



Animal Welfare Policy

Enhance Animal Welfare and Ban Religious Slaughter

For Britain is opposed to all forms of animal cruelty and will work to enhance animal welfare.

For Britain supports British farming, and we know that most of our farmers care deeply about the animals they raise. We will work together with British farmers to bring about change that we can all support.

Religious Slaughter

The British Veterinary Association calls for all animals to be effectively stunned before slaughter, while the Farm Animal Welfare Council says cutting an animal's throat results in “very significant pain and distress” before the animal loses consciousness.¹

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, the Farm Animal Welfare Committee, the Humane Slaughter Association, and the RSPCA all advocate pre-stunned slaughter.²

Religious slaughter, both halal and kosher, involve cutting the throat of a conscious animal; a practice prohibited under British law (which requires animals to be stunned to unconsciousness prior to slaughter). EU laws provide a religious exemption to this.³ For Britain will repeal this exemption in the UK and demand that British law is obeyed.

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<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/slaughter/religiouslaughter>

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<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/slaughter/religiouslaughter>

³

For Britain proposes a complete ban on all un-stunned slaughter; all animals deserve to be spared this unnecessary suffering.

For Britain also proposes a public inquiry into the certification of halal products.

Veal

Veal is produced from male dairy calves who serve no purpose in the production of dairy products. Veal calves are taken from their mothers and housed in extremely cramped conditions so that they are effectively unable to move (this affects the taste of the meat). The veal calf spends its short life in extreme suffering. For Britain believes this amounts to unnecessary and gratuitous cruelty and should therefore be disallowed under laws aimed at preventing unnecessary suffering.

The Dairy Industry

For Britain opposes the unnecessary suffering of animals and therefore seeks reform in the dairy industry. We know that most farmers care for the welfare of their animals and we encourage this. We encourage organic and natural farming. Factory farming however can result in extreme suffering for cattle. A cow can spend most of her life in small and cramped conditions and deprived of access to her calves. We believe a cow should roam freely as much as possible, should have access to her calves, and should be treated with compassion.

Live exports

In 2017, The National Farmers' Union estimated that 20,000 live sheep were transported from the UK to sub-standard abattoirs in Europe.⁴

A journey from the UK to Spain can last 60 hours. Animals often travel in cramped trucks, sometimes with failed water tanks and ventilation systems. Many are not able to complete the terrible journey. For Britain believes that to avoid unnecessary cruelty, animals should be slaughtered as close as possible to their habitat – forcing animals to endure these journeys is unnecessary and therefore gratuitously cruel.

Natural habitat and wildlife

Several species including hedgehogs, nightingales, butterflies, skylarks and birds of prey are being wiped out. The European bird census showed that nearly two-thirds of Britain's skylarks and lapwings have disappeared, while Birdlife International says 95% of turtle doves have vanished in 20 years.⁵

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/bibliotheque/briefing/2012/120375/LDM_BRI\(2012\)120375_REV2_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/bibliotheque/briefing/2012/120375/LDM_BRI(2012)120375_REV2_EN.pdf)

⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-42916291>

This is mostly due to the loss of green land. Opening more parks and creating new nature reserves can provide the opportunity for wildlife to once again flourish. For Britain will protect the green belt and the British countryside.

Experiments

The Home Office's latest annual report on scientific procedures carried out on live rodents, monkeys, pigs, horses, cats, dogs and other creatures reveal that 4.14M tests were recorded by universities and laboratories in 2015.⁶

Of the 4.14M, 2.08M were experimental procedures and often resulted in considerable pain, while other animals were subjected to genetic alteration.

In the UK in 2015, there were:

- 4,600 procedures on dogs
- 8,400 procedures on horses
- 209 procedures on cats
- Live pig procedures increased by 50 per cent to 5,500

The experiments included tests for industrial and household chemicals. For Britain believes that unnecessary animal experimentation is wrong and should be limited only to necessary medical research and carried out as humanely as possible.

Eggs

For Britain believes that egg-laying hens should be able to roam freely as much as possible. Therefore, we oppose caging hens in cramped conditions and will encourage free-range egg production with the ultimate aim of ending cages altogether.

Fur

Animals bred for fur are kept in tiny cages and endure considerable suffering. They are killed using electrocution or are very often skinned alive. In June 2018, Humane Society International delivered a petition of almost half a million signatures to 10 Downing Street demanding a UK ban on the import of fur.⁷ MPs from all parties have spoken in favour of this ban. For Britain supports the proposed ban on fur imports to the UK.

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/dec/09/decline-uk-countryside-birds>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/jul/20/rise-in-number-of-animals-used-in-uk-research-home-office-report-shows>

⁷ http://www.hsi.org/world/united_kingdom/news/releases/2018/06/fur-debate-060618.html

Puppy Farms

In 2018, the 'Lucy's Law'⁸ proposals to end the practice of puppy farming in the UK received tentative government support. For Britain believes we must take action and ban this cruel practice immediately. Puppy farming involves the mass-breeding of dogs, kept in appalling conditions, for sale through internet sites and pet shops. It is estimated that 80,000 dogs are sold in this way in the UK each year. The Lucy's Law proposal followed a petition signed by 143,000 people which called for only reputable breeders to be given the right to sell puppies, and to ban the sale of puppies by pet shops and third party dealers. The petition was named after Lucy, a King Charles Cavalier rescued from a puppy farm.

Dog-Fighting

Dog-fighting was banned in the UK as far back as 1835. However, immigration, largely from Pakistan (where dog-fighting is common), has brought an explosion of the cruel practice to the UK. The League Against Cruel Sports has described dog-fighting as "one of the most horrific forms of organised animal cruelty" and they demand custodial sentences for those convicted. In 2009, the Birmingham Mail revealed that the West Midlands is a hotspot for dog-fighting, with one RSPCA officer claiming that 98% was related to "Asian gangs".⁹ For Britain calls for greater action on dog-fighting and for this terrible practice to be brought to an end immediately.

Criminal law

Between 2013 and 2015 more than 3,000 people in England and Wales were convicted of animal cruelty but just 7% received jail terms.¹⁰ We believe that cruelty to animals should be taken more seriously by the courts and serious offenders jailed. We support a lifetime ban on ownership of animals for those convicted of cruelty.

For Britain believes that all animals have a fundamental right to live their lives with dignity and in a humane environment.

We care about Britain and all life within her land, and we are the political voice for those who take animal welfare seriously.

PLEASE HELP US TO HELP ANIMALS

⁸ <http://www.hoperescue.org.uk/news/petition-support-lucys-law>

⁹ <https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/local-news/asian-gangs-behind-soaring-cases-241935>

¹⁰ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-39042626>