



Animal Welfare Party

2015 General Election Manifesto

A Fairer World for People,
Animals and the Environment



Contents	Page
1.Introduction	4
2.Animals in Farms	7
3.Animal Companions	14
4.Ending Harmful Animal Use in Research & Education	18
5.Animals in Entertainment and Sport	21
6.Animals in the Wild	23
7.Environment	26
8.Economy and Employment	30
9.Housing	33
10.Education, Culture and Science	34
11.Health, Community and Sports	35
12.Law, Policing and Security	39
13.Transportation	39
14.International	40

Animal Welfare Party Key Policies:

- ⤴ Improve human health, save NHS funds, protect the environment and global food security by promoting healthy plant-based diets.
- ⤴ Re-direct EU subsidies away from livestock and fisheries farming and into plant-based agriculture.
- ⤴ Phase out farming practices and systems with poor welfare consequences for animals.
- ⤴ End live animal export and reduce journey times for animals travelling to slaughter within the UK.
- ⤴ End all slaughter without prior stunning.
- ⤴ Phase out animal experimentation with binding targets for reduction combined with proper funding & real support for alternatives.
- ⤴ Act on the known link between animal abuse and domestic violence with increased penalties for those convicted of animal abuse.
- ⤴ Independently monitored CCTV for all slaughterhouses.
- ⤴ Clear labelling of all products with information which allows consumers to make informed choices in line with their own principles on the environment, health, animal welfare and the social circumstances in which a product is produce.
- ⤴ A ban on 'puppy farms' and the sale of animals in retail stores.

1. Introduction

Animal Welfare Party is part of an international network of political parties striving to create a fairer society in which the needs of people, animals and the environment are balanced.

Taking the pulse of global society in 2015 it's hard not to see great imbalances.

Our human population now stands at 7 billion people, almost half of whom – more than 3 billion people - are living on less than \$2.50 a day.

Meanwhile, as those living in developing countries have become more affluent and begun to adopt a more western, animal product based diet, we now have a global livestock population of around 23 billion – that's 23 billion livestock who need feeding and watering themselves.

And what of the lives those 23 billion livestock lead? For the majority, on intensive farms, including livestock in the UK, life is short, undue suffering is commonplace and there is little opportunity to express natural behaviour.

Whilst we feed and water our 23 billion livestock, worldwide, 900 million people do not have enough food to eat and 750 million people lack adequate access to clean drinking water.

At the same time, half of all the water we are using goes to supply the meat and dairy industries.

Our rainforest is being cut down at a rate of an acre per second to grow crops to feed our livestock and fish and almost one third of the planet's land is becoming desert with the vast majority due to livestock grazing.

Not only is our ever growing livestock population a cause of huge resource consumption and environmental degradation, it is also a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

In fact, the livestock sector produces more greenhouse gas emissions than all of the transport sector combined and some studies suggest that the methane which livestock produce is 25 to 100 times more destructive than CO₂ produced by vehicles.

Many people are aware of society's need to drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions but most are also quite unaware that even if we used no gas, oil or fuel from this point onwards, the emissions caused by our livestock sector alone could still mean we're on course to exceed our maximum greenhouse gas emissions by around 2030.

Of course, as the world population is set to rise to between 9 and 10 billion by 2050, the livestock population is set to rise too, further exasperating the problems above.

Continuing along this course of resource consumption, without making any changes to the way we feed ourselves, would eventually mean needing between three and four planets to sustain ourselves.

Of course we don't have three or four planets and Animal Welfare Party believes we face a very stark choice between addressing this issue now or accepting that the planet we hand over to our children and grandchildren may not be able to sustain life.

While the UK election debate has so far focussed almost exclusively on issues such as the economy, immigration, housing and education, one might wonder why our planet, the very sustainer of life itself, has hardly had a look in and why successive governments here in the UK have shown so little appetite to address the issue seriously.

One may well ask why governments here in the UK have used none of the levers available to them to promote a move away from animal product consumption towards healthy and sustainable plant based diets. Given the sharp rise in diet related preventable diseases and the burden their treatment places upon the NHS, it's hard to argue that such a move would be anything other than beneficial for human health, the environment and animals.

For whatever reason other parties may be reluctant to get to grips with the challenges above, Animal Welfare Party isn't afraid to.

It seems in the year 2015, the need for a party that isn't afraid to challenge man's irresponsible use of the earth's resources and treatment of the animals we share this planet with, is now more clear than ever.

Be true to yourself. Vote for the Animal Welfare Party.

Rethink, redirect, reward ...

Animal Welfare Party believes it's time to rethink how we treat each other, the environment and other non-human animals. We need to adjust our value system and adopt a fair and just society, with equal chances and opportunities for all but not at the expense of other sentient beings.

We should redirect resources and efforts away from unsustainable, inefficient and inhumane or exploitative industries and systems that show respect for others, and that will still be here for our children and grandchildren. The EU Common Agricultural Policy subsidy system, for example, should be redirected to sectors that, over the long term, are more environmentally sustainable and beneficial to human health. Funds should be redirected to preserve and expand our forests and other important ecological systems such as wetlands and marshes, which increase biodiversity.

And we need to reward and invest in initiatives that are in line with a sustainable, low carbon, humane and fair society. For example, making renewable energy the norm and not the exception; making all trade fair. Improving public transport; making recycling, re-using and reducing waste a normal habit; increasing the production of locally-produced items and encouraging local or domestic tourism; reducing production and consumption of animal products and rewarding sustainable plant-based agriculture.

This manifesto sets out our policies and the steps that the UK government and people can take together to overcome our challenges in ways that benefit everyone.

Our Vision

Treating people, animals, and the environment with respect is our key priority. To halt the degradation of the environment and the infringement of the rights of other sentient beings, we need to begin by re-thinking our culture, like previous social movements which ended the oppression of women, children and other races, to the benefit of society as a whole. Animal Welfare Party represents a shift in political thinking and action, away from the short-term interests of the few, to one in which the interests of the weakest are protected, along with what is truly for the long-term good of people and our planet.

Animal Welfare Party aims to raise the bar for animals across politics. Animal Welfare Party is modelled on the successful Dutch Party for the Animals and is primarily dedicated to advancing the rights of all non-human animals, and to demonstrating that resolving such challenges also makes major contributions to reducing global warming and global hunger, reversing obesity and other diseases.

The UK must set the example to the world by leading on animal protection and changing our agricultural practices. Many policies and regulations need to be strengthened, and new, sustainable and compassionate legislation must be introduced.

Advancing Animal Protection Issues Politically

Animal Welfare Party is opposed to all forms of speciesism - the assignment of different values, rights, or giving special consideration to individuals solely on the basis of their species membership.

Our first and most fundamental principle is that animal abuse must end and that animals are no longer regarded as property.

The false perception that prosperity is associated with consumption of meat, dairy and eggs needs to be brought to an end. The livestock industry is a major contributor to environmental destruction, resource consumption and global warming. Animal Welfare Party promotes plant-based diets for the benefit of animals, human health and the protection of the environment.

Our second fundamental principle is that until the majority recognise the need for plant-based diets, whilst millions of animals are exploited every day and their interests are violated, the very least animals deserve is appropriate species-specific husbandry and care, based on the Five Freedoms. This does not in any way detract from our eventual aim to end all animal exploitation; it simply recognizes that in the meantime any improvement is better than none.

Animal Welfare Party's General Election manifesto includes four strategies to advance our aims politically:

- (a) Ending harmful animal use
- (b) Implementing direct animal welfare improvements
- (c) Encouraging sustainable development activities that benefit the environment, animals and people
- (d) Supporting socially progressive policies on non-animal related issues

The Moral and Legal Status of Animals

Animals are living creatures, not toys or accessories or a means of entertainment. Animals deserve protection. This starts with the recognition of their intrinsic value, which is independent of the value that people place upon them, and respect for their own needs. Such recognition should apply to all animals and define the limits of the purposes for which animals may be used.

Non-human animals are not property, but sentient beings. Article 6B of the Lisbon Treaty recognises animals as sentient beings, placing a duty upon Member States, like the UK to protect their welfare. But, at the same time, the UK continues to place cultural and religious traditions above the interests of animals. Economic interests are given more consideration than the interests of animals. In everyday life, animals in the UK are primarily given the status of a commodity.

In addition to the millions of animals that die in the UK livestock industry every year, around four million animals are used for research and testing while an estimated 18 million wild animals are shot, snared and trapped here every year. Animal suffering in the UK is large-scale and serious.

The Animal Welfare Party rejects the notion that animals can be used for any purpose humans see fit. Entertainment, sport and fashion are not justifiable reasons for causing harm to or affecting the welfare of animals. We believe that before animals are used for a purpose, the legitimacy of that purpose should be assessed. The UK must become more reluctant to use animals. The Animal Welfare Party will promote better protection against neglect, abuse and misuse. The UK should support that protection to a greater degree, both inside and outside its borders.

Alongside the continuous need for improving human rights across the world, it is time to recognise other animals as beings in their own right. The Animal Welfare Party believes protection ultimately means animals are no longer used as a means to an end.

- ✦ The Animal Welfare Party believes the European Convention on Human Rights should be reformed to tackle its species exclusivity.
- ✦ The media has a huge role to play in influencing how animals are perceived. Despite animals being recognised as sentient beings in the Lisbon Treaty and a duty of care placed upon Member States to protect their welfare, animal suffering is still frequently trivialised in advertising campaigns and editorial content in the UK. Animal Welfare Party intends to push for bodies regulating advertising, broadcast and press content to view such issues with the seriousness they deserve and for these bodies to be better funded and supported, where the latter have been factors in their inaction.

2. Animals in Farms

Animals Kept for Meat and Other Products

The UK's contribution to the EU budget and particularly the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a cause for grave concern. While improvements have been made, a large proportion of the the EU agenda is still occupied by, and around 38% of the EU budget is spent on, agriculture, particularly the intensive animal farming and fishing industries. AWP finds such a distribution of time and budget running contrary to the long term interests of people, animals and the environment.

And when it comes to the animals spending their short lives within such intensive farming systems, the most useful question for human society to ask may not be ‘Do they have rights?’, but ‘Can they suffer?’ As science progresses, we now know that animals do suffer in much the same way as humans. Those of us who have pets will know first hand what science has now confirmed; that, that like us, animals can experience profound joy and suffering. Yet having grown up with fairy-tale images of farmyard animals in books, media and marketing, many people never come to question the things done to animals that they have never known as individuals.

AWP believes we can no longer justify keeping animals in small, barren cages and killing them, any more than we could justify doing the same things to other human beings. Animal Welfare Party believes in a UK where animals are not exploited for any purpose. In the interim, animal welfare improvements should be supported, as follows.

Ending Animal Farm Systems with Poor Welfare Consequences

- ✦ Large scale, intensive farms have the worst animal welfare potential. The establishment and development of new intensive farms must cease.
- ✦ Farming systems with the worst welfare consequences should be phased out, for example by replacing intensive farming by small-scale, regionally-bound, higher welfare farming systems in which animals are able to express a full range of normal behaviour.
- ✦ Farmers who are front-runners in making these changes should receive incentives, whilst those who resist transforming their intensive farming systems should be sanctioned.
- ✦ Companies that do not comply with the present legislation on animal welfare should be sanctioned through fines and other penalties.
- ✦ Best husbandry practice should become the norm, rather than a niche in the market.
- ✦ Foie gras (goose/duck liver) production is banned in the UK. AWP believes it is now time to ban both the import and trade of this product. We would also continue to push for a Europe-wide production, trade and import ban.
- ✦ Labelling of all food products should be mandatory, and should include information about animal welfare, method of slaughter, use of natural resources, social conditions, impact on the natural environment and food miles. This would allow consumers to make choices in line with their own principles on the environment, health, animal welfare and the social circumstances in which a product is produced. Many consumers are unaware of the reality of how the food products they buy are produced and are shocked when they find out the truth. Labels must, therefore, provide honest and clear information on the above. For example, eggs and egg products which involve the killing of new-born male chicks as part of the production process must indicate this. Meat and poultry products must indicate whether the animal was stunned before slaughter. Misleading pictures such as laughing pigs on pork steaks and laughing cows on packets of cheese must become a thing of the past.

Farms with higher animal welfare standards are increasingly developing within the UK and the rest of Europe. It is important that we reform agriculture into a high quality sector in accordance with ecological principles. Conditions for farm animals should be continually raised and husbandry standards should at least include the following minimums:

- ✦ Chickens should have access to free range outdoor runs which include naturalistic shelters. Beak trimming should be prohibited.
- ✦ Poultry farming should only use non-aggressive laying hen breeds, such as Columbian Blacktails, kept in small flocks.
- ✦ Pigs should not be tail-docked, teeth-clipped or castrated, especially without painkillers or anaesthetics. They should be kept on straw bedding and have access to enriched, outdoor areas, with the opportunity to root and access to a wallow.
- ✦ Dairy cows should have access to outdoor areas, should be able to graze on pastures, have access to adequate shelter, and to comfortable bedding indoors.
- ✦ Calves should be kept with their mothers until they separate naturally.
- ✦ Breeding policies that focus on increasing production despite negative consequences for animal welfare (e.g. the extreme and unhealthy growth speed of broiler chickens and pigs; double-muscled beef cows who cannot give birth naturally, requiring caesarean sections) should be banned. Breeding policies should focus on improving welfare
- ✦ Unnatural and often painful methods to increase reproduction in cows, such as embryo lavage, embryo transfer and hormonal fertility treatments, should be banned. Development of such methods should not be allowed if the integrity and the welfare of animals are adversely affected.
- ✦ Cloning of animals for production purposes should be prohibited. (See also Chapter 4 'Animals in laboratories').

Laying Hens and Male Chicks

As a 'by-product' of the egg production industry, around 40 million new born male chicks are killed each year in the UK alone. AWP finds such a huge waste of life impossible to justify and believes that all egg production methods which involve the killing of newly hatched male chicks must be phased out. Until all egg production methods which involve the killing of newly hatched male chicks are phased out, urgent measures must be taken to ensure that all surplus newly hatched chicks destined for disposal are treated as humanely as those not destined for disposal.

- ✦ The practice of 'disposing' of newly hatched male chicks before they are dead, in waste sacks and vats, where they frequently die from crushing or suffocation must end immediately.
- ✦ New-born chicks must not be thrown or tossed while alive.

- ✦ Since many consumers are ignorant of the above realities of egg production, packaging on all eggs and egg products should provide consumers with adequate information on whether newly hatched male chicks were killed in the making of the product and, if so, by which method. This would allow consumers to make informed purchasing choices in line with their own principles on animal welfare.

Reducing Live Animal Journeys

- ✦ Transport of live animals overseas should be banned.
- ✦ Animal journeys within the UK should be minimised, and limited to a maximum of two hours. Farms unable to meet this time limit due to, for example, geographical position and location of slaughterhouses must apply for an exemption with full supporting documentation. No exemption longer than a maximum period of eight hours should be granted. Exemptions must not be available to those transporting calves under 6 weeks of age (see point (c) below).
- ✦ We must immediately acknowledge the inability of calves under six weeks of age to cope with transport, due to their inability to regulate body temperature and immature immune systems. We must legislate now to prevent undue suffering to these vulnerable young animals and impose a time limit of two hours, beyond which no calf under six weeks of age can be transported for any reason.
- ✦ Misleading information about the source of animal products should be prohibited.
- ✦ Existing EU transport rules should be strictly monitored and enforced.

Curtailing Animal Disease

Large-scale farming establishments should be prohibited, not only because of animal welfare issues, but because they substantially increase transmission risks and susceptibility to diseases, some of which may also be dangerous for people (zoonotic diseases). Instead, farmers should be encouraged to transition to small-scale, well-managed farming systems, which are more conducive to the development of disease resistance.

Large-scale destruction of healthy animals during disease outbreaks should end and, where applicable, be replaced by a targeted vaccination strategy and other appropriate preventative health and welfare measures. The European non-vaccination policy (which disallows preventative vaccinations for major diseases such as foot and mouth, bluetongue, etc.) should be abolished.

During outbreaks of non-fatal diseases, infected animals should be isolated from those not infected, and appropriately treated, unless their suffering is sufficiently severe, and prognosis for recovery sufficiently poor, as to justify humane euthanasia.

To prevent the development of antibiotic resistance in humans and animals, administration of antibiotics in animals should be limited to genuine treatment of animal patients. They should not be used as growth promoters, or used prophylactically for long periods.

An End to Badger Culling

AWP believes the pilot culls of badgers in Gloucestershire and Somerset between 2013 and 2014 were a failure in terms of science, economics and humaneness.

- ✦ The 2013 cull is estimated to have cost the taxpayer around £7.29 million, working out at £4121 per badger killed.
- ✦ 1,771 badgers were culled meaning 50% or fewer badgers were killed than the target figure.
- ✦ 6.4% - 18% badgers took longer than five minutes to die, failing the test for humaneness.

There is also evidence to suggest that the pilot badger culls have caused an increase in illegal killing. The Badger Trust Incidents Report has shown a 116% increase from 323 persecution incidents in 2012 to 697 in 2013.

AWP firmly believes that the pilot culls should not be continued and that more efficient measures can and should be taken to stop the spread of bovine TB in cattle:

Cattle Controls:

Government must support and invest in increasing the frequency of cattle testing – shown to have a significant effect on the number of infected cattle.

Measures to ensure that infected cattle aren't moved from farm to farm must be strengthened.

Biosecurity:

Since most outbreaks of bTB come from other cattle, farm biosecurity is key to reducing the transmission of bTB both from badgers and other cattle.

AWP believes government must focus on supporting cattle farmers to take the following steps to reduce the risk of transmission:

- ✦ Ensure correct stocking densities are maintained.
- ✦ Ensure cattle housing is clean and well ventilated.
- ✦ Ensure cattle are fed carefully balanced diets.
- ✦ Reduce opportunities for direct and indirect contact between badgers and cattle by protecting cattle sheds, feed troughs, feed stores and silage clamps.
- ✦ Source replacement stock with care.

Vaccination:

AWP is encouraged by the results of the bovine TB reduction strategy in Wales over the past 5 years, where badger vaccination has been combined with tighter cattle testing, movement and biosecurity controls. This policy has delivered a 48% drop in new outbreaks of TB in cattle herds in Wales.

AWP supports calls for a simultaneous vaccination programme, for both cattle and badgers, recognising that the development of an effective and appropriate vaccine for cattle must be given greater priority at both national and EU level.

Research:

AWP believes that control of bTB in the long term requires further study and understanding of the following, which government must prioritise and support:

- ✦ Modes of transmission.
- ✦ The genetics of resistance to TB in the dairy cow.
- ✦ The effects of breeding preferentially for milk yield via artificial insemination (AI) on the genotype of the cow.
- ✦ The effectiveness of out breeding of dairy cows to re-introduce heterozygosity or hybrid vigour.

Restructuring The Dairy Industry:

AWP believes that the only long-term solution to the spread of bTB is a long term restructuring and de-intensification of the dairy industry to better support the health and welfare of cattle, as well as that of small farmers.

The Slaughter of Animals

Hundreds of millions of animals are slaughtered within the UK each year. Apart from the ethical questions surrounding killing healthy animals to satisfy our taste preferences, many animals suffer prior or during slaughter.

Animal Welfare Party believes that:

- ✦ Slaughter should be conducted as close as possible to the point of production.
- ✦ All slaughterhouses must have independently monitored CCTV to act as a deterrent to abuse and the flouting of animal welfare laws.
- ✦ All slaughter without prior stunning should be banned, as should the importation and trade of products thereby produced.

Fishing and Fish Farming

Low numbers of fish stocks remain a cause of concern for marine scientists. North Sea cod numbers, although recovering from the risk of extinction, remain at historically low levels. Mackerel, blue whiting and pollock numbers are also extremely low. Despite this, Britain is ignoring scientific advice on protecting fish stocks and permitting more overfishing in 2015 than any other European Union country. Furthermore, fish suffer the cruellest catching and killing methods. Yet the welfare of fish is rarely considered.

Restoring Marine Life:

- ✦ Fish should not be caught in areas where stocks are low. Although the government has recently announced plans to create 23 new marine conservation zones, this number is well below that recommended by the government's own scientific advisers as being crucial to halting the rapid decline of fish, lobsters and other marine life. AWP therefore believes it is crucial to create more marine conservation zones.
- ✦ Deep sea fishing should be banned.
- ✦ Destructive fishing methods, such as trawling, should be banned.
- ✦ Fishing subsidies should be abolished. European funds should be redirected into a social plan to retrain those working in the fishing industry and redeploy them within sustainable sectors.

Controls:

- ✦ Whilst fishing continues, only fishing methods that prevent marine mammals being trapped in fishing nets should be used.
- ✦ Penalties for fishermen violating conservation regulations should increase significantly.

Methods of Killing Fish:

- ✦ Fish should be protected from suffering before being killed. Fish should be included within EU Directives on killing and slaughter of animals.
- ✦ Fish harvesting continues to use methods such as suffocation in air, exsanguination without stunning, carbon-dioxide stunning and ice chilling, which cause unnecessary suffering. AWP believes alternative slaughter methods that reduce pain and stress prior to death should always be used.
- ✦ Cooking lobsters, crabs and prawns alive must be prohibited.

Farmed fish:

Fish farming, like all intensive farming, uses several kilos of feed (in this case, other fish and crustaceans), for each kilo of product produced. Like all intensive farming it is extraordinarily inefficient and wasteful. Vast areas of marine ecosystems and mangrove forests are being damaged due to the large-scale harvesting of fish and crustaceans as feed for farmed fish. AWP therefore believes that fish farming should therefore be banned.

Animals Kept and Killed for their Fur

Although breeding animals for fur is prohibited in the UK, across Europe millions of foxes, chinchillas, rabbits, mink and other animals are kept in tiny cages and farmed for their fur. Some of these animals would naturally roam many miles each day. AWP would push for European fur farms

to be closed as soon as possible.

We also believe that the trade and import of all fur products into Europe should be banned, and that in the meantime, the existing regulations should be strictly monitored and enforced, such as the import ban on dog and cat, and seal fur.

Until a ban on the sale of fur is introduced in both the UK and across Europe, clear labelling for fur products must become obligatory – such labelling must give information on the origin of the fur, the number of animals killed to make that specific product and the method by which the animals were killed. This would allow consumers to make informed purchasing choices in line with their own principles on animal welfare.

City Farms and Sanctuaries, Large Animal Companions, and Working Animals

- ⤴ Large animals are sometimes kept at city farms, as companion animals or working animals. City farms should operate as animal sanctuaries, where animals are not sent to slaughterhouses.
- ⤴ Together with education, enabling rescued animals to live out their lives without undue suffering should be the main focus of city farms.
- ⤴ Those who keep farm animals for non-production purposes should have an ownership licence (see chapter 3 ‘Animal Companions’).
- ⤴ Sanctuaries caring for retired working animals and rescued farm animals should be financially supported.

3. Animal Companions

Abandoned Animals

Thousands of dogs, cats and other animal companions are neglected and abandoned across the UK each year. Stray cats particularly, may suffer from hunger and thirst, pain, injury, disease, discomfort and fear. They are usually not neutered, and reproduce rapidly when resources allow, further exacerbating the problem.

Abandoned cats and dogs are confiscated by authorities or handed in by owners no longer willing or able to care for their animals. Animals are kept in shelters before being killed, due to lack of suitable homes. Yet certain individuals continue to profit from the commercial breeding and sale of animal companions. ‘Puppy farms’ within the UK and other European countries are establishments where bitches are continuously bred, which often impairs their health. Living conditions and preventative healthcare standards are often poor.

Animal Welfare Party would seek to:

- ⤴ Introduce a UK-wide animal abandonment prevention plan.
- ⤴ Ensure that local authorities are fully equipped to house and adequately care for

abandoned animals. Each area should have at least one Animal Protection Officer with expertise in animal welfare and powers of seizure, who can investigate complaints, and enforce the licensing system.

- ⤴ Regulate breeders and breeding facilities.
- ⤴ Strengthen the Animal Welfare Act, improve Border control (on animals traded into the UK), carry out spot checks, and increase penalties for offenders.

Animal Companions in the Home

Animals continue to be regarded as ‘property’ within the law, and animal neglect and abuse remains widespread, even though the UK Animal Welfare Act 2006 includes a ‘duty to care’.

UK animal charities are frequently required to provide the material and financial resources for interventions – including prosecution of animal abusers – without governmental assistance. Animal Welfare Party believes more resources should be available for law enforcement.

Although revised in 2014, the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991) is still inadequate and in need of a through review. AWP believes a licensing system should be introduced.

The Dangerous Dogs Act (1991)

Animal Welfare Party believes that the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act (DDA) was rushed through Parliament as a knee-jerk reaction to an incident in which a child was seriously bitten by a dog, which received widespread media attention. 24 years later, despite last year's revision, many organisations find that the Act is ineffective, costly and unworkable, and the number of dog bites is increasing every year. AWP believes the DDA must be replaced with more effective legislation.

A huge number of animals, pitbull-type dogs in particular, are euthanised by shelters every year, due to lack of rehoming opportunities. Most dogs bite out of fear and few are aggressive biters. AWP believes that it is irresponsible owners, some of whom deliberately train animals to fight and attack, that we need to target. ‘Dangerous’ status dogs, or ‘dogs as weapons’ are considered fashionable within certain subcultures. A wider social approach is required to address such antisocial behaviour, including humane education.

Animal Welfare Party also seeks a compulsory identification and registration scheme, tougher penalties for animal abuse and strict enforcement, and more local council animal welfare officers on the street.

Breeders need to be regulated too. Human and animal agencies need to collaborate to tackle these issues. These problems affect both animals and people, and the root causes must be addressed via coordinated strategies.

Animal Welfare Party believes that the specific breeds mentioned in the DDA are arbitrary. Whilst it may be true that the breeds listed are more frequently owned by people more likely to engage in unacceptable social behaviour—leading to safety risks to other animals and the public—other dog breeds may bite as well. Rottweilers, for example, may be high up in the bite index. In fact, any breed can be selectively bred (and trained) to become more aggressive. A breed-specific ban is

undesirable. However, compulsory individual aggressive dog behaviour tests, and a ban on breeding dogs that do not meet certain criteria (e.g. dogs that fail behaviour tests), are likely to be more effective.

Animal Care

Animals provide us with invaluable companionship. Despite this, when they are ill or injured, too often they receive inadequate support. Although very basic emergency treatment is available from veterinarians free of charge, and although charities can assist some guardians unable to afford ongoing veterinary care, far too many animals fail to receive the care they deserve because of financial limitations of guardians, and limitations on available charitable support. Euthanasia or inadequate care frequently result.

Similarly, financial constraints, and lack of knowledge of, or interest in, responsible pet care, result in many animals being denied the benefits of basic preventative health care measures, such as vaccination, parasite control, dental care, neutering and microchip identification.

Animal Welfare Party believes that:

- ✦ A companion animal licensing system should be established. Mandatory requirements would include minimum age limits (e.g. 18 years of age) for licence-holders, and the successful completion of a responsible animal care certificate (as is the case, for example, in Switzerland), appropriate to the species in question.
- ✦ Annual maintenance of the licence would require mandatory neutering of cats and dogs by sexual maturity or earlier, other than in very special circumstances; compliance with basic preventative healthcare measures such as vaccination and parasite control; annual veterinary check-ups; mandatory identification and registration, through both externally-visible identification and micro chipping; and maintenance of companion animal insurance designed to fund unexpected medical or surgical expenses. Limitations would be imposed on numbers of animals that may be kept at each address, related to type of housing.
- ✦ There should be government funding for basic and emergency services provided through existing private veterinary clinics, hospitals and charities, in the small number of cases where no companion animal insurance is in place.
- ✦ Rescue centres, rehabilitation and re-homing facilities for domestic and wild animals should receive financial support from government.
- ✦ Legislation and regulations against animal neglect and abuse should be strengthened, through a range of measures, including:
 - (i) increased powers of inspection and seizure for police and licensed inspectors.
 - (ii) mandatory completion by offenders of a responsible animal care certificate (see above) appropriate to the species in question, regardless of any prior certification.
 - (iii) increased penalties for offenders, including imposing relevant community service.

- (iv) Resources for the implementation and enforcement of such legislation and regulations against animal neglect and abuse should be increased.
- (v) Organisations and animal shelters that conduct inspections, animal seizures, provide shelters for animals, or prosecute animal abusers, should receive adequate government funding. Statutory regulation of animal sanctuaries should be introduced.
- (vi) Whilst companion animal overpopulation persists, breeding of cats and dogs should be prohibited other than in exceptional circumstances.
- (vii) Breeding of companion animals to meet breed standards, or for other purposes, that result in hereditary anatomical, physiological or other impairments likely to be contrary to good welfare, must always be prohibited. All breeding establishments must be independently inspected and tightly regulated.
- (viii) A complete ban on the sale of animals in shops of any kind should be introduced.
- (ix) Establishments selling animals should be subjected to mandatory regulation in accordance with best practice principles, including with respect to stocking densities, health and husbandry standards, independent, unannounced inspections, and a range of penalties that could include revocation of licences, fines and custodial sentences, where violations are apparent.

"Exotic" Animals in Captivity

Non-domesticated species also suffer as human companions. The stresses such animals endure during capture from the wild, transportation and confinement, and poor husbandry conditions at markets or in pet shops, result in a high incidence of major health and welfare problems, and premature deaths. Furthermore, wildlife trading contributes to decreases in wild populations of many birds, mammals, reptiles and (ornamental) fish.

Animal Welfare Party believes that only animals included on a list of species that can adapt to captivity should be kept as companion animals. The list would be formulated in accordance with the biological needs of each species, and the UK Animal Welfare Act, which stipulates a duty to adequately care for animals. The keeping of unlisted animals as companion animals would be prohibited.

The list should be more stringent than the list of species for which licences can currently be obtained under the UK Dangerous Wild Animals Act. For example, monkeys should not be included, as they make unsuitable animal companions.

Human-Animal Relationships

Humans may also suffer as a result of poor policies on animals. For example, many social housing corporations and care homes do not allow companion animals. Yet some residents live in relative

isolation due to reduced social networks, and for these people companion animals may be extremely important. Animal Welfare Party believes that companion animals should be permitted within social housing corporations and care homes, providing their own needs can be satisfactorily met.

Sociological evidence has demonstrated strong links between domestic violence and cruelty towards animals. Children who are cruel to animals in childhood may progress to being violent toward people, as adults. Recognition of such a connection is of use to social workers and others trying to protect children and adults from potentially violent individuals. Therefore, Animal Welfare Party believes a national register of animal abusers, which all agencies have access to, must be established. By acting promptly on cases of animal abuse, it may be possible to prevent further acts of violence towards people or animals.

Animal Welfare Party believes that social and healthcare workers and other authorities should be better educated about the animal-human violence link, encouraged to work cooperatively with each other on this issue and required to report suspected animal abuse to the appropriate authorities, in the hope of mitigating potential future abuse of animals or people.

Additionally, animal abuse should be more seriously considered as a crime in its own right. Animal Welfare Party calls for the maximum custodial sentence that can be handed down to those convicted of animal cruelty to be increased to five years. Longer sentences such as this would, we believe, act as more meaningful deterrents against animal cruelty.

4. Ending Harmful Animal Use in Research and Education

Animal Welfare Party finds animal experimentation morally objectionable. Over 11.5 million animals are used for research and testing in Europe every year. In the UK, the number of scientific experiments using animals has continued to rise, despite the coalition government's 2010 commitment to reduce their use. 2013 saw 4 million animals used in 4.12m scientific procedures, a rise of 0.3% on the previous year. This is the third annual increase in the number of animal experiments since the 2010 commitment and it follows an upward trend that has seen the number increase by 1.41m since 1995.

A substantial body of large-scale systematic, unbiased reviews published within scientific journals have clearly demonstrated that the human clinical and biomedical utility of invasive animal experiments is generally poor.

The costs of such research in terms of animal, human and financial resources is usually very high. Animals are sentient beings who often suffer in laboratory environments and during scientific procedures. Accordingly, such experiments cannot normally be justified on a cost-benefit basis. In addition, very strong arguments proposed by philosophers and others assert that animal interests deserve serious consideration, independent of any possible human value, and that animals should not be treated as disposable tools to further human goals, which range from the trivial to the serious.

Large-scale scientific reviews have also described the ongoing development of alternative methodologies within biomedical research, toxicity testing, and education. A substantial body of educational studies have clearly established that students from virtually all educational disciplines

using humane learning methodologies nearly always achieve learning outcomes at least equivalent – and often superior – to those achieved through harmful animal use.

We must, therefore, phase out animal experimentation with binding targets for reduction, combined with funding and support for alternatives.

Animal experiments must be replaced by humane, modern techniques in which animals do not suffer. Whilst animal experiments continue, public scrutiny must be increased.

AWP asserts that:

- ✦ The use of primates in animal experiments must end immediately.
- ✦ The use of animals for xenotransplantation must end immediately.
- ✦ Genetic manipulation (including cloning) of animals must end immediately.
- ✦ A deadline must be set to end the “severe” suffering testing category, which may involve such morally reprehensible procedures as forcing an animal to run until he/she becomes exhausted or repeated electric shock treatment to induce a state of ‘learned helplessness’.
- ✦ Following the trade ban on cosmetics tested on animals, animal experiments for household product ingredients and novel food ingredients must now be banned throughout Europe. In the UK, despite the government's recent announcement that testing on household products will be banned from October 2015, the ban relates mainly to finished products and there will be no meaningful ban on the testing of ingredients that go into making up the product. AWP believes we must urgently close this loophole in the law.
- ✦ We seek a ban on all harmful use of animals within biomedical research, toxicity testing and education. Only non-harmful use should be permitted. Examples include non-invasive observational or behavioural studies of domesticated species, or non-domesticated species within sanctuaries or the wild; the education of veterinary students via participation in beneficial clinical procedures on genuine animal patients; and experimental treatment of animal patients, genuinely suffering from severe, naturally-occurring disease or injury, when conventional treatment is not effective.
- ✦ Immediate, quantitative, binding targets for reductions in animal use for the UK must be set, with the aim of eventually replacing all harmful animal use with non-harmful or non-animal alternatives.
- ✦ Criteria to approve animal experiment licence applications should become harder to meet. We want applications for animal experiments to be subject to much stricter requirements, i.e. an extensive and thorough rather than cursory prior review of the relevant scientific literature. Applications for experiments that are not deemed to be of significant importance, such as health claims on foods, should not be granted.
- ✦ Mandatory, independent ethical review of all experimental protocols should be implemented as a condition of licensing, with ample opportunity for prior, independent and public scrutiny of such protocols.

- ⤴ The composition of ethics committees must be balanced to allow for more expert animal welfare opinion.
- ⤴ Mandatory retrospective evaluation should be introduced to assess the degree to which experimental objectives were successfully met, the extent to which animals suffered, to help inform both future research and further experimental licensing decisions.
- ⤴ Mandatory compliance should be a prerequisite for (public) funding of experiments, license approval, and publication of results, with a range of best practice standards, and each of the 3Rs: replacement, reduction and refinement of animal use implemented before and during experiments. These would include: minimum standards relating to animal sourcing, housing, environmental enrichment, opportunities for social interaction for social species, appropriate use of anaesthetics and analgesics (painkillers), animal handling, non-invasive endpoints, and statistical input during experimental design.
- ⤴ Unwarranted experimental duplication happens far too often and is quite simply unjustifiable. We call for mandatory prompt, public sharing of all experimental results, to avoid this sad state of affairs from continuing.
- ⤴ We are supportive of all efforts to repeal Section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.
- ⤴ In the UK and across Europe animal experiments for the development of patents should no longer be permitted.
- ⤴ Funding for the further development, scientific validation and implementation of alternative methodologies should be substantially increased. The UK government must support all moves to provide the EU Reference lab, ECVAM with further support and funding so that the validation process for alternatives can be expedited from taking years to months, and for those alternatives to be applied throughout Europe without delay.
- ⤴ The UK government must support moves to establish well-funded national Centres of Excellence in the Development of Alternatives to Animal Use, in all EU countries where such animal use exists.
- ⤴ We call for increased, compulsory training and continuing professional development in experimental best practice standards and alternative methodologies for all animal researchers and technicians.
- ⤴ The breeding of lab animals and killing of surplus animals must end.
- ⤴ We believe there is a moral imperative to provide independently-scrutinised sanctuaries, maintained to high welfare standards, funded by industries and sectors using animals, for those animals retired from laboratory animal use, in which such animals shall be housed for the remainder of their natural lives.

5. Animals in Entertainment and Sport

Traditional Use of Animals and “Bloodsports”

The ‘traditional’ use of animals in ‘entertainment’ often causes severe suffering and death, and is absolutely unnecessary. Such harmful animal use for entertainment or non-essential luxuries is should be banned in the UK.

In the UK, hundreds of thousands of people can easily obtain a licence to stalk and kill deer and hunt or shoot other species. Such ‘recreational’ activities have no place in a civilised society.

The cruelty of bloodsports such as various forms of hunting, hare coursing, and bullfighting is obvious, and Animal Welfare Party believes these practices are not ethically justifiable. As a purported measure to control populations they are also discredited.

Whilst banned in law in the UK with overwhelming parliamentary and public support, hunting with hounds continues in practice and successful prosecutions are rare. Other forms of hunting, such as ‘canned hunting’ and pheasant shoots (involving animals kept in tiny cages, usually for long periods, and released just before being shot), are equally unjustifiable.

Angling also causes extreme suffering and pain which is equally impossible to justify.

Therefore, Animal Welfare Party seeks a ban on all hunting ‘for sport’:

- ✦ All bloodsports should be banned, without loopholes. The existing Hunting Act should be strictly enforced and tightened.
- ✦ Wild animal population control (the necessity of which is frequently questionable) should be carried out by trained, authorised, professional wildlife officers, with invasive methods avoided at all costs.
- ✦ Organisations that promote the use of guns to schoolchildren should be banned.
- ✦ Harmful animal use should no longer be allowed within any type of art, fashion, cultural exhibition or entertainment.

Racing Animals

The greyhound and horse racing industries frequently ignore animal welfare regulations, and thousands of animals suffer and die each year on and off the tracks. These industries are part of the betting industry, and frequently lead to unethical practices.

Most people regard these races as a harmless or natural sport, which the animals enjoy, but they are far removed from natural canine and equine behaviour. Approximately 12,000 foals are born into the closely-related British and Irish racing industries each year, yet only around 40% go on to become racers. Those horses who do not make the grade may be slaughtered for meat, or repeatedly change hands in a downward spiral of neglect. Of those horses who do go on to race, around 400 are raced to death every year.

Similar to the greyhound industry, in which thousands of dogs are raced to death or discarded, commercial horse racing is a ruthless industry motivated by financial gain and prestige.

Accordingly, Animal Welfare Party seeks a ban on betting on racing animals.

Until such a ban is introduced we believe that:

- ✦ Use of the whip must no longer be permitted in horse racing.
- ✦ The greyhound and horse racing industries must establish funds to care for all retired racing animals.
- ✦ Despite calls for and opportunities to make significant safety improvements over recent years, an extremely high number of horses continue to be killed or injured whilst taking part the Grand National steeplechase and over the course of the three day Grand National festival. Such cruelty to animals can not be justified by popularity and has no place in modern Britain. Therefore the race must now be banned.

Circuses

The use of (exotic) animals in circuses results in widespread suffering due to appalling living and transport conditions, inadequate husbandry methods and cruel training techniques. Several very successful and impressive European circuses that do not use animals already exist.

Hence, Animal Welfare Party believes that the use of all animals in circuses (including 'domestic' animals) should be banned.

Zoos

The implicit educational message conveyed by keeping animals in zoos is that keeping wild animals in small, inadequate enclosures, sometimes without other animals of their own kind, is justified to entertain us. However, many animals suffer due to not being able to display normal behaviour. They often develop behavioural problems (e.g. boredom, 'pacing' or excessive aggression) and experience stress. As a result they may also be more susceptible to certain diseases. Learning about wild animals can be achieved without seeing live animals confined in unnatural enclosures. Documentaries, wildlife magazines, websites and other sources provide excellent learning materials that are not ethically problematic. Zoos do not teach respect for life, and can no longer be justified.

The worst zoos should be closed immediately, with remaining animals either being placed within sanctuaries or sent to zoos with higher welfare standards. The higher-standard zoos should transition towards non-animal zoos, or be turned into animal sanctuaries.

Animal Welfare Party believes that:

- ✦ State-of-the-art non-animal zoos should be established in the UK, and existing zoos should be turned into animal sanctuaries where all animals are allowed to live out their natural lives. Zoos, aquaria, dolphinariums and 'entertainment' establishments, which have animals

on display should be phased out, and new establishments should be prohibited.

- ⤴ Existing enclosures should be improved to ensure compliance with the highest welfare standards. Enclosures that house species, which are unfit for captivity, should be closed. The housing of animals must resemble their natural living conditions as much as possible.
- ⤴ Breeding of species kept in zoos that are not included within conservation or reintroduction programmes should be banned.
- ⤴ Conservation programmes in native habitats, rather than captivity, should be supported to mitigate habitat destruction by urban development and farming.
- ⤴ Zoos that fail to comply with the European Zoos Directive should close. Animals from zoos that are being closed should be given adequate refuge in sanctuaries or zoos with higher welfare standards.
- ⤴ All zoos should be transitioning towards becoming animal-free zoos or animal sanctuaries.
- ⤴ Zoos must serve as a sanctuary for animals who cannot be re-socialised and or rehabilitated in their original living environment or who cannot be relocated for other reasons.
- ⤴ Providing shelter to sea mammals in need must be the only purpose of keeping sea mammals in captivity.

6. Animals in the Wild

Wildlife Protection At Home

Ending the destruction of wildlife habitats, and subsequent extinction of endangered species, should be considered a top priority by government. UK coastal areas and marine reserves are starting to receive more attention; however, this should be extended to all areas of ecological importance.

The living environment of wild animals is consistently diminishing, as humans encroach upon the natural habitat of wild animals. As a result, animals live closer to humans, and are frequently considered a nuisance. In an increasing number of cases, human-wildlife conflict ensues. People will use any means to control animals, resulting in the death of many. The Animal Welfare Party believes wild animals should be allowed to live undisturbed, as much as possible.

- ⤴ The intrinsic value and protection of the animals must be the starting point for this policy.
- ⤴ Populations must be given the chance to restore their natural balance if disrupted.
- ⤴ All blood sports, including recreational hunting, should be banned without loopholes. The trading of products that have been obtained through recreational hunting must also be

banned.

- ⤴ Wildlife animal population control (the necessity of which is frequently questionable) should be carried out by trained, authorised, professional wildlife officers, with invasive methods avoided at all costs
- ⤴ Human-wildlife conflicts must be resolved in an animal-friendly way. The UK should find humane solutions to human-animal conflicts due to habitat loss and migration of wild animals into urban areas. Animals that cause excessive damage should be dealt with humanely, and never be hunted by people for sport or entertainment.
- ⤴ Snaring and cruel trapping devices should be banned.
- ⤴ Organisations that confiscate (wild) animals, provide sanctuary, or prosecute animal abusers should receive government funding.
- ⤴ Hunting tourism must be addressed. UK travel organisations should not be allowed to offer hunting trips such as hunting safaris in Africa.

International Wildlife Protection

The trade in endangered species has developed into a ruthless form of crime. The lack of compliance with international treaties and political will to stop the illegal trade in endangered species is deeply disappointing.

- ⤴ The UK must comply with the international agreements on the protection of endangered species (CITES). Along with all other EU Member States, the UK should be compelled to take measures to halt the large-scale smuggling of wildlife, receive assistance with the inspection of smuggling routes on their borders, and educate citizens not to buy endangered animals or products made from wild animals.
- ⤴ Additional control at borders is essential. Penalties for offenders should increase and international cooperation and integration of data on wildlife crime should be enhanced.
- ⤴ The UK must support the protection of wild animals within their countries of origin, and local authorities should be supported in combating illegal trade.
- ⤴ The UK must play its role in improving CITES agreements. It must urge Europe to take action on banning the commercial hunting of polar bears, opposing the relaxation of trade restrictions on ivory and take a stand against exemptions for trade and transport of game trophies.

Marine Animal Protection

Despite the moratorium on commercial whaling, countries like Norway, Japan and Iceland still kill hundreds of whales every year. The Animal Welfare Party believes that the UK and Europe must make greater efforts to bring these activities to an end.

- ⤴ The UK must urge the EU to step up the implementation of legislation to protect marine mammals. AWP believes there is a need for a comprehensive overarching legislative framework for the effective protection of marine mammals from all threats. We wish to expand the protection of marine animals under the framework of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), which should be reformed to an International Marine Council (IMC). Its remit should include protection of dolphins, sharks, rays, seals, turtles and other marine animals.
- ⤴ The UK along with Europe must actively oppose seal hunting in countries like Canada and Namibia.
- ⤴ The UK must urge the EU to enforce the moratorium on whaling in the strictest terms. Sanctions must be imposed on countries that disregard that moratorium and these countries reported to the International Court.
- ⤴ The UK must actively oppose the slaughter of dolphins in Japan and the Faroe Islands.
- ⤴ The UK must urge Europe to enforce a total ban on the catch of (Bluefin) tuna, by participating in the International Commission for the Protection of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) and by refusing to conclude agreements with countries outside the EU for the catch of tuna by Spanish and French fishing fleets.

Nature and Biodiversity

Worldwide, large areas of tropical rain forest and other vulnerable areas are cleared each year to grow animal feed. Due to the diminishing number of trees that can absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere, this further increases the impact of CO₂ emissions. Such clearing also results in massive biodiversity loss. Here in the UK, primary forests and other biologically diverse ecosystems, and many animal species that live in these habitats, have disappeared at a very rapid rate, due to human encroachment, fragmentation, hunting and climate change.

Nature restoration and the promotion of biodiversity are vital to facilitate the return of animals to their original habitats. Conservation of wildlife ought to be a high priority, and the extinction of plant and animal species should be halted wherever possible.

In many parts in the UK green spaces and places are isolated patches scattered across regions. An intelligent ecological plan, linking these patches via ecological 'corridors', should be developed to facilitate movement of wild animals.

Adequate rubbish disposal is of utmost importance to keep the number of certain (unwanted) wild animal species down, and to prevent birds and other animals from ingesting or becoming caught in plastic and other rubbish. Such measures will enhance the environment for everyone.

Accordingly, Animal Welfare Party believes that:

- ⤴ An action plan containing tangible objectives and (financial) measures should be created to effectively halt the loss of biodiversity. Local and national authorities should be held

accountable on an annual basis for the achievement of intermediate goals.

- ⤴ UK conservation programmes in-situ (i.e. within natural habitats, rather than captivity) should be funded to restore natural habitats and to offset urban environmental impact.
- ⤴ Nature reserves, parks and green corridors should be preserved and expanded, to facilitate green recreation and wildlife protection.
- ⤴ Farmers should be encouraged and supported to return some of their land to wildlife and recreation.
- ⤴ Local and national authorities should be required to take rapid and effective measures to protect surface and groundwater.
- ⤴ An active policy strategy should be developed to reduce the carbon footprint of UK citizens.
- ⤴ Importation of products such as unsustainably-managed timber and palm oil, which adversely affect biodiversity internationally, should be banned.
- ⤴ Natural reserves and ecosystems protection programmes in sensitive parts of the world should be financially supported by the European Union.

7. Environment

Climate Change

Climate change affects us all, but particularly the most vulnerable: those in developing countries, animals and plants. Whilst the UK Climate Change Act includes a target of a 80% reduction in carbon emissions from 1990 levels by 2050, others are calling for 90% reductions. The measures currently proposed to achieve even a 80% reduction fall far short of what is needed. Without major societal changes, AWP believes this target will never be met.

We believe there is a huge awareness gap over the role of animal product consumption in climate change. Animal product consumption has risen substantially over recent years as the human population has become more affluent and those living in developing countries have begun to adopt the eating habits of those in those in developed countries. The global livestock population is now estimated to be 23 billion and this number is set to rise as the human population increases and demand for meat and animal products goes up.

The global livestock sector now produces more greenhouse gases than all forms of transport combined. Some reports predict that, without using any gas, oil or fuel ever again from today, we'd still exceed our maximum carbon greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 simply by keeping livestock. Meanwhile, methane produced by livestock is estimated to be 25 to 100 times more destructive than the carbon dioxide from vehicles.

Animals in intensive farms require feed high in protein, particularly soya, to fuel rapid growth and production of meat, milk and eggs. 50% of the grain and legumes we're now growing are to feed livestock. Much of this feed comes from huge soya plantations in Latin America. 91% of rainforest

destruction today is due to raising livestock. Destroying rainforests to grow crops removes the trees that were acting as a 'carbon sink' absorbing carbon dioxide. With more carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere from livestock and natural carbon sinks being destroyed at a rapid rate, the adverse environmental impacts are compounded.

Hence Animal Welfare Party believes that:

- ⤴ The importation of grain and soya as animal feed, and feed from cleared rainforest land, should be banned.
- ⤴ Compliance by suppliers with relevant animal protection and environmental regulations, and best practice standards, should be ensured through regular, unannounced, independent quality control audits.
- ⤴ The intensive livestock farming industries should more accurately contribute towards the costs of repairing the environmental damage they cause (the polluter-pays principle).
- ⤴ Pollution controls should be effectively enforced and penalties for violators should increase.

In addition, Animal Welfare Party would:

- ⤴ Increase Government funding for research into and development of a "post-carbon, "post-petroleum" economy to ensure that the United Kingdom is well placed to manage the vital changes required in our economy due to the inevitable depletion of petroleum resources. Oil reserves will not last forever and it is already becoming increasingly more expensive and technically more complex to access those reserves still remaining. We need to plan now and engage in intensive research and development of renewable power resources. This development also includes phasing out nuclear and charcoal-fired power stations.

Deforestation and the Poor

Not only do livestock play a major role in global warming but the sector is also the leading source of resource consumption and environmental degradation today. To grow soya for animal feed, rainforest is now being cut down at a staggering rate of an acre per second. Around one third of the planet's land is becoming desert with the vast majority due to livestock grazing.

Demand for soya is set to double by 2050. Forests and other precious wildlife habitats are being destroyed to make way for crops for animal feed, pasture for grazing, and unsustainable palm oil plantations. Indigenous people also lose their territories. Rural communities are being forced off their land, and small-scale farmers are forced out by large agribusinesses.

An Indian or other farmer in the developing world owns, on average, no more than two acres of land, yet manages to feed a family of five, with no government subsidy. In the USA, EU or Australia, each cow needs about 25 acres of land to produce its food - enough for ten farming families in the developing world. According to the UN's food and agriculture programme, around the world 900 million people still experience hunger and this is rising with the rising price of food, in a world that is actually bursting with food.

Hence, Animal Welfare Party believes that:

- ⤴ Planet-friendly farming must be supported, through the promotion of agriculture that takes account of food security, climate and biodiversity protection, rural employment, animal welfare and human health.
- ⤴ The use of chemicals and pesticides must be reduced.
- ⤴ European companies, including supermarkets, must become accountable for the impact their products have on people and the environment.
- ⤴ Export subsidies for dumping surpluses and waste abroad must end.

Sustainable Farming & The Production of Enough Food for Everyone

The livestock sector is a major contributor to climate change and a major cause of deforestation. The sector is also the greatest contributor to water consumption. Half of the water we now consume is meat and dairy production related. It takes around 9,500 litres of water to produce 1lb of beef. One quarter pound hamburger requires around 2500 litres of water to produce, which is the roughly the equivalent of showering for a month. Meanwhile, 1 litre of cow's milk takes around of 1,000 litres of water to produce.

Animal Welfare Party believes firmly that, as the human population is set to rise to between 9 and 10 billion by the year 2050, it will be completely unsustainable to feed ourselves on animal product based diets. Switching from intensive animal farming to organic animal farming offers no real solution as no less land would be used.

However, on any given area of land, it is possible to produce around fifteen times more protein from plant based sources than from animal sources. We therefore believe that environmental catastrophe can and must be averted with a global shift towards healthy, plant-based diets. This is the only way to halt and reverse rainforest destruction, and guarantee food security for the whole world, by dealing with the root cause, which is increasing demand for livestock feed. We find it hugely irresponsible that successive governments in the UK have failed to take action to both close the awareness gap on the negative environmental consequences of animal product consumption and to promote a shift to healthy, plant-based diets.

The human health, animal welfare and environmental concerns of such a shift are increasingly appreciated by a growing number of people and, we believe, this will lead to a slow decline in the consumption of meat in particular. Less meat means less deforestation, less greenhouse gases and less pollution.

Here in Europe, the Common Agricultural Policy must be reformed to deliver support for farming that is in the long-term public interest, to fulfil its original purpose of providing a sustainable and secure future for food production within Europe. At the same time it must now also ensure equitable use of land and natural resources across the globe, so that EU production and consumption does not damage the environment and communities overseas.

Hence, in line with the conclusions of several recent UN studies, Animal Welfare Party believes we must plan for a rapid reduction of 50% in UK meat production and consumption. Animal Welfare Party believes we must encourage a reduction in consumer demand for meat and dairy, and increase demand for plant based options in the following ways:

- ✦ Governments in the UK and across the developed world must use all the levers available uniquely to them to encourage a reduction in animal product consumption.
- ✦ Governments in the UK and across the developed world must support the re-direction of funds away from meat and dairy production, to encourage livestock-free farming, including production of high-protein crops, such as peas, beans and lupins. For example, the UK government must push for EU subsidies, currently totally £50 billion per year, to be re-directed from livestock and fisheries farming and into plant-based agriculture.
- ✦ Organic vegetable farming must be subsidised.
- ✦ Governments in the UK and across the developed world must fund awareness-raising programmes on eating sustainably and healthily.
- ✦ The UK Government must remove VAT exemptions for animal products.
- ✦ Public money spent on food for catering in the UK amounts to around £2.4bn per year. This money is spent on 3 million meals served each day in hospitals, schools, nurseries, care homes, prisons, the armed forces and in central government departments. AWP believes the UK public procurement policy must be substantially revised to ensure that public funds are no longer spent on products and ingredients that have negative consequences for society later down the line, either in terms of health and preventable disease and the unnecessary burden this places on the NHS or environmental damage.
- ✦ Animal Welfare Party believes that binding targets for reduction of public spending on ingredients such as refined sugar, trans fats, palm oil from unsustainable or unknown sources, alcohol, animal products and non-fair trade ingredients must be introduced. Meanwhile, sustainable, plant-based options must always be available on every menu and at every meal in hospitals, schools, nurseries, care homes, prisons, the armed forces and in central government departments.
- ✦ The UK government must seek to change consumer behaviour in order to promote a healthy and sustainable world. Taxes on products containing refined sugar, trans fats, palm oil from unsustainable or unknown sources, alcohol, animal products (relative to CO2 equivalent) and non-fair trade ingredients should be increased.
- ✦ The effort to achieve a more sustainable food pattern requires a clear standard: plant-based food should be the basis of a healthy, sustainable diet; animal proteins should be the exception.
- ✦ Opinion leaders, influencers and policy makers should walk the talk. Publicly paid for food served in the restaurants of public institutions and at official dinners should be organic and produced locally. As it would be irresponsible for public funds to be spent on the consumption of foodstuffs that are known to be harmful to the environment and/or human

health, the food served should be free of or include a minimum of refined sugar, trans fats, palm oil from unsustainable or unknown sources, alcohol, animal products and non-fair trade ingredients.

8. Economy and Employment

Animal Welfare Party believes we need to rethink the very economic system that has been the engine not for growth but for unsustainable social debt, the depletion of the earth's resources and appalling environmental destruction.

The British government needs pushing in the direction of sustainable and environmentally-friendly businesses. Despite the fact that almost all the British state's saleable assets (BP, electricity, water, gas companies etc.) have been sold off since 1979, Britain's national debt is now back to being as high as it was in the late 1970s – but without the assets the country then had.

We need to better protect the savings and wealth of everyone in our community. To encourage such a vital change in our economy we would:

- ✦ Promote sustainable, environmentally-friendly businesses generally, for the long-term benefit of society.
- ✦ Remove all subsidies for livestock and fisheries farming industries. These businesses are unsustainable, both financially and environmentally. There should be no state funding for such essentially unnecessary and failing industries that are causing profound damage to the environment. Those businesses and individuals currently working in those industries should be encouraged, through state funding of training and new business ventures, to move into genuinely sustainable and environmentally friendly industries.
- ✦ Provide direct funding for new businesses, product development and manufacturing by creating special government bonds that will be available to long-term investors.
- ✦ Reduce privatisation of public services. We need to recognise that essential public services, such as healthcare, education, transport infrastructure, gas and electricity supplies are not the same as for-profit, speculative private business ventures. Public services are vital services to the citizens of this country, and the relentless focus on profit and the privatisation of many of them with ever-increasing private sector involvement has damaged these services and caused them to become less efficient in the services and support they offer to the people who rely on them.

In order to make employment fair for all, we would:

- ✦ Increase the top tax rate to 50 per cent for those earning more than £150,000. Those who benefit most from the wealth created in the United Kingdom need to give more back to the society that has provided them with those benefits and the security and opportunities that arise from substantial private wealth. At the same time we would raise the tax threshold at which tax becomes payable to £12,500 to better protect the earnings of the lower paid.

- ⤴ Seek to increase the minimum wage to £10 per hour and make it available to all over 18, ending the unnecessary and unjustifiable discrimination against young people in the workplace.
- ⤴ Seek to introduce a maximum pay ratio, whereby no member of an organisation can earn greater than 75 times more than the lowest-paid worker in that organisation. This is a policy that has already been introduced voluntarily (in various forms) by co-operative and true partnership organisations (such as The John Lewis Partnership) with no adverse impact on productivity, competitiveness or profitability – in fact, it promotes all of those measures for judging the value of an enterprise. This would further encourage wage growth amongst the lower-paid and end the "rush to the top" of salaries at executive level and re-establish a more reasonable earnings link between the lowest and highly paid in our society.

The United Kingdom needs to be less focused on The City of London for the support of its economy. We have been too dependent upon the financial services sector at the expense of a too-small manufacturing base to sustain the economy during recent recessions.

Animal Welfare Party would:

- ⤴ Support a broader employment programme with greater diversity of job opportunities which will protect the United Kingdom more effectively from the pressures of a globalised economic environment.
- ⤴ Streamline an effective programme of registration for employment even whilst applications for residence in the United Kingdom are in process. This will reduce the potential for abuse and exploitation of workers in and their dependency on the "black economy" and increase tax receipts by providing access to the legal economy and protection of these workers with full employment rights.

We would further:

- ⤴ Encourage and advance the availability of apprenticeships in manufacturing and other trades to broaden and diversify employment opportunities for young people leaving education, especially those for whom the formal academic route would not make the most effective use of their talents and skills.
- ⤴ Improve flexible working (including more part-time jobs) at the same time ensuring full employment rights for all workers.
- ⤴ Ensure the basic right to union membership and participation in all workplaces. No employer allowed to ban union membership and activity.
- ⤴ Provide statutory time available to employees to take time off from work to deal with the death of a spouse, parent or child up to a maximum of ten days without incurring financial penalty from their employers or having to allocate holiday entitlement to such time off.
- ⤴ Support a cap on the maximum bonus payable to employees within the financial services industry whose businesses have been in receipt of taxpayer-funded financial support.

- ✦ Increase the penalty applied to businesses that fail to adhere to all tax rules and reduce the legal loopholes available to businesses to avoid paying due tax on their business conducted within the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom.
- ✦ Demand greater transparency regarding the residency of high net worth individuals, their business conducted in the United Kingdom and their tax due and payable to the Treasury.

Economy and Agriculture

It is not generally known that 40-50% of all cereals are not eaten by humans, but by livestock. For soya the figure rises to 75%. It takes 7kg of corn and soya beans to make just 1kg / 2.2lbs of beef. Vast areas of former rainforest land are cleared to grow the feed crops necessary to produce meat. This is a highly inefficient way of producing food. The soya is mostly imported from countries such as Brazil, which has the biggest soya export market in the world. Most of that soya is being produced in very environmentally sensitive areas, including the Amazon rainforest and woodland savannah. This is an ecological disaster; and a much bigger long-term concern than the 2008 – 2012 financial crisis. As well as being crucial for biodiversity, rainforests are also an important carbon sink, trapping CO2 that otherwise contributes to global warming.

The costs of animal products are artificially lowered through the provision of subsidies to farmers. These subsidies were meant to guarantee farm income, but have actually resulted in surpluses, and hence price collapses. Without surpluses, prices would rise and subsidies would no longer be necessary. Farmers are trapped in a system that requires even further intensification and cost reduction so that they do not run at a loss.

Worldwide livestock farming is set to double to meet growing global demand, as developing countries aspire to western levels of consumption. 1.4 billion cows eat more plant-based food than all the people of the world combined, yet only 10-15% of what they eat is turned into food for humans. Every cow receives a subsidy of approximately two Euros per day, which is more money than half the population of the developing world have to live on. Ending subsidies will save taxpayers money as their money will no longer be spent subsidising methods, which bring no real benefit to anyone – merely a short-term benefit to the producer, and most of all the retailers. Hence, Animal Welfare Party would:

- ✦ End all subsidies for animal farming and fisheries.
- ✦ Tax the production and sale of foods linked to pollution and declining health, in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle, to partially compensate for the burden they impose on environmental and public healthcare systems.
- ✦ End the importation of crops such as soya and wheat for animal feed.
- ✦ Subsidise the costs to livestock farmers of switching part or all of their land to support trees, grains, fruit, vegetables, pulses, nuts and seeds.
- ✦ Invest in planting trees and stimulate sustainable recreation on former livestock land.

- ✦ In cooperation with other political parties, redirect the billions of Euros saved each year from ending animal farming subsidies, into additional socially and environmentally-responsible programmes, such as:
 - (i) affordable housing
 - (ii) improved pensions
 - (iii) greater access to education
 - (iv) economic stimuli such as enterprise grants, renewable energy and tax cuts
 - (v) overseas aid

9. Housing

Housing has been beset by multiple problems over the past three decades - the devastating effects of multiple housing "bubbles" (in both the early 1990s and in early 2000s) causing excessive house price inflation, reducing the opportunity for young people and "key workers" (i.e., nurses and teachers) to be able to purchase their own homes, Government policy to sell-off existing social housing stock, a reduction in government commitment to building new, quality social housing and an increase the participation of the private sector in social housing provision and management, which has seen a reduction in services provided and the misdirection of public funds into private profit.

Animal Welfare Party would:

- ✦ Reduce the influence of the private sector on the provision of housing.
- ✦ Raise the standard, quality and quantity of social housing, and make low cost housing available to more people.
- ✦ Improve newly built social housing (to go further than current minimum requirements in respect of living space and building materials used to create solidly constructed homes).
- ✦ Ensure that newly built social housing uses sustainable, environmentally-friendly methods of construction and build genuine communities with simple and affordable access to shops, schools, public transport, work and play spaces.
- ✦ Encourage the use of brown-field spaces in towns in preference to green-field sites outside of town to encourage habitation closer to places of work and encourage the development of communities within urban centres rather than "ghettoes of commerce" that empty at night.
- ✦ Encourage low-build housing in urban centres rather than flats. Despite claims to the contrary the United Kingdom has a low population density and can easily house all of its people in good quality, well-sized accommodation.
- ✦ Draw up stricter guidelines and more critical evaluation of major "out of town" retail developments which encourage car ownership, car use and the dissolution of communities as people travel far from where they live and work in order to buy essential goods.

- ✦ The focus on urban housing closer to major centres of commerce and employment will also encourage more sustainable transport options for people. If people live closer to where they work and shop there is less requirement to use a car for so many journeys, but would be more easily able to either walk or cycle.

10. Education, Culture and Science

Affordable Education for All

In a progressive society, primary, secondary and tertiary (up to Bachelor's level) education must be free and accessible for all. The United Kingdom is one of the largest economies in the world and can afford to invest in future generations by providing quality education for everyone. This is an essential public service and it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure the education is run as a public service not as a market economy, and has excellence as its core value, not profit.

Nursery education should be universally available to ensure that all members of the community are involved in and can benefit from education from an early age.

Vocational

Our education system should recognise the diversity of interests of the young people within the school environment and the subjects for study must reflect the different hopes and aspirations of those young people. The formal academic route may not be suitable for everyone and it must be acknowledged and appreciated that vocational and practical education in manual skills are equally as important and useful to society as more academic educational courses.

Such options should be available within the education system to youngsters from an early age. Students should be encouraged to pursue these interests after the age of 16 rather than what is still a rather narrow focus on University as the route for educational progression. This would allow for the expansion of a skills-based job market focused on engineering, manufacturing and essential practical services.

Compassion and Sustainable Healthy Eating on the Curriculum

A well-rounded educational process would comprise not only formal skills in reading, writing and arithmetic but would stimulate and encourage an artistic and cultural understanding of the world along with preparing children to fully take advantage of adult life. Teaching core values such as compassion and respect for others, and the explicit promotion of animal protection education should be integrated in curricula at every educational level.

There should be a reduction in the simplistic glorification of cruelty, violence and aggression, with a more critical approach to violent historical events such as wars and the role of oppression.

The science curriculum should have an ethical dimension that informs the debate and provides an understanding of the role of science in our society with an honest appraisal of the use on non-humans in scientific research.

With rates of depression, anxiety, self harm, drug and alcohol dependency on the rise in the UK, AWP believes it important that we begin to tackle these issues by focussing on life skills that children learn in school from a young age and that such lessons are given equal status as other more academic subjects. AWP believes all UK school children should have the opportunity to explore, understand and process ideas around failure and disappointment - including such events as family break up, relationship break up, domestic violence, bullying, abuse, not achieving the anticipated - such as exam grades, university admission, a job or certain wealth or status symbols. This, we believe, would better equip the next generation of adults with the inner resources to handle life's challenges without looking to potentially harmful or addictive short term solutions to ease emotional pain – such as the use of drugs, alcohol, food and self harming.

With climate change one of the biggest challenges facing humanity today and with rates of preventable disease such as heart disease, diabetes and certain type of cancer also on the rise, AWP believes education on healthy and sustainable lifestyles must also be part of the curriculum from primary school age onwards. Such education must look at diet and the role that a diet high in refined refined sugar, trans fats, palm oil from unsustainable or unknown sources, alcohol and animal products can play in both climate change and human ill health.

Medical science education should promote a human-centric research focus based upon clinical observation, the evidence of epidemiology, the results of autopsy, and findings from human cell or tissue cultures and from relevant computer models. The current focus on the replacement of human studies and analysis with animal substitutes is a system that is holding back scientific progress, and hinders the educational development and interests of future generations of medical practitioners (see also chapter 4 Animals in laboratories).

Re-evaluate Further Education

There should be a re-evaluation of the status of all Universities in the UK to reflect the different education options available to students. This should return to a historical approach which proved more successful than the current model and led to the UK's very high rank internationally in the quality of its tertiary education system. The system should reflect the different ambitions and interests of its students so that (i) Universities provide access to pure academic study, (ii) Polytechnics provide more vocational-based study, and (iii) General colleges provide skills-based practical training. This will help students to choose the best option for them, that most effectively meets their interests and skills, and will help to reduce the "drop out" rate from University.

11. Health, Community and Sports

Health

The major killers of the 20th century – heart disease and stroke, diabetes, certain types of cancer, and underlying these, obesity – impose a vast and preventable burden on health services. The single greatest cause is poor diet; in particular, overconsumption of food ingredients such as animal and dairy fat, sugar and refined carbohydrates, which are rich in calories but low in essential nutrients.

A 2013 study by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation found that eating meat no more than three times a week, for example, would prevent 45,000 early deaths a year in the UK and could save the NHS £1.2 billion a year.

AWP firmly believes that, as with tobacco, the consequences of poor food choices should not be subsidised, and their promotion should not be state funded.

Yet understanding of animal agricultural can be low, amongst both children and adult consumers, who may not know where their food really comes from, and what it does to their health. Animal Welfare Party would:

- ✧ Reduce the influence of the private sector in the National Health Service (NHS), reduce the number of management personnel and external consultants within the NHS, increase clinician involvement in decision making at all levels and encourage research and clinical opportunities within the NHS for experienced doctors and surgeons to prevent an exodus to private practice.
- ✧ Increase subsidies into preventative health care (education) for all. A substantial financial and resource burden on the NHS is the ever-increasing incidence of "lifestyle diseases", such as heart diseases, certain types of cancer, obesity, diabetes, which are largely the result of poor food choices in the diet coupled with inactivity.
- ✧ An effective and practical response to the significant drain on limited NHS resources caused by preventable ill-health is the development and promotion of an educational programme of support at and within the community, GP practices and available in the workplace, to encourage physical activity and enhance healthy eating, by providing current, accurate nutritional advice.

By encouraging healthy living and keeping people healthy rather than reacting to peoples' needs after their health is damaged, these measures would, we believe, help our NHS to be a genuine "health care" rather than "ill care" service.

Availability of Plant-Based Meals

AWP believes that policies to encourage people to eat both healthily and more sustainably must work hand in hand. As stated in Chapter 7 – The Environment, Animal Welfare Party asserts that:

- ✧ Public money spent on food for catering in the UK amounts to around £2.4bn per year. This money is spent on 3 million meals served each day in hospitals, schools, nurseries, care homes, prisons, the armed forces and in central government departments. AWP believes the UK public procurement policy must be substantially revised to ensure that public funds are no longer spent on products and ingredients that have negative consequences for society later down the line, either in terms of health and preventable disease and the unnecessary burden this places on the NHS or environmental damage.
- ✧ Animal Welfare Party believes that binding targets for reduction of public spending on ingredients such as refined sugar, trans fats, palm oil from unsustainable or unknown sources, alcohol, animal products and non-fair trade ingredients must be introduced. Meanwhile, sustainable, plant-based options must always be available on every menu and

at every meal in hospitals, schools, nurseries, care homes, prisons, the armed forces and in central government departments.

- ✦ The the UK government must seek to change consumer behaviour in order to promote a healthy and sustainable world. Taxes on products containing refined sugar, trans fats, palm oil from unsustainable or unknown sources, alcohol, animal products (relative to CO2 equivalent) and non-fair trade ingredients should be increased.
- ✦ VAT exemptions on meat, dairy products and eggs, and processed foods that are high in saturated fat or sugar, must be removed to more accurately reflect the burden their consumption imposes on public healthcare systems.
- ✦ The effort to achieve a more sustainable and healthy food pattern requires a clear standard: plant-based food should be the basis of a healthy, sustainable diet; animal proteins should be the exception.

Nutrition Education

Animal Welfare Party would:

- ✦ Ensure that government organizations promoting healthy eating provide clear, consistent, and evidence-based messages to the public, rather than conflicting messages.
- ✦ End state funding of the promotion of unhealthy or unsustainable foods, such as meat, dairy and fish - for example fish oils or school milk - without stating the plant alternatives, and making explicit the advantages and disadvantages of each.
- ✦ Fund non-governmental organisations that promote healthy eating.
- ✦ Provide free NHS-funded support for those struggling to give up unhealthy foods - comparable to existing 'quit smoking,' alcohol and drug rehabilitation programmes - recognising the addiction issues involved in giving up 'comfort' foods.
- ✦ Clearly label the proportion of calories as fat within processed foods, eliminating misleading food claims.
- ✦ End the false promotion of fish oil as an 'essential' source of essential fatty acids (EFAs). Make explicit the major problems with fish oils (sustainability, mercury, dioxins and PCBs). Stimulate and fund the promotion of cheaper and sustainable plant based EFAs that can safely be consumed every day.
- ✦ Ban the false suggestion in advertising that meat is 'essential' for acquiring adequate protein, iron, B vitamins or any other nutrients.
- ✦ Ban the false suggestion in advertising that dairy products are 'essential' for acquiring adequate calcium, maintaining bone health, or to prevent osteoporosis.

World Hunger and Famine

The fact that over 800 million people are profoundly under- and mal-nourished to the point of starvation and death in a world that creates enough food each year to feed everyone is a scar on the conscience of the UK and all other "rich" countries, and demands urgent attention at the national as well as international level.

It is a shocking statistic that one third of the world's grain and over 70% of the soya grown each year is fed to animals to eat.

Whether factory, free-range or organic farming, feeding grain and soya to livestock is a hugely wasteful use of the earth's resources. Many argue that eating animal products is taking food from the poor to feed the rich. By eating plant foods, we are not just helping animals, but the world and all the people in it.

Accordingly, Animal Welfare Party would:

- ✦ Ban the import of grain and soya as animal feed.
- ✦ Ban the import of soya from cleared rainforest land.
- ✦ Increase the global emergency relief and development budget to support plant-based nutrition overseas, and decrease the budgets of the international financial institutions supporting animal agriculture in the global South.

Community Services

AWP believes we must increase social security benefits to ensure that they meet the minimum standard for healthy living costs to provide food, clothing and warmth to those in need.

Closer collaboration is needed between services: child protection, domestic violence support, animal protection, social workers and the police to reduce the potential and incidence of violence in the home and community and social disruption.

We must increase community projects and stimulate youth programmes (through arts, sports, Summer University, and voluntary work opportunities). This will help people to feel more of a part of and more responsible for the community around them, and investing time and energy in this way promotes social cohesion and a genuine sense of community.

Alongside those youth programmes, we must encourage and promote more activities for the 60+ age group, recognising the value and considerable wealth of experience and wisdom held by the older members of our society. AWP would promote their role in the voluntary sector, ask for their support and help in managing community projects and encourage locally-based group meetings, to limit the social isolation felt by some within the older community.

Sports

Animal Welfare Party believes promoting sports and physical activity is hugely important to improving human health. Accordingly we would increase sports facilities and sports education including access for all schools, and encourage participation in sports and other physical activities in the community.

12. Law, Policing and Security

AWP believes we must ensure that the focus of our law enforcement agencies is on local, community-based engagement with people, providing a visible presence of the police on local streets.

We would call for immediate electoral, democratic institutional reform. Our Parliamentary system is discredited, and the "first past the post" voting process should be consigned to history, replaced with a comprehensive proportional representation system to encourage democratic engagement with the political process. People would then feel that their vote can make a difference, and that all political parties can have a chance to influence the future direction of our society.

We would call for a smaller and fully or indirectly elected second chamber in the Houses of Parliament. There would also be a three-year moratorium between Ministers leaving their Office of State and being able to assume a role within the private sector, together with a ban on the concurrent occupation as both a Member of Parliament or Peer and paid consultancy work with private business.

Civil rights, freedom of speech and protests, and protection of privacy are core values in any democratic state. These fundamental rights may not be altered - not even under the guise of fighting terrorism.

13. Transportation

Animal Welfare Party would increase Government support for public transport including an integrated rail network and public ownership of London Underground. We would reduce and, where possible, remove the number of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts which currently dominate the transportation landscape and yet have proven to be very poor value for money, with vast sums of public money being diverted into private hands rather than being directly invested in supporting our transportation infrastructure.

We need to encourage and develop an affordable and accessible public transport system with investment in modernising the rail network, and encouraging much more cycle use with a massive increase in the availability, suitability and safety of cycle lanes in our cities.

All education institutes (whether at primary, secondary or tertiary level) should be easily accessible and very well serviced by effectively integrated public transport services.

We would focus attention on improving road safety in urban centres by extending the pilot schemes that "re-merge" the public space of pavement and road, removing all road markings,

which has been proven to be safer for all road users than the current system of partition with barriers, railings and footpaths, and encourages safer driving and reduces the traffic delays ordinarily experienced by car users.

We would need to tax pollution to discourage car use wherever possible and limit the number of car journeys undertaken. This will be done with a taxation on a "per mile" basis, according to transport type, use and environment-friendliness of the vehicle. All such proceeds would be directly and immediately reinvested in the development of more sustainable transportation systems and infrastructure.

A refocus on social urban development and encouraging people to live closer to work, together with tighter regulations on and limits to "out of town" retail developments, would reduce the requirement to use a car for many journeys to and from work or simply for going shopping.

14. International

Investing in Development

AWP believes the UK must discontinue with policies that cause harm in other parts of the world. Instead we must invest in the potential of developing countries. Sustainability, animal welfare, education, health, children's rights and the equal treatment of men and women are key to this process.

- ⤴ The UK must stop the import of products that affect living environments elsewhere in the world and that involve land capture and other violations of human rights.
- ⤴ Development aid should focus on strengthening the position of vulnerable groups in developing countries, in particular women and children.
- ⤴ Priority should be given to clean drinking water and hygiene, adequate (preventive) healthcare, access to essential medicines and contraceptives, education, sustainable agriculture and clean energy. The support of emancipation movements will, in turn, support democratisation processes.
- ⤴ The Animal Welfare Party wants to warrant sexual and reproductive health and rights, this will also contribute to slowing down population growth. The breaking of taboos on homosexuality, abortion and violence against women, reduction of maternal mortality and the promotion and provision of contraceptives are spearheads in development policies.
- ⤴ Aid should be focused on the interests of humans, animals, and the environment and not on the interests of the industry sector in that part of the world.

Defending human rights

Animal Welfare Party believes that human rights are more important than trade. European companies violate environmental and human rights on a regular basis. Often the victims are left empty-handed, without having an opportunity to obtain justice. Moreover, one billion citizens in

fragile states are threatened by violence and structural injustice. These humans partly depend on our support for their safety and the protection of their human rights. Victims of war and violence, oppression and persecution, hunger, climate change and natural disasters deserve to be helped.

- ⤴ The UK should not search for trade outlets in countries where human rights are not safeguarded.
- ⤴ The UK should openly protest, without reservation, against violations of human rights anywhere in the world – even if it does business with those countries. The curtailing of trade is one of the instruments that can be used to put pressure on the countries concerned.
- ⤴ The UK must provide a fair asylum procedure and humane hosting of refugees.
- ⤴ Veganism has been a protected belief since 1993, as a human right under Article 9 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights. Animal Welfare Party will strive for this right to be respected within the UK and across the EU.

Limits on Weapons

'War Never Again' was an important motive for establishing the European Union of which the UK is a part. The Animal Welfare Party wants the UK to also apply that rationale to its weapons policy.

- ⤴ The UK must not supply weapons to repressive and authoritarian states which violate human rights.
- ⤴ A blacklist must be created for countries and businesses to which no intermediary products or components of chemical, nuclear and bacteriological weapons may be supplied.
- ⤴ The UK must stand against the use of every form of uranium in (conventional) weapons and must support and promote a comprehensive prohibition on nuclear weapons.

Immigration

The United Kingdom has always shown itself to be a forward-thinking, progressive society, which has welcomed immigration as a necessary part in our economic and social development and supported those fleeing persecution elsewhere in the world. This needs to be encouraged and we should not allow ourselves to be swayed into a dismissive and position by those who see immigration as only a negative.

A multi-cultural environment is one that has great benefits for everyone in our society and is the natural and ordinary consequence of migration. Many thousands of British-born people emigrate from the United Kingdom each year and are welcomed in those countries to which they move, and it is to the UK's credit that we have historically done the same in reverse, by welcoming those moving to the United Kingdom.

We need to provide increased support for asylum seekers and refugees, who are seeking to escape from persecution, war, famine, social collapse or personal, domestic situations of abuse.

While we believe that the UK should provide adequate financial and logistical support to countries with internally displaced refugees or to neighbouring countries that provide shelter, the United Kingdom does receive a very small number (compared to many other nations) of refugees, and we need to help them to adjust to life in a country that is very different to the one they have left behind. The Government must encourage such persons to come forward with information about their skills and qualifications, and allow them access to the workplace and the social support structure whilst their application is being evaluated.

Those who abuse the system will not be granted the rights afforded to those genuinely needing help.

We further believe that the 'Life in the UK' test should include animal issues and basic legislation.

Membership of The EU

Animal Welfare Party would encourage and extend the close working relationship with our local economic neighbours in Europe, including through our vitally important membership of the European Union. Our focus should be on partnership and co-operation with our economic neighbours to fully support and open up opportunity for local industry in the UK. A new course for Europe and a different type of European cooperation is what the Animal Welfare Party wants to work towards - a cooperation that is focussed on the realisation of ideals such as sustainability, compassion, freedom and responsibility. The Animal Welfare Party believes in a Europe that gives both humans and animals the opportunity to live a good life. Such a Europe consists of independent countries that democratically decide to tackle cross-border issues together, who share key values and who agree to uphold and help each other adhere to them. In such a cooperation, countries can learn from and support each other to create a better society in harmony with their living environment.