

neKind

Manifesto for Animals Scottish Parliament Elections 2021





OneKind vision

The OneKind vision is a world in which non-human animals are recognised as individuals and respected for their capacities and priorities, which are different to but not lesser than ours. In which humans empathise with other animals, treat them with kindness, dignity and compassion, and allow them to flourish.

OneKind mission

The OneKind mission is to inspire a movement of people to connect with animals, protect them, advocate for them and enhance their lives. We create conversations around challenging questions and seek innovative solutions to welfare problems. Our work is informed by current scientific evidence and fuelled by dedicated supporters.

OneKind manifesto

This OneKind manifesto sets out some key recommendations for the incoming Scottish Parliament and the next government in Scotland. We ask that all parties and candidates acknowledge that animal wellbeing is closely linked to human wellbeing, that animals are individual beings not commodities, and that decisions affecting their welfare should be based on evidence and ethics.

We believe that the values of kindness, dignity and compassion, which lie at the heart of Scotland's National Performance Framework, should be extended to the non-human members of our community.

OneKind is calling for:

- A requirement for Government Ministers and public bodies to recognise the sentience of animals and pay full regard to animal welfare requirements when formulating and implementing all policies.

A similar provision is currently provided by Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union but will lose effect in Scotland when the UK exits the EU. This gives us an opportunity to replace it with an even stronger provision, covering animals in all scenarios and without caveats. It is important that we have legal recognition that animals are sentient beings, not simply property or goods, and that therefore we must consider the animal welfare implications of any policy. This should include a duty on public bodies to conduct an animal welfare impact assessment for any policy proposal.

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Improve humans' understanding of companion animal needs

We are increasingly recognising the mental health benefits that interacting with animals, and keeping them as companions, bring; this was highlighted during the restrictions imposed to combat COVID-19. In a recent PDSA report¹, 93% of pet owners said that their pet made them happy, 82% said their pet made them less lonely and 84% acknowledged that having a pet improved their mental health.

Yet not all pet owners recognise that this goes both ways, and animals have companionship and mental health needs too. Companionship and the ability to perform normal behaviour are the least recognised of the five welfare needs. This translates into diminished welfare for some pets: a fifth of dogs are left alone longer than the recommended maximum time, 99,000 dogs in the UK are never walked, a quarter of dog owners use aversive training

methods, 2 million cats live with another cat in social discord, half of rabbits live alone and 10% of rabbits never leave their hutch.

Equally, there is a lack of understanding of animals' physical and health needs. This is seen particularly in the high numbers of fashionable or status breeds of dogs, cats and rabbits, with exaggerated features that can cause serious health problems and lifelong pain. People are frequently not aware of these issues when acquiring the animal and are unprepared for the associated financial and emotional costs.

This lack of knowledge and the resultant welfare costs to animals, in addition to being a concern within themselves, contribute to wider issues including illegal online pet trading and people's problems with 'dangerous' dogs.



image © Pixabay/lindarczyk



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¹https://www.pdsa.org.uk/media/7420/2019-paw-report_downloadable.pdf

OneKind is calling for:

- **A comprehensive public education program around companion animal mental and physical health and welfare needs.** This should begin with school children by putting animal welfare on the primary school curriculum; the educational workshops offered by the Scottish SPCA offer an excellent example of what is possible. Adult education should also be provided and include measures targeted at specific welfare gains such as, for example, a code of practice to be followed by anybody considering acquiring an animal. Information should be disseminated in multiple ways, including social media, with the aim of engaging as many people as possible.
- **Measures to discourage the breeding of animals with exaggerated features.** Breeding regulations should include a proviso that selective breeding favours welfare over appearance. Selecting for the most problematic and extreme features should end; one example is brachycephalic animals such as Pug dogs and Persian cats, the majority of whom suffer severe breathing problems for their entire lives. The above mentioned public education campaign should include a targeted social media campaign about the suffering endured by these animals, to counteract powerful trends in certain breeds fuelled by social media.

Regulate the pet trade

The way that companion animals are bred and sold has changed rapidly over the past couple of decades. The intensification of pet breeding and the rapid growth of internet trading in pets have created sophisticated and lucrative international industries, both legal and illegal and sometimes linked to organised crime, that cause severe harm to the animals involved.

'Puppy farming' is fraught with welfare concerns. These young animals suffer mental health problems due to lack of socialisation, a stressful rearing environment, separation at a young age, and being transported (often

internationally) in poor conditions. They also suffer physical health problems due to inbreeding, disease spread in intensive conditions, and lowered immunity due to stress.

Exotic species, such as primates and reptiles, are also in high demand and increasingly traded online. Many of these animals' needs cannot be met in captivity, and online trading increases the likelihood of their being acquired by people without any requisite knowledge of their needs.

Together, these issues make a compelling case for urgent reform of pet vending legislation.

OneKind is calling for:

- **The development of more comprehensive statutory regulation and licensing systems for the breeding and transfer of ownership of companion animals, building on existing proposals for the licensing of cat, dog and rabbit breeding, and for further regulation of pet vending.** This is required to tackle the myriad

welfare violations created by the way people acquire or profit from companion animals.

- **The introduction of a Positive List of species that are suitable to keep as pets.** This measure has been successfully adopted in several EU countries and provides a way to ensure that only animals whose needs can be met in a domestic environment are kept as pets.



If we must kill wild animals, make decisions based on evidence and ethics

Scotland's wild animals are greatly admired by residents and visitors alike. And yet many of them are persecuted and suffer terribly due to their treatment by humans. These cruel practices are often rooted in tradition and entrenched commercial pursuits. They are enabled by value-laden language: labelling certain animals 'pests', 'vermin' or 'non-native' degrades and diminishes them.

Different categories of animals receive very different attitudes, treatment and legal protection in Scotland and the rest of the UK. As such, what is legally and morally acceptable treatment of a rat, for

example, depends on whether that rat is a companion, wild or being used for research. There may be historic, legal and pragmatic reasons for this differentiation, but such inconsistency is scientifically unjustified and ethically untenable.

It is time for this to change. We must stop allowing treatment of wild animals that would be illegal and considered abhorrent if applied to domesticated animals. OneKind is against the killing of animals. However, if it must be carried out, wildlife 'management' must be based on evidence and ethics.



OneKind is calling for:

A commitment to decisions based on evidence and ethics when considering any measures that may affect wild animal welfare. This means:

- **Requiring any wildlife 'management' proposal or existing regime to conduct animal welfare impact assessments** and follow the international consensus principles for ethical wildlife control.²
- **An outright ban on the sale, manufacture, possession and use of snares.** These cruel and outdated devices are used mainly to trap foxes and rabbits, but sometimes catch other animals such as badgers. Any animal caught in a snare suffers immensely, possibly for many hours, before dying or being killed. Snaring is conducted ad-hoc at the discretion of individuals, with no end point or evidence of necessity or efficacy.
- **A full review of the animal welfare impacts of the use of traps** commonly used on grouse moors and elsewhere (e.g. spring traps, crow cage traps, Larsen traps, mammal cage traps), including the case for banning certain types of trap outright on welfare grounds. The review should also consider the ethics and sustainability of repeated killing of the same species in the same locations; and mechanisms to ensure scrutiny of all practices undertaken by hunters, shooters and trappers, and only to permit the use of traps under exceptional circumstances.
- **New legislation to make the ban on hunting with dogs effective and enforceable**, as previously committed to by the Scottish Government. The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 prohibits the deliberate hunting of a wild mammal with a dog. However, due to a long and confusing list of exemptions the flaws in its application to fox hunting have become increasingly obvious. For example, an exemption for flushing is interpreted as allowing lengthy pursuits of the fox by a full pack of hounds. New legislation to close these loopholes, which was delayed by COVID 19, must be introduced as a matter of priority.
- **A full review of the licensing system, to ensure that all general and specific licences are evidence based and welfare is prioritised.** The current licensing system has developed gradually under various influences, current and historical. The resulting system is illogical, leaves many animals with insufficient protections, and allows unacceptable welfare violations. The inconsistencies in regulations and licensing for different species means that, legally, animals' welfare rights are dependant on their species and circumstances. The system must be re-evaluated within the framework of the principles of ethical wildlife control².

²<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/cobi.12896>

End the use of animals in experiments



image © Istock/KoKimk

As with wild animals, animals used in research are legally subjected to pain and suffering that would be both illegal and repugnant if applied to companion animals. Yet in 2019, in Great Britain, 3.4 million scientific procedures were carried out. 18,000 of them were on 'specially protected' species: dogs, cats, horses and primates. 1900 monkeys were transported from Africa or Asia, adding the stress of transport to their subsequent exploitation. Many more animals are bred each year for scientific research but die or are killed without being used (1.81 million in 2017).

This practice is unethical and can no longer be justified, as it is also ineffective. Animal 'models' have predictive failures in toxicology testing, a limited translation to humans, and can lead to adverse drug reactions and clinical trial disasters³. These limitations lead to a highly inefficient drug discovery and development process. New approach methodologies (NAMs) using advanced in vitro and in silico technologies offer more relevant data and insights, the potential for ground-breaking research, and a significant business opportunity.

³https://www.humanrelevantscience.org/wp-content/uploads/Accelerating-the-Growth-of-Human-Relevant-Sciences-in-the-UK_2020-final.pdf

Although the regulation of scientific procedures is reserved to the UK government, the Scottish Government can:

- **Promote rapid development and utilisation of alternatives to animal research.** 75% of British people think that more needs to be done on this.⁴ The proportion that think there should be no research involving animals, on welfare grounds, is steadily increasing. Scotland should become a world leader in developing alternatives. Yet in 2019, of the UK organisations that carried out the most scientific procedures on animals, the University of Edinburgh was fourth on the list and the University of Glasgow was seventh.⁵
- **Press the UK government to take action to replace animal testing.** This includes

supporting development of new approach methods via strategic funding, education, regulatory engagement, supportive infrastructure, and multidisciplinary collaboration. Despite a pledge from the UK government ten years ago to reduce animal testing, there has been no sustained, significant reduction. Their recently published Research and Development Roadmap does not have a commitment to developing advanced non-animal alternatives, limiting not only the improvement of animal welfare but the ability of the UK to be at the forefront of biomedical research.

⁴https://www.ipsos.com/sites/default/files/ct/news/documents/2019-05/18-040753-01_ols_public_attitudes_to_animal_research_report_v3_191118_public.pdf

⁵<https://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/news/communications-media/top-ten-organisations-for-animal-research-in-2019-announced/>

Make Scotland a Good Food Nation

Our current food system is unsustainable and not conducive to the wellbeing of animals, humans or the environment. As part of the Scottish Food Coalition, OneKind wants to change this: to make Scotland a Good Food Nation, with animal welfare at the heart of that concept. Food produced at the expense of animal wellbeing cannot be said to be good.

The impacts of COVID-19 highlighted the flaws in our food systems, including the links between intensive animal farming and major threats to human health, such as the spread of zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance. This farming is resource intensive and pollutes heavily, making it an environmental disaster. And, of course, these intensive systems are inherently harmful to animals.

Farmed animals represent by far the largest number of individual lives under human control in Scotland, with 1.73 million cows, 6.67 million sheep, 14.9 million poultry, and 319,000 pigs⁶.

Each being amongst these millions, who we are using for food, thinks and feels and has their own priorities. An unacceptably high proportion of them do not have good lives, and many endure suffering. They deserve better and we can and should shift the priority from producing animal products cheaply to directly supporting farmers to provide high welfare standards. This means a Just Transition⁷ away from the current intensive systems.



As initial steps in the phasing out of intensive systems, OneKind is calling for:

- **An end to the live export of animals for slaughter or further fattening.** Long journeys cause fear, stress, hunger, dehydration, exhaustion, overcrowding, injuries, and disease spread. Animals may experience lower legal protections in destination countries. Live export is unnecessary and can be replaced by a trade in meat and carcasses. Animals should be slaughtered as close as possible to the place of rearing and no journey should last longer than eight hours.
- **An end to the caging of farmed animals, specifically cages for laying hens and farrowing crates for sows.** Such close confinement causes suffering that cannot be justified. The End the Cage Age European Citizens' Initiative clearly showed that people do not have an appetite for caged animals.
- **CCTV to be made mandatory in all Scottish slaughterhouses, as previously committed to by the Scottish Government, and non-stun slaughter to be banned.** These measures would reduce end of life welfare violations.
- **Mandatory method of production labelling for all animal products.** Such labelling would detail the welfare provenance of the product by describing the conditions the animal was raised in. Labelling of eggs is a good, and currently the only UK, example. Consumers want to choose higher welfare products but it is currently very hard for them to do so.

Additionally OneKind is calling for:

- **Cephalopods and decapod crustaceans to be recognised as sentient** and protected accordingly.

⁶<https://www.gov.scot/publications/final-results-june-2019-agricultural-census/>

⁷<https://www.ebrd.com/what-we-do/just-transition>

Re-evaluate expansion of salmon farming

In addition to the millions of terrestrial animals, unknown millions of salmon are farmed in Scotland. The number is unknown because fish are measured in tonnes not individuals, an affront to each of them and a problem when considering their welfare.

Farmed salmon lead a constricted existence, similarly to their terrestrial counterparts. Their physical health is compromised by the effects of sea lice, disease, poor water quality, and genetic selection for fast growth. Mechanical treatments for sea lice are stressful and can cause injury and death. The alternative is using cleaner fish, who also suffer poor welfare.

Salmon in the wild have rich lives; they migrate long distances between river and sea using sophisticated navigation

techniques, live in varied and complex environments, and follow social protocols. In crowded uniform cages, salmon suffer from social stress and a lack of stimulation.

There are additional welfare concerns for wild marine animals in the vicinity of salmon farms. Of particular concern is the use of Acoustic Deterrent Devices, which are used to try to prevent seals preying on caged salmon but can harm the seals and other animals, especially cetaceans.

The Scottish Government's goal to double the size of this industry between 2016 and 2030 will only exacerbate these problems, as well as the many negative environmental and social impacts. This goal must be re-assessed and the grave problems posed by salmon farming tackled, as a matter of priority.

OneKind is calling for:

- **A moratorium on the expansion of the salmon farming industry** until the major problems are addressed.
- **The introduction of welfare regulations for farmed salmon.** Fish are currently exempted from The Welfare of Farmed Animals (Scotland) Regulations 2010, so they do not have species-specific statutory welfare requirements. Standards should be significantly higher than the current status quo, and include such measures as lowering stocking density and providing enrichment.



image © Fish Health Inspectorate



OneKind

Ending cruelty to Scotland's animals

