

**manifesto for
animals**



ifaw

about ifaw

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) is a global non-profit helping animals and people thrive together. We are experts and everyday people, working across seas, oceans, and in more than 40 countries around the world. We rescue, rehabilitate, and release animals, and we restore and protect their natural habitats. The problems we're up against are urgent and complicated. To solve them, we match fresh thinking with bold action. We partner with local communities, governments, non-governmental organisations, and businesses. Together, we pioneer new and innovative ways to help all species flourish. See how at www.ifaw.org

**animals don't have a
voice, take action
for them.**

manifesto for animals

Animals don't have a voice, so we need to speak up for them. This election, we are asking you to take a stand against animal cruelty. The next Parliament will face many challenges, but it will also have the chance to make a real difference for animals. IFAW has drafted its Manifesto for Animals which identifies five specific issues where either relatively simple legislation can be introduced quickly, or immediate action can be taken by a Government Department to make a real difference. These are:

1. adding hippo ivory to the Ivory Act

During the last Parliament, IFAW worked closely with the Government to pass the Ivory Act, banning the trade of elephant ivory in the UK. Following this success, Defra conducted a call for evidence on adding other, ivory-bearing species to the Act. As both poaching and loss of habitat threaten the survival of hippos, IFAW wants to see **hippo teeth added to the Ivory Act**.

2. permanent funding for the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU)

The NWCU is a small, specialised unit dedicated to tackling wildlife crime and it plays a vital role in enforcing wildlife law, both in the UK and globally. Since its inception in 2006, the NWCU has never received permanent funding. Unlike other specialist units, which are funded in full by the Home Office and the National Police Chiefs Council, the NWCU must re-apply for funding every few years – affecting the unit's capacity to operate. IFAW would like to see the **Home Office commit to allocating permanent funding for the NWCU as well as the expansion of the unit to deal with emerging threats - such as wildlife cybercrime**.

3. increased sentencing for animal cruelty (six months to five years)

At present, those convicted of some of the worst examples of animal cruelty can only receive a maximum sentence of six months in prison. After years of seeing horrific cases of animal cruelty brought before the courts, IFAW believes that there is a strong legal argument and public support for increasing the maximum sentence to five years. The legislation successfully passed through the first and second committee stages in the House of Commons, with full cross-party support, before Parliament was suspended. We are asking for the **Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill to be reintroduced to Parliament as soon as possible**.

4. recognising that animals are sentient beings

It is now widely recognised that animals are sentient beings that can feel pain and suffering. IFAW believes that this should be reflected within UK law, as it is in European law. During the last Parliament, Defra planned to introduce legislation that would recognise animals as sentient beings under law. IFAW believes this Bill would have cross-party support in the new Parliament and urges the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill to be published and open for scrutiny as soon as possible.

5. ending the badger cull

The badger cull is cruel, unnecessary and unscientific. Tens of thousands of badgers have been killed, and millions of pounds spent, on a policy that has failed to yield meaningful results. IFAW advocates for alternative, humane policies to combat bovine TB, including the introduction of stricter cattle trading regulations, investment in bio-security, the roll-out of a widespread badger vaccination programme and improved testing for cattle. We ask that the badger cull ends now and the Government implements an effective policy which supports farmers, tackles the spread of disease and safeguards wildlife.

**this election, we are
asking you to take a stand
against animal cruelty.**

take action

We urge you, as a Parliamentary Candidate, to pledge to support these five actions if you are elected. Please let our parliamentary team know if you are able to support this manifesto for animals: athomas@ifaw.org

We also urge you to promote animal welfare commitments in your own party's manifesto and make sure that you contact your policy teams to raise these issues.

If you want to find out more about these issues please contact IFAW below:

further information

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