

ANIMAL WELFARE QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

General election 2024



The next UK general election takes place on **4th July 2024**. Over the coming weeks, you may meet local candidates who want your vote. This is a great opportunity to ask questions about the issues that matter to you, including animal welfare. Use our suggested questions below to find out how your local candidates would help animals if they're elected.

Wildlife crime

Many barbaric crimes against our wildlife are recorded as “miscellaneous” - just like littering. This means we just don't know the full extent of criminality against badgers, hares, foxes and other beloved British species. The United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) has repeatedly made recommendations for wildlife crime in the UK to be recorded as notifiable, but this is yet to be taken forward.

Q: Do you agree we need to tackle wildlife crime? What would you do to keep our wild species safe?

Animal testing

Millions of tests are carried out on living animals in the UK each year, yet most new drugs fail in human trials and many of us expect the products we use to be cruelty-free. Meanwhile, countries around the world are taking action to transition away from cruel tests in favour of human-relevant, non-animal methods (NAMs).

Q: Do you agree we need to end the UK's reliance on animal testing? What would you do to accelerate to NAMs?

The Link between animal abuse and domestic abuse

In the 12 months to March 2023, there were 242 deaths related to domestic abuse, which is a crime that costs the country around £26 billion each year. Animals are often targeted as part of coercive control, yet opportunities to protect the public are being missed, and it's not currently mandatory to train police officers about the Link between animal abuse and domestic abuse.

Q: Would you change this to help reduce the escalating levels of violence against women and girls?

Illegal pet trade

Tens of thousands of pets are bred and traded illegally each year in the UK. Illegal pet breeding is seen as a low risk, high reward crime by opportunistic criminals, but it causes misery to both animals and loving pet owners.

Q: Do you agree we need to tackle the illegal pet trade? What would you do to improve protections for pets?

Justice for animals

It's nearly twenty years since the Animal Welfare Act 2006 became law, yet animal welfare enforcement is patchy and underfunded and it can be expensive for enforcers to take action.

Q: Do you agree enforcement of animal welfare laws is important? What would you do to ensure animal victims of crime don't slip through the cracks?