

LONDON 2016 GREEN PARTY MANIFESTO FOR ANIMALS

The Mayor of London and the London Assembly can play an important part in protecting and championing animals.

Over the past 16 years, Green members of the London Assembly have persuaded the Mayor to pioneer a London Food Strategy and establish the London Food Board, with a strong emphasis on animal welfare.

They have also exposed plans to serve factory farmed chicken at the Olympics, and secured funding to enhance and connect up the largest network of wildlife habitats through ten boroughs in East London.

With a Green Mayor or more Greens on the London Assembly we can ensure that City Hall, Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade uphold the highest standards when purchasing food and cleaning products, and they can each do their part to protect companion, farm and wild animals.

We will also help to lobby the Government, the boroughs and the private sector to follow suit, and help co-ordinate action across London.



COMPANION ANIMALS

Greens in City Hall will:

- Work for tougher licensing conditions for pet shops to ensure better traceability, disease control and welfare, supported by regular veterinary inspections. No pet fairs.
- Support charities and providers of veterinary services to improve access to preventive veterinary care for those on low incomes, in particular supporting schemes that promote neutering.
- Lobby for an end to the selling of pets from pet shops; in particular exotic pets and puppies that have originated on puppy farms. Work with all agencies to tackle the issue of illegally imported puppies being sold online and through pet shops. All animals should be sold with information about how to care for them, which must include the relevant Defra Code of Practice.
- Work for an end to back-street breeding and to improve licensing for breeders, including lower fees to encourage people to register, licensing for anyone breeding more than one litter a year, and a ban on removing puppies from their mothers before eight weeks.
- Work to ensure that every borough has an animal welfare officer and that they provide a comprehensive out-of-hours stray dog service, with animal welfare at its centre. Promote the new dog microchipping law and strong enforcement.
- Work to expand school and community based education programmes on responsible pet ownership.
- Work with the new London Renters Union that a Green Mayor will fund, and with the housing sector, to ensure that all housing providers have positive pets policies that encourage responsible pet ownership and enforce against those that act irresponsibly. Landlords should be required to recognise the needs of pet owners in rented accommodation and allow them to keep their pets.
- Ensure that best practice on status and 'dangerous' dogs is shared across the police force and that the Dangerous Dog Units are adequately resourced, while lobbying the government to remove the breed specific legislation contained in the damaging and ineffective Dangerous Dogs Act.
- Discourage the keeping of wild animals as pets.
- Reinstate the Animal Protection Officer at the Greater London Authority.

WILD ANIMALS

Greens in City Hall will:

- Create a new strategic appointment in City Hall to raise the profile of planning for green and blue infrastructure, supporting nature reserves and wildlife corridors and linking up green space and protected sites right through London.
- Bring in funding to co-ordinate the completion of the Green Grid, which helps improve local planning to connect habitats across the capital and brings many benefits, including helping wild animals with continuous corridors of habitat through which they can pass.
- Help boroughs to identify local opportunities to enhance 'green' and 'blue' infrastructure such as wildlife corridors, planting trees and protecting natural flood plains, while making it a planning requirement for developers to include these opportunities.
- Continue to ensure adequate resources for the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit.
- Explore making animal welfare a material planning consideration.
- Strongly resist calls for any cull of urban foxes and tackle problems that could lead to a growth in their population; get fast food waste off the streets by making the shops take responsibility, use new waste powers to ensure all food waste bins are secured from foxes.
- Only use humane, non-lethal pest control methods where animal populations are controlled.
- Lobby boroughs, the Royal Parks and other landowners to publicly ban animal circuses on their land and press the Government to implement a total national ban.

ANIMAL TESTING

Greens in City Hall will:

- Ensure that all purchasing across the GLA group (City Hall, Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade) conforms to strict ethical rules, including non-animal tested cleaning projects.
- Work to make London a world centre for non-animal biomedical research.
- Encourage all establishments in London that conduct research using animals to publicly commit to replacing animal experiments with humane alternatives, reducing animal numbers and suffering and improving animal welfare.

FARMED ANIMALS

Greens in City Hall will:

- Encourage reduced use of meat and dairy produce in catering procurement decisions. Use of organic, higher welfare products will be strongly encouraged when meat, milk or eggs are used.
- Produce comprehensive information on vegetarian and vegan diets for all boroughs and authorities so that all London's schools, hospitals and prisons offer healthy vegetarian and vegan options.
- Promote a cruelty-free economy and cruelty-free practices - and advocate that especially cruel foods such as pâté de fois gras, shark's fin soup and frog's legs are banned.
- Act to end London's fur trade, and campaign for London Fashion Week to be free of fur, using the GLA's funding of the event as a lever to persuade designers to avoid this horrific trade.