

## **Animals Policy**

### **1. Background**

The Australian Greens Victoria acknowledges that, while many relationships between humans and animals are mutually beneficial, animals are also widely exploited for the benefit of humans, and that many human practices inflict suffering on animals and threaten the survival of many species.

### **2. Principles**

The Australian Greens Victoria believes that:

1. Animals are sentient beings capable of feeling and suffering. Their intrinsic worth is separate from the needs of humans, and the welfare of animals must be respected with regard to both the survival of species and the protection of individual animals.
2. Animal welfare should be considered in terms of the "five freedoms":
  - a. freedom from hunger and thirst
  - b. freedom from discomfort
  - c. freedom from pain, injury and disease
  - d. freedom to behave normally
  - e. freedom from fear and distress.
3. People have a responsibility to minimize any physical, psychological and emotional suffering caused to animals by their actions.
4. Victoria's biodiversity, including native wildlife and its natural habitat, is of immense value, and must be maintained and enhanced.
5. Introduced species that cause environmental damage, including to native wildlife and habitat, agricultural production or human health should be humanely controlled.
6. Environmental damage caused by industries using animals or animal products should be effectively controlled or eliminated.

### **3. Animals Used for Food and Other Products**

#### **3.1 Goals**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. An end to all practices that inflict suffering on agricultural animals.
2. The phasing out of systems of intensive meat, fish and egg production and replacing intensive meat and egg production with free-range methods.
3. An end to the captivity and killing of animals for the cosmetic and fashion industries, including the use of fur.

#### **3.2 Key Priorities**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Educating consumers about the environmental, health and animal welfare impacts of the consumption of meat, fish and dairy products.
2. Implementing systems that allow animals to satisfy their basic needs for natural physical movement, space, rest and interaction with others of their species.
3. Clear labelling of food products, listing animal ingredients and derivatives.
4. Implementing sustainable farming and fishing practices that cause the least impact on native animal habitat, soils, water and climate.

5. Ending the export of live animals for consumption.
6. Providing incentives to farmers to transition from intensive to less intensive forms of farming.

## **4. Animals Used in Experiments**

### **4.1 Goals**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. An end to animals being used for toxicological and other studies where scientifically valid non-animal methods exist.

### **4.2 Key Priorities**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Strengthening on-going education programs for scientific researchers and animal ethics committee members in up-to-date, non-animal research methods.
2. Clear labelling of cosmetics, personal care products and pharmaceuticals, listing any animal tests used in their production.

## **5. Companion Animals**

### **5.1 Goals**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. The elimination of all cruel practices in relation to the breeding, sale and confinement of companion animals.
2. The adoption of unclaimed impounded companion animals, with the development of 'no-kill' shelters to rehabilitate and re-home such animals.
3. An end to selective breeding of characteristics detrimental to animal welfare and to reproduction of animals already possessing such characteristics.

### **5.2 Key Priorities**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Discouraging impulse buying by restricting the sale of live companion animals to authorised and regulated breeders and to non-profit animal re-homing organisations.
2. Ensuring the provision of adequate resources for the promotion of responsible pet ownership and for the investigation and prosecution of acts of animal cruelty.
3. Providing subsidies for the de-sexing of companion cats and dogs in order to control stray animal numbers.

## **6. Animals in the Wild**

### **6.1 Goals**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Greater community understanding of the intrinsic worth of wildlife.
2. The protection of native wildlife, their right to live freely in their natural environments, and the protection, restoration and extension of remaining wildlife habitat.
3. The continued banning of the commercial killing of kangaroos and other wildlife.
4. The elimination of fishing practices that are unsustainable, or that adversely affect non-target species.
5. The promotion of sensitive eco-tourism where native animals can be observed in their natural habitat.

- 6 The effective control or elimination of populations of feral and pest animals by the most humane methods feasible.

## **6.2 Key Priorities**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Eliminating cruel methods of wildlife control.
2. Providing incentives for landowners to create native wildlife corridors and to preserve habitat.
3. Ending the use of leg-hold traps and poison baits, including 1080.
4. Adopting available non-lethal methods, such as exclusion fencing and fertility control, for the management of introduced species.
5. Significantly increasing funding for research and implementation of fertility control and other non-lethal methods for introduced species.
6. Imposing more severe penalties for animal cruelty and the illegal capture and sale of native animals, and providing adequate resources for their investigation and prosecution.

## **7. Animals in Sport and Entertainment**

### **7.1 Goals**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. The abolition of all cruel and inhumane treatment of animals used in sport, recreation and entertainment, including rodeos, animal circuses and jumps racing.
2. Animals being kept in zoos only where their natural behaviours are supported by suitable habitat.

### **7.2 Key Priorities**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Banning jumps racing.
2. Ending recreational hunting, including duck shooting.
3. Banning the importation of animals for zoos, except where it will assist overall conservation of the species.

## **8. Law Reform**

### **8.1 Goals**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. A comprehensive review of current legislation and codes of practice to better protect animal welfare in all areas.
2. The recognition that animals have legal rights that can be protected by human guardians.

### **8.2 Key Priorities**

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Ensuring that cruel acts and practices against animals are treated as serious crimes in legislation, for both corporate and private offenders.
2. Increasing community understanding of, and support for, the Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare and encouraging its adoption by the United Nations.