

Animal Interfaith Alliance

Faiths Working Together for Animals

Animal Welfare Manifesto 2019

The Quest for New Legislation to Protect Animals

Introduction

From 1975 until 2010 there was an unprecedented increase in new legislation to protect animals worldwide. During this 'Golden Age', there were twelve new pieces of legislation passed in the United Kingdom and forty-four in the European Union. There were also many other laws passed in the rest of the world (*David Bowles, RSPCA, 2018*).

This eruption of concern for the welfare of nonhuman animals followed the worldwide explosion of moral concern for animals which had started in the United Kingdom in the late 1960s. The legislative movement peaked in the 1990s and declined after 2010.

Today, as we begin the 2020s, there is a need for consolidation, better enforcement and the breaking of new ground. This list includes many immediate but partial reforms. In the long term AIA, however, supports the total prohibition of all suffering enforced upon animals.

Please contact the General Election candidates of all parties in your constituency, and ask them what they will do to help animals.

Dr Richard D. Ryder
AIA President

AIA's Election Manifesto 2019

Faith and Education

1. To promote unity among members of all faiths in their respect and compassion for animals.
2. To educate all children to feel a kinship and sense of community with the other animals on this planet, so that they respect the animals' sentience, sensitivity to pain and their quest for happiness.
3. To acknowledge the interconnectedness of everything in the natural world and to understand that the way we treat our animal neighbours has a direct effect on our natural environment, including climate change.

Structural

4. To work towards a *United Nations Charter on Animal Rights*.
5. To enshrine the principle of animal sentience in law nationally and internationally, and legally move towards aligning speciesism with sexism and racism as unacceptable prejudices.
6. To set up an *Animal Protection Commission* with powers to investigate, advise governments and publish reports on its own initiative, basing its findings upon animal welfare science.
7. To expand the definition of 'animal' to include cephalopods (such as octopus) and decapod crustaceans (to prevent the boiling alive of lobsters and crabs).
8. To increase sentences for those convicted of cruelty to animals.
9. To increase funding of local authorities' animal protection functions, including Pet and Wildlife Wardens.

Farm Animals

10. To end the live export of food animals from the United Kingdom.
11. To ensure greater transparency at slaughterhouses through the use of CCTV which should be accessible to the RSPCA and local authorities.
12. To reward those farmers who use far higher welfare standards.

13. To improve labelling of agricultural products so that consumers can choose cruelty-free products.
14. To encourage the use of vaccines against bovine tuberculosis, better testing, a reduction in the number of live cattle movements across the country and improvements in sanitation in order to reduce the spread of infection.
15. To ban imports of foie gras and fur products.
16. To phase out sow farrowing crates.
17. To use trade agreements which ensure that all animal imports into the United Kingdom are consistent with UK welfare standards.

Wild Animals

18. To end the use of wild animals in circuses.
19. To immediately ban the import of all wild animal trophies.
20. To end all whaling internationally on the grounds of cruelty.
21. To sweep away all abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear and penalise perpetrators.
22. To ban the use and sale of snares and glue traps.
23. To remove exemptions from the Hunting Act 2004 and prevent trail hunting being used as a cover for illegal hunting.
24. To ban the advertising of unethical tourism abroad, such as elephant rides which encourage cruelty to elephants in India.
25. To ban driven grouse shooting and phase out all shooting at animals for sport.

Companion Animals

26. To create a *Dog Control Consolidation Bill* to consolidate current dog legislation and to clarify it.
27. To extend the required reporting of motor accidents and mandatory micro-chipping to cats.
28. To ban the keeping of primates as pets.

Research Animals

29. To implement the continued measurement of suffering by the Home Office and the immediate ban on any procedures that cause severe (or lesser degrees of) suffering in laboratory (and other) animals.
30. To provide more expenditure on the production of non-sentient alternatives to laboratory animals.

AIA's Member Organisations

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals (ASWA)

Animals in Islam

The Bhagvatinandji Education & Health Trust

Catholic Concern for Animals (CCA)

Christian Vegetarians & Vegans UK

Christian Vegetarian Association (CVA US)

Dharma Voices for Animals (DVA) (Buddhist)

Institute of Jainology (IOJ)

The Jewish Vegetarian Society (JVS)

The Mahavir Trust

Oshwal Association of the UK (OAUK)

Pan-Orthodox Concern for Animals

Quaker Concern for Animals (QCA)

The Romeera Foundation

Sadhu Vaswani Centre (Hindu)

The Young Jains

Our Vision: A peaceful world where people of all faiths and none work together to treat all animals with respect and compassion.

Our Mission: To create a united voice for animals from all of the world's faiths to bring about the humane treatment of animals.

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