

# **PROTECTING AND CARING FOR ANIMALS**

## **A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS**

The Greens believe in a world where all animals are treated with compassion. We are committed to ending animal cruelty and the inhumane treatment of animals in research, sport, recreation and entertainment.

The animals we share this planet with are sentient beings capable of feeling and suffering. We have a duty of care to minimise the suffering of animals resulting from human activity. It is unacceptable that every day, animals are made to suffer for corporate profits, gambling, entertainment and agriculture.

There is overwhelming public demand for humane and accountable treatment of animals, yet governments continue to sanction cruelty by refusing to change woefully inadequate minimum animal welfare standards.

Animals may not be able to speak, but we can be their voice. And we stand with the majority who want to see an end to animal cruelty in NSW.

## **THE GREENS WILL:**

### **CREATE AN OFFICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE**

as an independent, stand-alone statutory authority with responsibility for advising upon animal welfare, ethics and protection issues, and for monitoring compliance with and enforcement of animal welfare laws.

### **IMMEDIATELY BAN GREYHOUND RACING**

The 2016 Special Commission of Inquiry condemned the greyhound industry due to its inherent and irredeemable cruelty, and argued it no longer had social license to operate in NSW. The greyhound industry has caused and condoned unnecessary deaths of tens of thousands of healthy greyhounds and has failed to demonstrate that it can be reformed to reduce the deaths of healthy greyhounds to tolerable levels. The Greens will further allocate funding to rehabilitate and re-home affected animals.

### **INVESTIGATE ABUSE AND CRUELTY IN THE HORSE RACING INDUSTRY**

The Greens will initiate an independent Special Commission of Inquiry to investigate unnecessary deaths, animal cruelty, and adverse health impacts of horse racing in New South Wales.

## **SHUTDOWN PUPPY FARMS, BACKYARD BREEDING AND OTHER INTENSIVE FOR-PROFIT COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING**

To improve community confidence in companion animal welfare and promoting responsible pet ownership, The Greens will legislate for the mandatory desexing of companion animals at the point of sale or adoption, and partner with local governments to support and subsidise desexing program.

## **PHASE OUT RESEARCH FUNDING FOR ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION IN SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Funding will instead be made available for the investigation of alternative technologies which avoid the use of animals for teaching and research purposes. End the exposure and poisoning of animals in toxicity, toxicological, and field studies, and promote alternatives such as in vitro and in silico modelling and other validated methodologies. The Greens will promote alternatives to animal experimentation in schools, universities and other educational settings, including the use of computer technologies, tissue samples and epidemiology.

## **ENSURE ACCESS TO SHADE FOR FARM ANIMALS**

The Greens will introduce legislation to make it mandatory for farm animals to have access to shade in extreme temperatures, including a \$30 million transition package to assist farmers in putting in shade structures, plus funding for planting and fencing off shade tree and shelter belts.

## **INTRODUCE CCTV CAMERAS TO MONITOR FOR CRUEL, UNLAWFUL PRACTICES IN ANIMAL FARMING FACILITIES**

Animal welfare investigators have exposed numerous incidents of horrific animal cruelty and abuse in slaughterhouses. CCTV systems which can be reviewed by appropriate government authorities and animal welfare organisations are absolutely necessary to ensure the humane handling of the animals before and during the slaughter process.

## **BAN BATTERY CAGES, DE-BEAKING AND FORCED MOULTING OF HENS**

The use of non-mandatory guidelines in the poultry industry is insufficient, and should instead be statutory, enforceable standards. We will implement a genuine free-range standard of stocking densities at a maximum of 1,500 hens per hectare. Poultry should have access to feed and water at all times, and ducks and other waterfowl must have continual access to surface water for swimming and bathing.

## **INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO BAN CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY SOW STALLS**

While the Australian pork industry has recognised this cruelty and committed to voluntarily phasing out sow stalls, this is self-regulation and the industry itself will be responsible for its policing with no independent verification or penalties for non-compliance.

## **STRENGTHEN PENALTIES UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT**

so that acts of cruelty towards animals are treated as serious crimes, with penalties that act as real, effective deterrents to the inhumane treatment of animals. We will restore the legal right of third parties to initiate proceedings under animal welfare laws.