



OneKind

**2015 General Election
The OneKind Manifesto**

A message from our Chief Executive

OneKind, formerly known as Advocates for Animals, is a UK animal protection charity based in Edinburgh, working to end animal suffering through campaigns, research and education.

We know that animal welfare is an issue of significant importance to the UK electorate, being the fourth most popular 'cause' for charity donations as well as one which many people regularly contact their MP about.

Despite seeing significant progress in recent years, with laws being introduced specifically to protect animals from harm, it seems that many of us have lost our instinctive, natural connection with



animals. There is still so much we can do which would recognise the sentient nature of animals and make the world a better and safer place for our non-human companions.

Thank you for taking time to read our manifesto. At OneKind, we are committed to working with all to encourage change which can most effectively benefit animals and make the 2015 General Election count.

John Brady, Chief Executive

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Contact us

10 Queensferry Street,
Edinburgh EH2 4PG
0131 225 6039
policy@onekind.org



Introduction and recommendations

Ultimately, attitudes need to change so that animals are appreciated, respected and celebrated for what they are – different from us, but just as valuable in their own right.

OneKind believes in and promotes the scientific concept of animal sentience, which means that non-human animals have a level of awareness and the ability to feel and suffer in ways that are comparable, if not identical, to ours. Naturally, the extent to which this resembles human awareness and feelings varies from species to species - but in principle, we believe that all animals with similar physiology, biology and nervous systems should be treated as equally sentient.

Compassion, respect and protection of animals must be the responsibility of everyone. Parliament can make a huge

difference by setting a clear agenda to prioritise the welfare and protection of animals.

The OneKind Manifesto hopes to influence and encourage policy makers towards an agenda which recognises the importance of animal welfare by making recommendations in five key areas.

These include:

- Animals kept as pets and the pet trade
- Welfare of animals in the wild
- Animals used in experiments
- Animals used in food production
- Animals used for entertainment



Animals kept as pets and the pet trade

OneKind supports the keeping of certain species of domestic animals as pets.

However we strongly believe that both citizens and legislators have an obligation to provide the best possible welfare standards for animals whenever they are bred, reared, traded or kept.

Pet trading in the UK has grown exponentially in recent years, with the surge in online pet sales contributing to a pet vending industry which is now simply too large and woefully unregulated. This has had severe consequences not only for animal welfare but also for consumer protection.

OneKind believes all pet vending legislation is urgently in need of review to safeguard and improve the welfare of animals.

Improved protection for all animals being traded

There is a need to improve protection for all animals being traded or privately kept as pets, whatever their species. While many commercial and private breeders care well for their animals and aim to ensure that they are sold to appropriate homes, others do not. Examples of these problems can be seen in puppy farms, the intensive rearing

of hamsters, guinea pigs and other small ‘furries’, the sale of rabbits in pet shops, and in the provision of poor care advice – or none at all – to purchasers.

Trading and private keeping of exotic or ‘wild’ pets

There is a need to address the trading and private keeping of exotic or ‘wild’ pets, for reasons of animal welfare, public health and protection of biodiversity at home and abroad. The number of species should be reduced to those that can safely be kept without causing harm in any of those areas, and this should be done by adopting a ‘positive list’ system.

The positive list system identifies those animals that are suitable for private keeping as pets, and prohibits or stringently licenses the keeping of all other types. Reducing the types of non-domesticated

birds, mammals, fish and reptiles that may be kept privately would not prevent people from owning interesting animals but would take the most vulnerable or potentially risky species out of circulation.

Key recommendations:

The Pet Animals Act 1951 must be updated so that it effectively regulates retail and wholesale suppliers and internet sales.

Legislation is required to introduce a ‘positive list’ approach to the keeping of exotic species with a view to reducing the number and types of non-domesticated birds, mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians in private keeping.





Welfare of wild animals

Wild animals in the UK are as vulnerable and as capable of suffering as farmed animals and pets.

Comprehensive review of wildlife legislation

England and Wales are lagging behind Scotland in terms of wildlife and natural environment legislation. The Law Commission has provisionally proposed a single wildlife statute dealing with species-specific provisions for wildlife conservation, protection, exploitation and control, and this would allow for a more up-to-date, coherent and enforceable framework for wild animal protection. OneKind hopes that the incoming administration will progress this as a matter of urgency.

Wild Animal Welfare Committee

OneKind recommends the creation of a Wild Animal Welfare Committee with a remit similar to the former Farm Animal Welfare Council – to provide independent recommendations and advice on legislative changes to improve protection for free-living wild animals. In September 2014, OneKind was involved in developing an independent committee of experts who have pledged to initiate this work in advance of government recognition.

Ban snaring

In March 2012 DEFRA published a report into the extent of use and humaneness of snaring in England and Wales. The report gave a strong indication that snares inflict suffering on the animals which they trap and that a snare is indiscriminate, often catching non target species. Since the report was published there have been no steps taken to address this serious animal welfare concern. OneKind is calling on the Government to consult on the future of snaring as soon as possible and for the consultation to include the option to ban snares.

Science-led solution to Bovine TB

OneKind is calling on the Government to abandon the badger cull in favour of a science-led programme of vaccination. Independent scientific advice has shown that killing badgers is not a solution to bovine TB and the safety, efficacy and humaneness of the culling operations have been called into question by the Government's own independent expert panel. Vaccination of both badgers and cattle is a far more sustainable solution.

No return to fox hunting

It is inconceivable that Parliament could countenance a return to the days when chasing and killing a sentient mammal was legal, and even worse, a sport. The Hunting Act 2004 must be supported and upheld. Polling by Ipsos MORI¹ in 2013 shows that 80 per cent of the public think that fox hunting should not be made legal again, while 85 and 87 per cent think deer hunting and hare hunting and coursing should remain illegal.



Key recommendations

Modernise wildlife legislation.

Build on existing initiatives to establish a Wild Animal Welfare Committee.

Ban the manufacture, sale, possession and use of all snares.

End the badger cull in favour of a programme of vaccination.

Uphold the Hunting Act 2004 and encourage more stringent enforcement.

¹ Ipsos MORI hunting poll 2013 http://www.ipsos-mori.com/Assets/Docs/Polls/Hunting2013_web.PDF



Animals used in experiments

In 2013, 4.12 million scientific procedures using live animals were started in Great Britain.

While it is illegal to cause pain and suffering to animals kept as pets, legal experimentation almost invariably involves subjecting sentient animals to physical and/or mental pain or distress. Additional factors such as transportation, handling, confinement, environmental deprivation, isolation and over-crowding can also cause suffering and have negative consequences on animal welfare.

Support for replacement

The principle of replacing animals with non-animal techniques is the most important of the Three Rs – reduction, replacement and refinement – that inform

both UK and European legislation and provide opportunities substantially to reduce animal suffering. Streamlining the validation of new methods would make an essential contribution to this.

Transparency on testing

While the publication of annual statistics and a Home Office inspectorate report give an insight into the scale of animal use in British laboratories, it remains extremely difficult for researchers to tease out the true nature of the procedures, due to the secrecy provision within the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Section 24 of the Act makes it a criminal offence to

disclose confidential information and even acts as a bar to sharing “good practice” among laboratories.

The Home Office consulted in 2014 on the options for repealing or amending s.24 legislation. If the Government does not meet its commitment to legislate before the election, or fails to deliver a full repeal of this unnecessary layer of secrecy, OneKind will seek urgent action by the incoming administration.

Household product testing

The UK public spends millions of pounds a year on household products. Cruelty-free companies have shown it is possible to make safe household products without testing on animals, using computer models, tests with cells, population research, or existing data from related ingredients.

Yet for decades, rabbits, hamsters, rats and mice have traditionally been injected, gassed, force-fed and killed to test the ingredients of everyday household products such as washing up liquid, air fresheners and dishwasher tablets. “Finished product” testing has dwindled to zero in the UK, but hundreds of ingredients could still, potentially, be tested on animals in British labs – and due to the secrecy surrounding experiments it is impossible to establish the extent and nature of this testing.

The current Government has committed to ending animal testing for household products before the General Election in May 2015. However, the issue of ingredients has not been resolved. OneKind believes the promised ban will be meaningless if it only covers finished product testing.



Key recommendations

Support, promote and invest in replacement as the most important of the Three Rs.

Encourage data-sharing.

Streamline validation of alternatives.

Full repeal of section 24 of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Comprehensive ban on the testing of household products and their ingredients on animals.



Animals used in food production

All farmed animals must be given a 'life worth living' and as many as possible should have a 'good life'.

Factory farming

Much industrial livestock production in the UK today is characterised by the use of systems where animals are confined in cages or narrow crates, or kept in overcrowded barren conditions. Animals are bred for fast growth rates for high yields. Many are subjected to painful mutilations such as tail-docking or beak-trimming.

Antibiotics

Just under half of all the antibiotics used in the UK are given to farm animals for treating or preventing the diseases caused by intensive farming, to keep them going in conditions that can be squalid, overcrowded, and stressful. This leads to the development of antimicrobial resistance, which can then pass to humans and is recognised as a

developing health crisis. The UK urgently needs to take action to ban or phase out the routine preventative use of antibiotics on farms.

Key recommendations:

An end to painful mutilations.

End the routine use of antibiotics on farms.

Positive standards to ensure a 'life worth living' for farmed animals and a 'good life' for as many as possible.

Other issues we would like to see addressed:

- Journey times to slaughter capped at eight hours to reduce the pain, stress, exhaustion and dehydration.
- A legal requirement for the use of closed circuit television cameras in approved slaughterhouses.



Animals used for entertainment

Animals in circuses

Two travelling circuses are currently licensed to use wild animals, including lions, tigers and zebras, in England and both are regularly on tour. Successive legislative initiatives aimed at ending the outdated and unnatural use of wild animals in circuses have been dropped or blocked. OneKind is calling for a firm commitment to ensure that legislation is supported and passed without further delay.

Zoos

OneKind believes that there is no good reason to keep wild animals captive in zoos. As long as animals are kept in zoos, OneKind wants government to ensure that local authorities are properly enforcing the EU Zoos Directive 1999/22/EC, particularly

the requirement for ensuring that the animals are kept in suitable conditions with high husbandry standards.

Under current legislation, zoos do not have to be inspected every year. OneKind believes that zoos should be visited by an independent inspector every year, as welfare conditions at any establishment can deteriorate rapidly and animals may be left in unacceptable welfare conditions for long periods if inspections are less frequent.

Key recommendations

Support for Bill to stop animals being exploited in British circuses.

Improve zoo inspection regime.



The OneKind vision is a world in which people live harmoniously with animals, and treat them with compassion, because they value and respect them.

The OneKind mission is to inspire a movement of people who respect animals, value them, enjoy them and protect them, to create a better world for all.

The OneKind approach recognises animals as sentient beings and builds on the connections between people, animals and the natural world in a positive, inspiring and practical way.

Further information

The OneKind Manifesto covers a selection of animal welfare issues that we would like the incoming government to address over the next parliamentary session. For more information on these or any other issue please contact OneKind's policy team.

10 Queensferry Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PG
Tel: 0131 225 6039 email.: policy@onekind.org
Registered Charity No. SC041299

