



Draft

Title: **Animal welfare resolution**

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Draft text

1 Although animals are beings with intrinsic value regardless of the benefit for
2 humans, the question of animal welfare is at the same time broader than that of
3 individual animal welfare. All over the world, we witness the effects of animals
4 being exploited for short-term financial interests.

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

11 **Antibiotics**

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

15 To a large extent, antibiotics, one of our most valuable medicines, are used
16 pre-emptively rather than when needed, often to compensate for poor animal
17 husbandry. An improved regulatory framework to address this issue within the EU
18 is in progress but there is no efficient global regulatory framework to limit
19 abuse of antibiotics, as seen in many countries. It is important that there is
20 reliable and available data on the use of antibiotics down to the farm level to
21 enable improved incentives, bold policy decisions and consumer action to reduce
22 the risk of resistance to antibiotics.

23 **Zoonoses**

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

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

36 The risk of new zoonotic diseases also increases in areas where natural habitats
37 are destroyed by, for example, cultivation or the expansion of livestock
38 husbandry.

39 Although the explanation for the connection is not entirely clear, in some cases
40 at least it is linked to environmental change which, in turn, leads to a sharp
41 increase in certain species harbouring viruses which can potentially be
42 transmitted to people.

43 **Transport**

44 Transporting animals often involves a great deal of stress, suffering and death.
45 We believe that both the number of journeys and the time the animals are
46 transported must be minimised.

47 Animals should always be slaughtered at the nearest slaughterhouse. We want to
48 facilitate mobile slaughterhouses and make eight hours the maximum
49 transportation time. If the transport time to the nearest slaughterhouse exceeds
50 eight hours, it can be extended by a maximum of three hours.

51 **End the cage age**

52 Every year, across the European Union, around 300 million farmed animals are
53 confined in cages. Unable to pursue many of their natural behaviours, these

54 animals are treated as nothing more than production units, not as living beings.

55 Over 170 organisations have joined forces with citizens across Europe to
56 spearhead the End the Cage Age European Citizens' Initiative. We must now ensure
57 a total ban on caged farming is delivered, as soon as possible,
58 to secure a cage-free Europe.

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

- 60 • Calls on all Member States of the United Nations to intensify work on a
61 global UN declaration on animal welfare and to work for a global
62 regulatory framework against the pre-emptive use of antibiotics in animal
63 husbandry;

- 64 • Calls on the EU Commission to finally put forward the promised 1/2005
65 regulation on Animal Transport, including the ban on transportation by sea
66 beyond eight hours. The policy should aim for the transportation of meat
67 rather than living animals;

- 68 • Expresses its full support for the Citizens' Initiative End the Cage Age
69 which aims to phase out and finally prohibit the use of cages for hens,
70 mother pigs, calves, rabbits, ducks, geese, and other farmed animals;

- 71 • Commits to push for the implementation of the demands of this initiative
72 on a national and European level

- 73 • Calls on the EU to develop a system of reliable and available data on the
74 use of antibiotics down to the farm level