

# Animals are important

*Green policies for the London 2012 Mayoral and Assembly elections*



The Mayor of London and the London Assembly can play an important part in protecting and championing animals.

We can ensure that City Hall, Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade uphold the highest standards when purchasing food and cleaning products, and they can each do their part to protect companion, farm and wild animals. They can also lobby the Government, the 32 boroughs and the private sector to follow suit, and help co-ordinate action across London.

Over the past 11 years, Green members on the London Assembly have persuaded the Mayor to pioneer a London Food Strategy and establish the London Food Board, with a strong emphasis on animal welfare. They have exposed factory farmed chicken that will be served at the Olympics, and secured funding to enhance and connect up the largest network of wildlife habitats through ten boroughs in East London.

## Animal testing

- Ensure that all purchasing across the GLA group (City Hall, Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade) conforms to strict ethical rules, including non-animal tested cleaning products.
- Work to make London a world centre for non-animal biomedical research.
- Encourage all establishments in London that conduct research using animals to publicly commit to replacing animal experiments with humane alternatives, reducing animal numbers and suffering and improving animal welfare.
- Ask all London establishments to retain the local Ethical Review Process, with its current form and functions, regardless of whether requirements will be reduced in the new UK legislation regulating animal experimentation from January 2013.

## Farmed animals

- Encourage a reduction in consumption of meat and dairy produce in catering procurement decisions. Use of organic, higher welfare products would be strongly encouraged when meat, milk or eggs are used.
- Promote the Meat Free Monday campaign both within City Hall and throughout London to encourage the reduction of meat consumption.
- Produce comprehensive information on vegetarian and vegan diets for all boroughs and authorities so that all London's schools, hospitals and prisons offer healthy vegetarian and vegan options.
- Promote a cruelty-free economy and cruelty-free practices - and advocate that especially cruel foods such as pâté de foie gras, shark's fin soup and frog's legs are banned.
- Act to end London's fur trade.

## Companion animals

- Tougher licensing conditions for pet shops to ensure better traceability, disease control and welfare, supported by regular veterinary inspections. No pet fairs.
- Co-ordinate charities and providers of veterinary services to improve access to improve access to veterinary care for those on low incomes and promote dog and cat neutering.
- Lobby for dogs to only be sold from pet shops if they are already microchipped, vet-checked and with name and address of breeder. All animals must be sold with information about how to care for them which must include the Defra Code of Practice (for dogs, cats and equids).
- Work to ensure that every borough has an animal welfare officer and that they provide a comprehensive out-of-hours stray dog service.
- Work to expand school and community based education programmes on responsible pet ownership.
- Work with housing sector to ensure that all housing providers have positive pets policies that encourage responsible pet ownership and enforce against those that act irresponsibly.
- Ensure that best practice on status and 'dangerous' dogs is shared across the police force and that the Dangerous Dog units are adequately resourced.
- Work to end the practice of wild-caught exotic pets being sold in pet shops and discourage the keeping of wild animals as pets.

## Wild animals

- Require boroughs through the London Plan to develop a comprehensive Ecology Opportunities Plan, mapping all "green and blue infrastructure" such as habitats and wildlife corridors. Use this to identify gaps in provision and require developers to take up opportunities to fill those gaps, achieving high standards with regard to biodiversity. Explore making animal welfare a material planning consideration.
- Restore funding to complete the Green Grid, connecting habitats across the capital so that wild animals have corridors through which they can pass.
- Only use humane, non-lethal control methods wherever possible where animal populations are controlled.
- Resist calls for a cull of urban foxes and tackle problems that could lead to an unwelcome growth in their population; get fast food waste off the streets by making the shops take responsibility, use new waste powers to ensure all food waste bins are secured from foxes.
- Adequate resources for the Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime unit.
- Lobby boroughs, the Royal Parks and other landowners to publicly ban animal circuses on their land, and press the Government to implement a total national ban.

## Green policies for London

- More information about the Green Party's priorities across all areas of policy can be found on Jenny Jones' campaign web site:  
[www.jennyforlondon.org](http://www.jennyforlondon.org)