



## ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

- In consultation with the States, promote uniform, enforceable national legislative framework for the protection of the welfare of animals, which:
  1. makes any act of animal cruelty subject to criminal penalties; and
  2. regulates conditions for the captivity, transport and slaughter of animals.
- Establish an independent national regulatory body to provide national oversight and coordination of animal welfare.
- Ensure the consideration of Australian animal welfare standards when negotiating relevant trade agreements.
- Ban on the importation of animal products produced by methods which do not accord with Australian animal welfare standards.
- Promote improved global conservation of habitat for endangered species through Australia's trade, diplomatic and aid relations.
- In concert with the States, promote education on the needs of animals and our responsibility to minimise any physical, psychological and emotional suffering of animals caused by human activities, and to maximise their quality of life.

**To Achieve These Aims, The New Liberals Will Enact Legislation to Facilitate:**

### *Farming & Agriculture*

- Strict enforcement of animal welfare standards on all live animal exportation.
- Promote community education of the impacts of consumer choices on animal welfare, their own health, and on the environment.

- Co-operate with the States to support farmers to end farming practices incompatible with animal welfare and wellbeing.
- An accurate national labelling system for foods that identify accurately and clearly country of origin, cruelty-free, organic, or free-range products, species-specific fish, preservatives, use of horse meat and other animal products.
- Provide Government financial support for research into welfare improvements and in transitioning to a more environmentally friendly and humane animal husbandry practices.
- *Prohibit the importation of any product from a country with known endemic disease that represent a threat to domestic wildlife, companion animals and/or animals raised for commercial purposes.*
- *In co-operation with the States, move to reduce and eliminate the use of antibiotics and/or growth hormones in cattle feedlots and chicken farms.*
- Remove Federal government funding and subsidies from any industries that use animals for entertainment.
- In co-operation with the States, act to discourage dangerous/inhumane entertainment/sports activities involving animals.
- *In co-operation with the States, promote safe re-homing for animals used in the entertainment/sports industries at the end of their working lives.*
- Restrict the importation or exportation of animals for zoos, except for the purpose of conservation of the species.

### ***Companion Animals***

- Work with the States and companion animal NGOs to promote breeding schemes that benefit the animals involved, and to ensure the sale of live animals in pet stores occurs only if animals are sourced from licensed animal rescues and rehoming programs.
- Promote a national microchip database for companion animals and a national register for rehoming companion animals.
- Establish a national blacklist database of convicted animal abusers (for the use of breeders and rescues to ensure safe placement of animals).
- Increase neutering levels through government/veterinary subsidy programs and to encourage neutering at point of sale.
- In co-operation with the States, facilitate school education programs that promote responsible pet ownership.

### ***Animal Experimentation***

- Introduce national labelling of commercial chemical products, including cleaning agents and toiletries, to indicate whether they have or have not been tested on animals.

- In co-operation with the States, promote the implementation of technologies to reduce the use of animals for teaching and research purposes.
- Create a public register where all experiments with animals are recorded.
- Ban the importation of animal-tested cosmetics or cosmetic ingredients that entail cruel or inhumane use of animals or that threaten species survival.
- Take enforcement action to prevent and prosecute any who act contrary to Australian and International law to end whale slaughter and/or lethal and unnecessary research on whales within Australian waters.

### *Native Animals*

- In co-operation with the States, promote the humane control of non-native species and protect native animals.
- In co-operation with the States, promote education on the importance to the environment of all native animals and intact ecological environments, especially to rural landowners and councils, and schoolchildren.

### *Hunting*

- In co-operation with the States, act to discourage and ultimately prevent recreational shooting of all native animals.
- In co-operation with the States, act to prevent the use of glue traps, leg traps and steel jaw traps in all States and Territories.

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