



OneKind

**Manifesto
for Animal Welfare**

**Scottish Parliament
Elections 2011**

**HumanKind. AnimalKind. OneKind.
www.onekind.org**



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About us

OneKind, formerly Advocates for Animals, is a UK-based animal charity that aims to create the most radical reinvention of the animal movement in the last century – a paradigm shift in the way that animal welfare and animal protection are perceived and delivered by people.

OneKind works with the public, educators, scientists and key decision makers to advance knowledge and understanding of animals and to promote a lifestyle that is animal-friendly. Using science-based evidence, we campaign for positive legislation in Scotland, the UK and beyond; we work to ensure good practice and compliance with existing laws; and where necessary we also use a mixture of field work and research to expose the mistreatment of animals.

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

The OneKind vision is to create a world in which all animals are valued, respected and treated with compassion.

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.

This OneKind Manifesto sets out some key recommendations for the next government in Scotland, and the next Scottish Parliament.

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Introduction

What is animal welfare?

Politicians and officials often talk of animal welfare as if it were the same thing as animal health. Clearly, animal health is important, and closely related to human health - but it is not the same as animal welfare. Animal health policies focus on populations, such as flocks or herds, but animal welfare focuses on the individual.

OneKind believes that the population-based approach overlooks the most important, defining aspect of animal welfare – that it is an individual, not a collective, state. This has been recognised by scientists and international authorities for years now – for example, the World Organisation for Animal Health considers that an animal is in a good state of welfare if it is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, safe, able to express its innate behaviour and not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.¹

Does animal welfare matter to people?

Recent research by OneKind² has shown that nine out of ten of people agree that animals are sentient – that they have a level of awareness and the ability to feel and suffer.

87% of the UK public believe that we are still a nation of animal lovers, although over half (58%) of the same

respondents also think that maltreatment of animals is on the rise. 81% of those who took part in the OneKind survey said they would intervene if they saw an animal being mistreated, and 85% said they would find seeing an animal suffer as distressing as watching a person go through the same thing.

In a separate poll in 2008³, we found that a majority of people in Scotland would be more likely to vote for a political party that had a clear commitment to act to improve the welfare of animals. In other words, people care about the welfare of animals and want to do something about it.

The revised Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) also places a duty on governments to protect the welfare of animals, as sentient beings, when they formulate and implement relevant policies⁴.

What has been happening in Scotland over the last four years?

Too little. Despite forward-looking legislation in the shape of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, there has been little further consideration of domestic animal welfare in the Scottish Parliament. Essential secondary legislation under the 2006 Act has not materialised.

1 World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) resolution, May 2008: *“Animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour and is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal received is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.”*

2 Scottish Charity Engagement Monitor 2010, NFP Synergy.

3 Opinion Matters public opinion survey for OneKind, September 2010.

4 TNS System Three for Advocates for Animals, October 2008.

5 TFEU Article 13.

New legislation to regulate puppy and kitten dealers, animal sanctuaries, travelling circuses, electric shock collars, pet vending (including internet sales), and livery yards was scheduled for introduction in 2007 and 2008, and revision of existing regulations on riding establishments, cat and dog boarding, dog breeding, the sale of dogs and performing animals was supposed to follow over the next two years.

Out of this list, only the legislation to regulate dealers in puppies and kittens has been introduced. Codes of welfare for dogs, cats, equines and reared gamebirds have been produced and approved by the Scottish Parliament, but other proposed codes for rabbits and primates have not been progressed.

Local authorities in Scotland have the power to enforce the new animal welfare legislation, but no obligation to do so. In a time of tight budgetary restrictions, and without the required secondary legislation to secure councils' participation in a number of key areas, implementation is inconsistent and likely to remain so.

There has been massive support for a ban on cruel snares in Scotland – a level of public feeling that must be recognised.

OneKind living

We believe that government-led public education can improve the lives of both animals and people. Encouraging people to eat less meat and other animal products, but from higher welfare systems, can benefit human health and the environment as well as being better for animals. Similarly, choosing cosmetics, toiletries and household products that have not been tested on animals can make a positive difference.

Public bodies can lead by example by ensuring that their procurement policies are animal-friendly. Integrating learning about animal sentience and welfare into the school curriculum can help to foster long-lasting humane attitudes and combat violent behaviour towards both animals and humans.

Even a few of these changes would ensure that our country moves with the times in its attitudes to animals – for the benefit of all.

The Scottish Parliament and the next government in Scotland can make a significant difference by setting a clear agenda to prioritise the welfare and protection of animals.





Domestic and captive animals

The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 protects the welfare of most animals under the control of man.

Secondary legislation under the Act is urgently required in a number of areas. Priority issues for the next Scottish Parliament should be as follows.

Pet vending, including the trade in exotic pets

The fashion for acquiring unusual pets has led to an increase in the numbers of the wrong animals being kept in the wrong conditions by the wrong people. Iguanas, turtles and terrapins, chipmunks, snakes, primates and parrots (to name but a few) all have very specialist physical and behavioural needs which are difficult for private owners to meet. Effective regulation and inspection of animal welfare standards in pet shops by local authorities can be difficult: many sell a wide range of animals, including exotic animals, which inspectors may – or may not – be familiar with. OneKind recommends that government should legislate to improve animal welfare within pet shops and provide model standards to ensure that standards for all species are consistent across local authorities. Pet vendors must have specialist trained staff and provide correct care information to the public.

Wild animals in travelling circuses

The circus life is no life for animals. It involves confinement, lack of appropriate companionship, periods of constant travelling, being made to perform unnatural tricks, and sometimes outright cruelty. Public opinion polling has shown that over 80% of people would support a ban on wild animals in circuses. Although there are no circuses based in Scotland, one or two tour the country in the summer – one of these uses an arthritic 57-year-old elephant who has spent half a century on the road after being taken from the wild. The next government in Scotland should act swiftly to ban the outdated use of wild animals in travelling circuses.

Regulation of animal sanctuaries

There are still no regulations to govern sanctuaries for pets, farmed animals and wild animals. These can do excellent work but they need to be well funded and run by knowledgeable people. Some sanctuaries get into difficulties when they cannot afford to provide properly for the animals they have taken on – and the animals can suffer. Others, regrettably, are little more than a pretext for trading in animals. This is an entirely unregulated area and the need for a licensing or registration system is urgent.

Consistent standards

Finally, a coherent animal welfare regime must be implemented and enforced consistently. Local authorities have most of the responsibility for enforcement of animal welfare regulations, through licensing regimes and animal health officials – but they cannot do this on their own. Councils are autonomous as regards their allocation of budgets, but more support and resources could be provided by government. For example, standards of modern practice could be drawn up centrally and provided to authorities as guidance and a guarantee of consistency.

Key Recommendations

- Review pet vending legislation and restrict the sale of exotic animals.
- End the use of wild animals in travelling circuses.
- Require licensing and registration of animal sanctuaries.
- Provide Standards of Modern Practice for local authorities to apply to pet shops, boarding kennels, riding stables and other commercial activities involving animals.



Animals used in food production

Farmed animals must be given a 'life worth living'.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), which provides science-based policy advice to government, recommends that standards for farmed animals should focus on achieving a positive state of welfare for each animal – a 'good life' or at the very least, a 'life worth living'.

Each of these animals is a sentient individual. Yet much of industrial livestock production 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 or high yields. Many animals are subject to painful mutilations such as tail-docking or beak-trimming.

Even in more extensive systems, such as Scottish hill sheep farming, lambs are routinely tail-docked and male lambs castrated. Welfare problems in long distance transport and the live export trade are well-documented.

To encourage the development of more humane farming practices, government in Scotland should actively support higher welfare systems, for example, by providing appropriate levels of funding for organic farming.

Food labelling

Many consumers view good animal welfare as an intrinsic part of food quality, choosing to buy higher-welfare produce such as organic, free-range or Freedom Food certified, but the wide range of different welfare labels and assurance schemes can be misleading. Some food labels give the impression that they guarantee higher welfare standards, but in fact provide little more than the legal requirements.

Enhanced standards should be promoted by a mandatory animal welfare label. Progress is already being made at EU level towards developing an effective, unified labelling system, and the next government in Scotland should encourage Scottish stakeholders, as well as the UK government, to give active support to this.

Farm licensing

Almost every commercial activity involving animals, including slaughter and driving livestock vehicles, is subject to a licensing scheme or competence assessment. Yet anyone can acquire and keep livestock without having to show that he can meet the appropriate standards. We recommend that livestock farming should become a licensed activity.

Protection in severe weather

In early 2010 many sheep and cattle died as a result of extreme weather conditions. The recurring problem of high mortality rates among livestock on Scottish farms in periods of bad weather must be addressed, identifying the farms where high mortality occurs and then targeting these farms with help and resources as required.

Cloning of farmed animals

Replicating an animal's genetic make-up to ensure consistent production of breeds and qualities focuses on productivity at the expense of traditional husbandry. Many cloned embryos die before birth or shortly afterwards, while surrogate mothers endure invasive procedures. Government policy on cloning must focus on animal welfare as well as food safety concerns.

Key Recommendations

- Positive standards for a good life for farmed animals.
- An end to painful mutilations.
- No journey to slaughter lasting more than eight hours.
- No export of animals for slaughter or further fattening.
- Support the introduction of an animal welfare label.
- Licensing of livestock farms.
- Government guidance for severe weather.
- Prohibit use of cloned animals in food production.



Animals used in experiments

Scotland should aim to become a world-leader in the development of advanced non-animal technologies.

While it is illegal to cause pain and suffering to animals kept as pets, legal experimentation frequently 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.

Although the regulation of scientific procedures is reserved to the UK government, approximately half a million animals are used in experiments in Scottish establishments each year. Government in Scotland should acknowledge public opinion on animal testing, develop strategies for Scotland's science research base, and influence UK funding priorities so that the development and use of humane alternatives moves on more rapidly.

Support for replacement

Of the Three Rs – reduction, refinement and replacement – that inform both UK and European legislation, the principle of replacing animals with non-animal techniques is the most urgent and is the only approach that can eliminate animal suffering altogether.

Government in Scotland should aim to make the country a world leader in the development, production and use of advanced non-animal technologies, an approach which would promote employment and trade and move towards the replacement of all animals in scientific procedures.

EU experiments directive

Government in Scotland should press the UK government to ensure that, in transposing the revised Experiments Directive (Directive 2010/63/EU), it progresses the Directive's basic objective of replacing the use of animal experiments altogether. In addition to animal welfare benefits, alternative

methods have the potential to provide robust information through quality-controlled, state-of-the-art tests which could be faster and less cost-intensive than classical animal-based tests⁶. It is also essential that the UK's existing stricter animal protection provisions, where these are stronger than the Directive, are maintained.

Cosmetics testing

The 7th amendment to the Cosmetics Directive (Directive 76/768 EEC) prohibited the testing of new cosmetics ingredients on animals within the European Union from 2009, and the sale of cosmetic products containing ingredients tested on animals outside the European Union from 2013. There is now growing concern that the European Commission may propose a delay to the 2013 deadline, on the grounds that effective non-animal testing methods have not yet been validated for three specific toxicity tests. Thousands of existing cosmetics ingredients can safely be used and reformulated to create new products without any need for additional animal testing. OneKind would like to see a commitment from MSPs and government in Scotland to support full implementation of the Directive, and to urge the UK government to press for this reform to be completed on schedule.

Key Recommendations

- Support, promote and encourage investment in replacement as the most important of the Three Rs.
- Press the UK government to prioritise replacement.
- Press the UK government to maintain the strictest animal protection regime.
- Support full implementation of animal-tested cosmetics marketing ban.

⁶ Explanatory Memorandum to the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes: 3 (available from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2008:0543:FIN:EN:PDF>)



Welfare of animals in the wild

Free-living wild animals in Scotland are as vulnerable, and as capable of suffering, as farmed animals and pets.

The distinction made between wild and domestic animals, in terms of what the law allows humans to do to them, is based on culture, tradition and perceived human priorities rather than any scientific assessment of sentience and welfare. Free-living wild animals in Scotland are as vulnerable, and as capable of suffering, as farmed animals and pets, but the law gives them far less protection.

Cruelty to wild animals

Even within this more permissive regime, illegal attacks on wild animals continue, including the poisoning of raptors, airgun and crossbow attacks on swans, deer and other animals, baiting of foxes and badgers, poaching and illegal use of traps. Government in Scotland must commit to support the specialist enforcement agencies and the provision of specialist wildlife crime officers in all police force areas.

Snare-free Scotland

As long as snares are used in Scotland, they will cause unnecessary suffering to foxes, hares and rabbits, to non-target animals including protected otters and badgers, and to farmed animals and pets. 77% of people (and 75% of vets) in Scotland believe that snares must be banned outright^{7,8}. Academic researchers have concluded: "... some pest control methods have such extreme effects on an animal's welfare that, regardless of the potential benefits, their use is never justified [...]. Snaring is such a method."⁹

Scotland must lead the way for the rest of the UK, by becoming snare-free as soon as possible.

Control of species

The terms 'management' and 'control' translate all too often into plans for the killing of healthy wild animals. Non-lethal

techniques such as exclusion, deterrence, vaccination and immuno-contraception should always be evaluated first. Government should require wildlife management and large-scale developments, as a matter of course, to carry out an Animal Welfare Impact Assessment, on similar lines to environmental impact assessments. As a minimum, this should cover: general animal welfare principles to be applied; a comparative welfare assessment of methods; timing and duration of the operation, to include assessment of potential impact on dependent young; provision for ongoing review of animal welfare issues; and independent animal welfare monitoring.

Scotland's seals

While common seals and grey seals are protected under part 6 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, licences issued under the Act will permit the killing of almost 1,300 seals in 2011 by the fishing and fish farming industries without any close season to protect breeding animals. Given the history of unregulated seal-killing in Scotland, the new licensing scheme must be monitored closely and absolutely transparent. As a matter of policy, licences should not be granted to new fish farms setting up in close proximity to seal haulouts.

Key Recommendations

- Increase resources available to combat wildlife crime.
- Prohibit manufacture, sale, possession and use of all snares.
- Focus on non-lethal management techniques.
- Provide for Animal Welfare Impact Assessments.
- Monitor implementation of Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 Part 6.
- Introduce close season for breeding seals as soon as possible.

7 TNS System Three, March 2010. Full data set available at http://www.onekind.org/take_action/campaigns/snare_free/resources/ along with extensive resource material on the use of snares in Scotland.

8 Scottish vet snaring survey carried out by the League Against Cruel Sports and Advocates for Animals (now OneKind) in conjunction with Vetfile, August 2008

9 Rochlitz I, Pearce G P, Broom DM The Impact of Snares on Animal Welfare Centre for Animal Welfare and Anthrozoology, Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge. Available at www.onekind.org