



PRINCIPLES

1. The way we treat animals reflects how we treat ourselves and our society. The Greens will work towards ending animal cruelty
2. 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.
3. 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
4. People have a responsibility to minimise any physical, psychological and emotional suffering caused to animals by their actions, and to provide legal protections for animals.
5. Victoria’s biodiversity, including native wildlife and its natural habitat, is of immense value, and must be maintained and enhanced.
6. Introduced species that cause environmental damage, including to native wildlife, habitat, agricultural production or human health, should be humanely controlled.
7. Environmental damage caused by industries using animals or animal products should be effectively controlled or eliminated.
4. An end to the captivity and killing of animals for the cosmetic and fashion industries, including the use of fur.
5. Community 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.
6. Education for consumers about the environmental, health and animal welfare impacts of the use of animal products.
7. The implementation of systems that allow animals to satisfy their basic needs for natural physical movement, space, rest and interaction with others of their species.
8. The implementation of sustainable farming and fishing practices that cause the least impact on native animal habitat, soils, water and climate.
9. An end to animals being used for toxicological, product testing and other studies where scientifically valid non-animal methods exist.
10. Strengthened on-going education programs for scientific researchers and animal ethics committee members in up-to-date, non-animal research methods.
11. The elimination of all cruel practices in relation to the breeding, sale and confinement of companion animals.
12. The adoption of unclaimed impounded companion animals, with the development of ‘no kill’ shelters to rehabilitate and re-home such animals.
13. An end to selective breeding of characteristics detrimental to animal welfare and to reproduction of animals already possessing such characteristics.
14. Discouraging impulse buying by banning the sale of live animals from pet shops and restricting the sale of live companion animals to authorised and regulated breeders and to non-profit animal re-homing organisations.
15. Ensuring the provision of adequate resources for the promotion of responsible pet ownership and for the investigation and prosecution of acts of animal cruelty
16. Providing subsidies for the de-sexing of companion cats and dogs in order to control stray animal numbers.
17. Greater community understanding of the intrinsic worth of wildlife.

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. The establishment of an independent regulatory body for animal welfare.
2. An end to farming practices that are inconsistent with animals’ natural behavioural needs, and a phasing out of all intensive farming practices.
3. Providing incentives to farmers to transition from intensive to less intensive forms of farming.

18. The protection of native wildlife, their right to live freely in their natural environments, and the protection, restoration and extension of remaining wildlife habitat.
19. The continued banning of the commercial killing of kangaroos and other wildlife.
20. The end of fishing practices that are unsustainable, or that adversely affect non-target species.
21. The promotion of sensitive eco-tourism where native animals can be observed in their natural habitat.
22. The effective control or elimination of populations of feral and pest animals by the most humane methods feasible.
23. The end of cruel methods of animal control, including the use of leg-hold traps and poison baits such as 1080.
24. Incentives for landowners to create native wildlife corridors and to preserve habitat.
25. Significantly increased funding for research and adoption of available non-lethal methods, such as exclusion fencing and fertility control, for the management of introduced species.
26. More severe penalties for animal cruelty and the illegal capture and sale of native animals, and providing adequate resources for their investigation and prosecution.
27. The abolition of all cruel and inhumane treatment of animals used in sport, recreation and entertainment, including rodeos, animal circuses and jumps racing.
28. A ban on jumps racing.
29. Animals being kept in zoos only where their natural behaviours are supported by suitable habitat.
30. The end of recreational hunting on public land.
31. A ban on the recreational shooting of native water birds.
32. A comprehensive review of current legislation and codes of practice to better protect animal welfare in all areas.
33. To ensure that cruel acts and practices against animals are treated as serious crimes in legislation.