouraging strict regulation by Member States to restrict use unless the animal's physical and behavioural needs can be met;
- a ban on the import of wild-caught animals;
- an EU-wide ban on the keeping of primates as pets, and an examination of the mechanisms by which the suitability of other species currently traded and kept as exotic pets can be assessed,



and tight restrictions brought in as appropriate;

- a fully funded EU action plan to tackle wildlife trafficking and improve enforcement;
- the mandatory recording of all animal imports, noting species, numbers of individuals, origin and destination. This information should be readily available for monitoring purposes;
- an end to the keeping of wild animals as companion animals and household pets;
- action to end trophy hunting and the importation of wildlife trophies into the EU;
- greater support to build capacity in developing countries for effective wildlife-law enforcement and full compliance with international agreements, including CITES;
- increased support for multinational actions aimed at gathering data on the illegal wildlife trade (e.g. Interpol Wildlife Crime Unit) in order to disrupt the activities of criminal syndicates;
- improved public education and awareness initiatives in support of demand-reduction strategies;
- all European tour operators, travel affiliations and national tourist boards to adopt the Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism and to act to ensure their holiday excursions and related activities have a minimal impact on the welfare of animals, both wild and captive;
- Work for stronger international protection of endangered sea creatures, and an end to any killing of cetaceans in European waters.



The Badger Cull

In the UK Defra has chosen to cull badgers in an attempt to tackle the problem of TB in cattle, against all independent scientific opinion.

Greens are strongly opposed to this cull and at a European level will push for the introduction of a new law, based on the Animal Health Law, allowing for quicker approval of any vaccine to protect cattle against bovine TB.

Habitat Protection

Greens will work to:

- strengthen protection of habitats through the Habitats Directive;
- better support and enforce the protection of the Natura 2000 conservation areas;
- reform CAP to better allow ecosystems to flourish.



Greens in Action:

Green MEPS have been working with campaigners at a European level to ensure that European legislation would not be a barrier to the vaccination of cattle against TB. The Green council in Brighton has passed a motion ensuring there will be no culling on its land.

Green Party Animal Spokesperson, Caroline Allen, has been a high-profile campaigner against the badger cull as one of the 'vets against the cull' and, along with the Green Party Leader, Natalie Bennett, joined badger patrols during the pilot culls.

Green Party London Assembly Member Jenny Jones played a pivotal role in saving the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit.

Former Green MEP Caroline Lucas (now a Green MP in Westminster) was one of the sponsors of the legislation that led to the ban on the import of seal products into the EU. It came in to force in 2010 and will save hundreds of thousands of seals from slaughter.

Keith Taylor MEP has supported a number of initiatives to improve the protection of wild animals in captivity in the European Union. They include the launch of the ENDCAP report Wild Pets in the EU, which proposes a ban on wild and non-native pets, and the EU Zoo Inquiry, to evaluate the implementation and enforcement of the EC Zoos Directive. Keith was also a cosponsor of the launch of the Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism, published by ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents).

Companion Animals

Companion animals are increasingly being traded across country borders, yet companion-animal welfare is regulated at national level.

Greens will push for:

- coordinated action on stray animals and legislation to ensure countries across Europe deal with stray animals in a humane way, using programmes based on neutering and not culling;
- European legislation to regulate the breeding and sale of cats and dogs, with mandatory licensing of breeders and control of genetic manipulation through breeding to prevent exaggerated characteristics likely to cause suffering;
- compulsory identification by microchipping and registration on an appropriate harmonized database.



Greens in Action:

Keith Taylor MEP has called for action across Europe to tackle the very serious stray-dog problems in some EU countries.

Green Party Animal Spokesperson and vet, Caroline Allen, has been campaigning for better legislation of the pet trade and an end to puppy farming.



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).

Green MEPS will work towards:

- removing EU subsidies from bullfighting and will campaign against any attempt to have bullfighting recognised by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage;
- an end to animals being used in circuses;
- action over other sports and entertainment that causes suffering to animals.



Greens in Action:

Green MEPs Jean Lambert and Keith Taylor MEP have been working to ensure the EU subsidy to bullfighting is withdrawn. Their petition on this issue has gathered more than 24,000 signatures to date.

Keith Taylor MEP has been very vocal in his criticism of the UK's decision not to ban the use of wild animals in circuses.

Greens for Animal Protection



The Green Party's 'Greens for Animal Protection Group' actively campaigns for better Animal Protection by active involvement in many animal campaigns, attending animal demos and protests, holding street stalls, distributing leaflets and using social media.

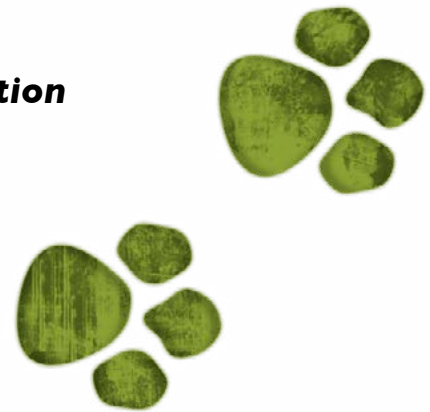


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