



Animal welfare Tackling current challenges hindering animal welfare in the EU and beyond resolution

1 With the use of animals comes a moral responsibility where the animals' needs as sentient beings
2 must be respected. Good animal husbandry and welfare are not just about avoidance of suffering
3 in the form of stress, fear, frustration, pain, injuries and illness. They are about exposing animals to
4 positive experiences and making sure they can express behaviours that are normal for them in
5 their natural habitats.

6 ~~Although animals are beings with intrinsic value regardless of the benefit for~~
7 ~~humans. Furthermore,~~ the question of animal welfare is at the same time broader than that of
8 individual animal welfare. All over the world, we witness the effects of animals
9 being exploited for short-term financial interests.

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11 ~~sentient beings must be respected. Good animal husbandry and welfare are not~~
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13 ~~pain, injuries and illness. They are about exposing animals to positive~~
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15 ~~in their natural habitats.~~

16 The fight against poor animal welfare is also a fight against the global agroindustry. As European
17 Greens we support small scale agriculture and regional supply chains. We want less but better
18 animal farming. Only a system change can guarantee good animal husbandry, high food quality
19 and a healthy planet.

Antibiotics

21 This is most obvious in the area of antibiotics, where more antibiotics are
22 still being used globally on healthy animals than for treating people with
23 illnesses.

24 To a large extent, antibiotics, one of our most valuable medicines, are used
25 pre-emptively rather than when needed, often to compensate for poor animal
26 husbandry. ~~An improved regulatory framework to address this issue within the EU~~
27 ~~is in progress but there is no efficient global regulatory framework to limit~~
28 ~~abuse of antibiotics, as seen in many countries. It is important that there is~~
29 ~~reliable and available data on the use of antibiotics down to the farm level to~~
30 ~~enable improved incentives, bold policy decisions and consumer action to reduce~~
31 ~~the risk of resistance to antibiotics. An improved regulatory framework to address this issue within~~
32 ~~the EU is in progress but there is no efficient global regulatory framework to limit abuse of~~
33 ~~antibiotics, as seen in many countries. It is important that there is reliable and available data on the~~
34 ~~use of antibiotics down to the farm level to enable improved incentives, bold policy decisions and~~
35 ~~consumer action to reduce the risk of resistance to antibiotics. We support a ban on the non-~~
36 ~~medicinal use of antibiotics. This will both require and lead to better animal welfare, making it~~



37 crucial to end high-performance breeding.

38 **Zoonoses**

39 Substandard animal husbandry creates risks to the global health of both animals
40 and people. Many epidemics and pandemics are spread by zoonotic diseases which
41 are often aggravated by poor animal welfare standards. Keeping live animals
42 densely packed and under stress, together with many other species, both wild and
43 domesticated, creates significant risks of different types of viruses being
44 transmitted between animals and humans, which may result in devastating diseases
45 with dire consequences for us humans.

46 Zoonoses, which are diseases ~~or of~~ infectious agents that can spread between animals and
47 humans make up approximately 75% of all new infectious diseases suffered by
48 humans. No one will forget the new coronavirus which has caused the COVID-19
49 disease. The first outbreaks were linked to a market in the Chinese city of
50 Wuhan that was selling live animals, both wild and domesticated.

51 The risk of new zoonotic diseases also increases in areas where natural habitats
52 are destroyed by, for example, cultivation or the expansion of livestock
53 husbandry. Encroachment into wildlife habitats also occurs due to logging activities and illegal
54 international trade in wildlife and exotic animals, despite the international regulations like CITES.
55 ~~Although the explanation for the connection is not entirely clear, in some cases~~
56 ~~at least it is linked to environmental change which, in turn, leads to a sharp~~
57 ~~increase in certain species harbouring viruses which can potentially be~~
58 ~~transmitted to people.~~

59 **Transport and trade**

60 Transporting animals for reasons such as, production, slaughter, trade, or breeding, often involves
61 a great deal of stress, suffering and death.

62 We believe that both the number of journeys and the time the animals are
63 transported must be minimised.

64 "Animals should be slaughtered at the nearest suitable slaughterhouse and we need an increase
65 of regional slaughterhouses. We want a development of mobile slaughterhouses and on farm-
66 slaughter. The transport of genetic material instead of live animals for reproduction also offers
67 solutions to concretely reduce long-distance transport.

68 The upcoming revision of the Animal Transport Regulation should be the occasion for the
69 European Union to adopt a maximum transport time of 8 hours for live animals in Europe for all
70 transport modes, of 4 hours for rabbits and poultry, as well as a transport ban of unweaned animals
71 and pregnant animals in the last third of gestation. In addition, we call on a ban on the export of live
72 animals to third countries who do not respect similar animal welfare standards as in the European
73 Union."

74 ~~Animals should always be slaughtered at the nearest slaughterhouse. We want to~~
75 ~~facilitate mobile slaughterhouses and make eight hours the maximum~~
76 ~~transportation time. If the transport time to the nearest slaughterhouse exceeds~~
77 ~~eight hours, it can be extended by a maximum of three hours.~~



78 "Illegal puppy and other breeding mills and the trade of exotic animals violate animal welfare and
79 create suffering, which should be determinedly addressed and prevented through improved
80 regulation and trade control internationally, which should be determinedly addressed and
81 prevented through improved regulation and trade control internationally. The target is to put an end
82 to all illegal trade and transport of animals"

83 End animal testing

84 In 2010, the European Union adopted the EU directive on the protection of animals used for
85 scientific purposes 2010/63/EU with the goal to fully replace animal testing with alternative
86 methods , yet, every year, millions of animals are still being used for regulatory testing, research
87 and education.

88 In order to make the "3Rs" rule (reduce, refine, replace) effective in terms of animal
89 experimentation, it is essential to create impartial and transparent evaluation structures, to produce
90 regular information, to supervise and control both breeders and research projects, and to increase
91 the development and implementation of alternative methods.

92 We demand the enforcement of the EU ban on animal testing for cosmetic ingredients, which
93 requires national law changes and finances in the first place. This implementation should be
94 reported at the meetings hosted by 3R-centers. It is unnecessary and cruel and 72% of citizens in
95 the EU wants to put an end to this practice."

96 **End the cage age**

97 Every year, across the European Union alone, around 300 million farmed animals are
98 confined in cages. Unable to pursue many of their natural behaviours, these
99 animals are treated as nothing more than production units, not as living beings. Macro-farms which
100 aim at maximising the economic profit on the basis of the concentration of livestock and saving on
101 the husbandry costs are a severe threat to environment, the development and spreading of
102 zoonoses, and become an extremely unfair competition to ecological farming.

103 Over 170 organisations have joined forces with citizens across Europe to
104 spearhead the End the Cage Age European Citizens' Initiative. We must now ensure
105 a total ban on caged farming is delivered, as soon as possible,
106 to secure a cage-free and slatted floor pen-free Europe.

107 Wildlife trafficking

108 The illegal wildlife trade is the fourth largest illegal trade behind drugs, people smuggling and
109 counterfeiting. It is devastating for biodiversity and a source of great suffering for animals. It is
110 essential to strengthen the information of citizens and to provide the means, in particular
111 legislative, to suppress trafficking. Animals that are listed on CITES are prohibited from trade.
112 Customs examines these species against those arriving from countries outside the EU. But once
113 the products have entered the EU, or come from within the EU, no strict control takes place. They
114 can only call the police, but they cannot detain the person, and no statistics are kept, which makes
115 it very difficult to know how widespread the problem is. This is due to the protection of the free
116 trade in the EU, and CITES species are not listed as an exception as control may still take place.
117 We demand that trade with CITES listed species should make an exception from this, just as
118 weapons and drugs. The trade with exotic animals should be regulated through a positive list



119 instead of a negative list.

120 Slaughter

121 Protecting animal welfare during slaughter involves minimizing the pain, distress or suffering of
122 farm animals at the time of killing. Slaughterhouse personnel must put in place a whole series of
123 specific procedures. For example, he must carry out regular checks to ensure that the animals
124 show no signs of consciousness or sensibility between the end of stunning and killing. If animals
125 have been killed without prior stunning, systematic checks must be carried out to ensure that the
126 animals show no signs of consciousness or sensibility before ending their restraint and show no
127 signs of life before dressing or scalding.

128 **Therefore, the European Green Party:**

- 129 Calls on all Member States of the United Nations to intensify work on a
130 global UN declaration on animal welfare and to work for a global
131 regulatory framework against the pre-emptive use of antibiotics in animal
132 husbandry Calls on all Member States of the United Nations to intensify work on a global
133 UN declaration on animal welfare and to work for a code that considers use of antibiotics on
134 animals, transport, end of the cage age, wildlife trafficking, slaughter, and animal
135 experimentation;
- 136 Calls on the European Commission to present ambitious legislative proposals for EU
137 animal welfare, including on animal welfare labelling, based on the latest scientific
138 knowledge on the physiological needs of animals to ensure cruel practices in animal
139 farming and fishing are banned and slaughter conditions are improved in the future;
- 140 Calls on the EU Commission to finally put forward the promised 1/2005
141 regulation on Animal Transport, including the ban on transportation ~~by whether on land or at~~
142 sea
143 beyond eight hours. The policy should aim for the transportation of meat
144 rather than living animals;
- 145 Expresses its full support for the Citizens' Initiative End the Cage Age
146 which aims to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for hens,
147 mother pigs, calves, rabbits, ducks, geese, and other farmed animals; Expresses its full
148 support for the Citizens' Initiatives End the Cage Age and Fur Free Europe, to phase out
149 and finally prohibit the use of cages and systems that concentrate too many animals at one
150 field, or pen for hens, mother pigs, calves, rabbits, ducks, geese, fish, and other farmed
151 animals, including animals on fur farms;
- 152 Promote awareness of animal living conditions in cages;
- 153 Promote awareness of the use of antibiotics in animals;
- 154 Opposes the macro-farming model and demands that concrete measures and regulation
155 are put in place to ensure minimum animal husbandry and welfare standards and
156 effectively promote ecological farming;
- 157 Commits to push for the implementation of the demands of this initiative on a national and
158 European level;



- 159 Calls on the EU to develop a system of reliable and available data on the use of antibiotics
160 down to the farm level;
- 161 Calls on the implementation of minimum standards across the EU that guarantees good
162 animal welfare in husbandry system;
- 163 Commits to push for the implementation of the demands of this initiative
164 on a national and European level, as well as a ban on fur farms and fur imports in Europe;
- 165 Calls on the EU to develop a system of reliable and available data on the
166 use of antibiotics down to the farm level and a global regulatory framework against the pre-
167 emptive use of antibiotics in animal husbandry;
- 168 Calls on the EU that harmonized legislation obliges slaughterhouses to follow very strict
169 procedures in terms of taking into account the pain, distress or suffering of farmed animals
170 at the time of of their killing;
- 171 Calls on the EU to create impartial and transparent evaluation structures, to produce
172 regular information, to supervise and control both breeders and research projects, and to
173 develop alternative methods;
- 174 Calls on the EU to provide the means, in particular legislative, to suppress trafficking;
- 175 Calls for the EU Commission to ban farmed fur products from the European market, as well
176 as the European Union and its member states to ban fur farming by phasing out the
177 industry, in accordance with the proposals in the European Citizen's Initiative "Fur Free
178 Europe", whilst taking into account the demand for support for farmers and workers in the
179 fur industry to make the change towards green jobs and businesses in order to carry out a
180 fair transition;
- 181 Calls on EU Commission to create a robust regulatory system to govern all animal trade,
182 and which obliges the protection and prioritization of animal welfare;
- 183 Calls on EU Commission to oblige it's members to legislate, finance and control a
184 regulatory system in order to enhance high standards in animal welfare and living
185 conditions, with the intention to also prevent zoonoses.