



Animal welfare

The ACT Greens believe that we must protect our ecosystem and native wildlife while also looking after domestic pets by tackling animal neglect and cruelty.

Canberrans, and visitors to our city, love our beautiful bush capital and the wildlife that it supports. Many Canberrans also have pets of their own who are important members of their families.

In the 20 years that we have been in the ACT Assembly, Greens MLAs have consistently fought for legal reform in animal welfare. We have achieved so much in this time. We have banned battery caged hens, puppy farms, hen debeaking, sow stalls, and we've improved egg labelling laws.

The ACT Greens believe that we must protect our ecosystem and the native wildlife that we're so lucky to have here in Canberra. We also need to look after domestic pets by tackling animal neglect and cruelty and implementing strong animal welfare laws.

Canberra is a progressive jurisdiction, and the Greens are proud to be at the forefront of animal rights reforms.

To help care for animals, our biodiversity and the natural environment, the ACT Greens will:

- » Implement a transition package for the end of Greyhound Racing in the ACT
- » Create a subsidised cat neutering scheme for low income earners; and
- » Invest in animal welfare services

> An end to greyhound racing in the ACT

Systemic, illegal activities have taken hold of the Greyhound Racing industry for far too long. The evidence from the recent report into the NSW Greyhound Racing industry that identified the slaughter of more than 60,000 dogs in NSW was shocking, and utterly deplorable.

While the ACT Greens welcome the decision to end Greyhound Racing in the Territory, we also acknowledge that there is a need to help transition workers into new industries and help support the welfare of the greyhounds that this ban will impact.

That's why the ACT Greens will invest \$1 million to:

- » Implement a greyhound racing transition package to support workers and owners to re-skill and to rehome dogs.

Subsidies currently provided to the ACT's greyhound industry will be redirected into a animal welfare rehoming scheme for former racing dogs. The dogs will also be vaccinated and microchipped for free. The package also includes funding for workers involved in the industry to retrain for employment in new industries.

> **A cat neutering scheme for low income earners**

Many Canberrans love their domestic pets - including cats. However, cats can pose a risk to our natural wildlife if they are able to enter the wild and breed.

Neutering of cats is the most humane, and proactive approach to ensure that cats don't enter into the wild to breed and risk destroying our natural environment. But, many people on low incomes find the costs prohibitive.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Implement a subsidised cat neutering scheme for those on low incomes; and
- » Undertake a feasibility study into cat registration and microchipping.

Eligible participants for the low income earner subsidy for cat neutering will provide proof of earnings and proof of residency to the ACT Government, who will facilitate appointment/operation times and prepare payments to participating veterinary surgeries in Canberra upon completion of the procedures.

> **Investment in animal welfare services**

There are a number of animal welfare services that need to be undertaken in our city. These include:

- » Animal welfare inspectorate
- » Dog pound (lost dogs, and impounded dogs)
- » Dog and cat kenneling, fostering and rehoming for abandoned domestic animals
- » Wildlife care

The ACT Greens believe that government has a responsibility to ensure that the community

organisations that undertake this work are able to continue to provide this important service.

The ACT Greens will:

- » Secure additional funding of \$1.75 million for animal welfare services and call for tenders for provision of specific services.