

QUESTIONS

General Questions

1. Which legislation, if any, has your party introduced or otherwise supported to improve legal protections for animals?

As we currently have no sitting MP's, we have not introduced legislation at this time. However, we have advocated on behalf of the following bills as they align with our party platform and values:

- Bill C-246: The Modernizing Animal Protections Act
- Bill C-84: Bestiality and Animal Fighting
- Bill S-203: Banning Cetacean Captivity
- Bill S-238: Banning the importation of Shark Fins
- Bill S-214: Cruelty Free Cosmetics Act
- Bill S-218: Jane Goodall Act

2. Please list and explain any party positions (paid or volunteer), or intra-party caucuses or committees charged with exploring animal welfare issues and policies in your party.

As the Animal Protection Party of Canada is the only federal political party dedicated to giving equal representation to animals, people, and the planet in our policy and platform, our entire organizational structure is based around integrating animal rights and liberation issues into our politics. This is because we understand that animals are not externalities to environmental, economic, and social issues. They are woven into the fabric of our society, our economy, and nature. That is also why all of our candidates are vegan, as a commitment to our core values.

Animal Protection Act

3. Canada has no national animal protection legislation, and in this regard lags behind countries like the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and other western countries. World Animal Protection's Animal Protection Index—a global

ranking created to score over 50—gives Canada a shameful grade of D on its animal protection laws and policies. A comprehensive federal Animal Protection Act is needed to provide meaningful legal protections to animals. In addition, the global environmental crisis we all face will have catastrophic impact on animals, people and the planet. Yet the main political parties are largely avoiding the topic. The Animal Protection Party's platform lays out a roadmap for the kind of change we need to implement.

Does your party support implementing an Animal Protection Act? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, we would support an Animal Protection Act, it is in our party name. We also agree that Canada lags far behind other countries in regards to legal protections for animals and the enforcement of those laws. To enable a truly accountable and transparent system of legal protections for animals, we must end the practice of charities enforcing provincial and federal animal legislation, and bring this responsibility under joint provincial and federal control to ensure interprovincial consistency. An Animal Protection Act, must also go beyond protecting individual animals, but also extend to their habitat and way of life.

However, legal protections are not enough to change the status and treatment of animals in our society. We demand a greater institutional and societal shift through public education, electoral reform, and implementation of a Minister for Animal Protection that would be dedicated to ensuring the improvement of not just the protections for animals, but their status and treatment across Canada.

Farmed Animals

4. In 2019, Canada slaughtered over 834 million land animals for food.

Canada's farmed animal welfare laws and policies fail in the following ways:

- There is no federal legislation that sets welfare standards for animals on farms on a daily basis;
- Despite recent amendments, federal animal transport regulations are still among the worst in the western world, allowing animals to be transported for long periods of time in overcrowded trucks and exposed to extreme weather without water, food, or rest;
- Farmed animals are routinely improperly slaughtered, and may be skinned alive or scalded to death in hot water tanks. Birds including

chickens, turkeys, and geese may be suspended for slaughter without first being rendered unconscious, causing additional fear and suffering.

Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would:

Improve farmed animal welfare? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, the Animal Protection Party of Canada is the only federal party committed to the phasing out of the animal agriculture sector in the interest of the animals, people, and the planet. Improved welfare is not enough. No animal wants to die and there is no humane or sustainable way to breed, exploit, and kill animals for profit. There must be a clear plan to phase out the use of farmed animals.

The Animal Protection Party of Canada advocates for a plant-based society using evidence-based biocyclic veganic farming methods to sustain the soil and local ecology, while producing ample food for human consumption without animal inputs.

Currently, guidelines set out by the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC), a self-regulated industry-led body, are mere guidelines and can be used as protections against prosecution of animal cruelty on farms. This is unacceptable and not in the interest of the hundreds of millions of abused farm animals in Canada.

As part of the responsibilities of our proposed Minister of Animal Protection, legislation would be introduced that would remove the role of the NFACC and would implement an “animal-first” care guideline. This would set specific goals for phasing out the cruelest farm practices first along with a roadmap for phasing out each animal use industry.

There is a very real opportunity to begin to phase out animal agriculture as part of Canada’s commitment to reducing its contribution to the global environmental crisis by initially removing all animal ag subsidies and investing heavily in veganic farming.

Regulate on-farm animal welfare conditions? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, the Animal Protection Party would implement a video surveillance network for places where animals are kept on farms and slaughtered, and footage of farm

activity would be available to the public upon request. Footage would be admissible in court for animal cruelty charges.

As part of a phasing out of animal agriculture, the public must be able to access and understand the inherently cruel processes and practices on farms where animals are bred, raised, and slaughtered.

Furthermore, the Ministry for Animal Protection would have dedicated officers who would go alongside Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) officers to ensure enhanced animal cruelty legislation was being enforced, document any concerns, and post the information to the Ministries website for public dissemination.

The Animal Protection Party of Canada is strongly opposed to ag-gag legislation intended to curb investigation of animal cruelty on farms.

Improve welfare conditions in farmed animal transport laws? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, the Animal Protection Party is the only federal party that called for a much more significant reduction transport times, and an end to transport during extreme weather. As we commit to the transition away from animal agriculture, we must ensure the animals trapped in the industry are protected. This would include a maximum 8 hour limit on transport time without a break for food and water, and a minimum one hour rest period.

Also, we would implement random on-road inspections by a dedicated team of professionals including a vet, animal observer for documentation, and enforcement officer from the Ministry of Animal Protection to ensure the health and well-being of the animals in transport and permanent animal protection staff at slaughter facilities. They will have the power to issue fines for cruelty along with the ability to confiscate animals for transport to sanctuary if they are found to be unable to safely continue with transport.

We will also build a network of sanctuaries across Canada to house farmed animals as the transition progresses.

These steps would also force the industry to slow down its supply chain, which in-turn should increase prices and make animal products less appealing to consumers.

Animal Testing

5. Senate Bill S-214 in the 42nd Parliament, the Cruelty Free Cosmetics Act, would have prohibited cosmetic animal testing and the sale of cosmetics developed or manufactured using cosmetic animal testing. Further, it would have prohibited using evidence derived from animal testing to establish the safety of a cosmetic. Bill S-214 did not complete the legislative process before the end of the 42nd Parliament and it was not reintroduced in the 43rd Parliament. Thanks to the work of Humane Society International, a number of jurisdictions, 40 countries in all have banned or limited animal testing for cosmetics and banned the import of animal-tested cosmetics. Unfortunately, the European Union's Cosmetic Directive, a gold standard in banning cosmetic animal testing is being challenged. Our commitment is to advocate for legislation that reflects the Cosmetic Directive.

Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would ban animal testing for cosmetics, and the sale of cosmetics tested on animals? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, the Animal Protection Party of Canada worked on Bill S-214 and advocated for an end of cosmetic testing in Canada. What has not been explained above is that Bill S-214 had become watered down as it made its way through committee in Parliament due to the pressure of cosmetic lobby groups. If it had passed in its final form, it would have allowed animal testing done for other products to be used in products in Canada that carried the "no animal testing" label. This would be an unacceptable betrayal of the public's trust and the animals who suffered for these products.

The Animal Protection Party of Canada continues to work towards ending cosmetic testing in Canada, with strong legislation that does not compromise the integrity of its purpose. There must be no loopholes for products tested on animals elsewhere to be used in cosmetic products carrying a "cruelty-free" label and the sale of cosmetic products tested on animals or containing products tested on animals should be illegal.

Furthermore, the Animal Protection Party of Canada would introduce legislation to end military trauma testing on animals, poison testing on animals, and the development of any new private or public laboratories for animal testing in Canada.

Finally, we would put into place a roadmap that would begin to reduce the number of animals used in research with a goal of advancing science without suffering.

6. Currently, there is no federal government oversight of any laboratory testing on animals. Without such oversight, animals are suffering unnecessarily, and Canadians are left in the dark, leaving the animal testing industry unaccountable for its practices, and non-transparent.

Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would provide oversight of laboratory testing on animals in Canada, and move toward replacing animal testing with animal-free alternatives? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, the Animal Protection Party of Canada is the only political party in Canada who has worked to expose and challenged the legitimacy of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), the governing body on animal research in Canada. The CCAC have failed to implement, enforce, or advocate for their own 3 R's approach of Replacement, Reduction, Refinement amongst their membership or punish those guilty of animal cruelty.

The CCAC must be replaced with a transparent and accountable public body whose mandate is to phase out animal testing. This would best be under the watch of the Minister for Animal Protection. The scientific community recognizes the failed efforts to apply research done on animals to humans, and technology now allows us to transcend this archaic approach with virtual and human-centric modeling.

Investment in the Plant-Based Food Industry

7. Canada has recently invested funds, via Protein Industries Canada, in growing Canada's plant-based food industry, including expanding innovation and infrastructure, and import and export support for that sector. As a global leader in plant-based protein ingredients such as lentils, peas, and beans, a vibrant value-added plant-based protein industry will be a boon to the Canadian economy, creating jobs and generating revenue while sparing animals from suffering in the food system, improving public health, and reducing Canada's impact on climate change and other environmental degradation.

Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would continue and expand support for the plant-based protein industry? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, the Animal Protection Party of Canada is the only federal party that supports a full transition to a plant-based society. In doing so, we support the development of the plant-based food industry including the protein sector. We are the only federal political party committed to ending animal agriculture subsidies and we would reinvest those funds to aide in the transition of farmers and producers to plant-based products.

Furthermore, we are the only party that stood against labelling changes proposed by the government to restrict the use of words like “Cheese” or “Bacon” or “Burger” to only animal products as these are terms that should be accessible to the plant-based alternatives sector to inform consumers of their healthier and more ethical options.

Subsidies to Animal Agriculture

8. Industrial animal agriculture is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, representing 14.5% of human-caused emissions, according to the UN FAO. The contribution of animal farming to climate change can no longer be ignored.

Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would reduce or eliminate subsidies to industrial-scale animal agriculture? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, we are the only federal party in Canada committed to ending animal agriculture subsidies. We have held the other parties accountable for over a decade for their support of the animal agriculture sector whether it be dairy, meat, or egg. We were also the first federal party to raise awareness of the environmental impact of animal agriculture on the climate and its contribution to GHG emissions. It is not enough to merely address “industrial-scale” animal agriculture. Smaller-scale animal farms are not the solution to the climate crisis. We must commit to phasing out the animal agriculture sector if we are committed to the interests of animals, the equity of people, and the integrity of the environment.

Does your party commit to amending the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act to bring greenhouse gas emissions from the animal agriculture industry under Canada’s carbon pricing scheme? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, as a part of the phasing out of the animal agriculture sector, we must ensure they pay their fair share for polluting the environment. Carbon pricing is currently not enough to dissuade polluters though. We need more aggressive policy that will remove subsidies and other incentives from the animal agriculture sector to further curtail these activities.

Cosmetic Mutilations of Companion Animals

9. It is not currently illegal at the federal level to declaw cats and crop the ears and dock the tails of dogs for cosmetic purposes. These procedures cause enormous pain and distress, and are completely unnecessary. Some provinces, as well as veterinary regulatory associations, are restricting cosmetic mutilations, but there is still a need for national legislation.

Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would:

Ban declawing cats? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes. There is no question as to whether this should be illegal. Fundamentally our party is opposed to the declawing of cats. We would introduce legislation that ends this practice along with any cosmetic mutilation.

More specifically, we are the only party that is committed to ending the exploitation of animals including breeding animals and selling animals for profit, and using animals for show or entertainment.

Ban docking dogs' tails? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes. There is no question as to whether this should be illegal. Fundamentally our party is opposed to the docking of dog's tails. We would introduce legislation that ends this practice along with any cosmetic mutilation.

More specifically, we are the only party that is committed to ending the exploitation of animals including breeding animals and selling animals for profit, and using animals for show or entertainment.

Ban cropping dogs' ears? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes. There is no question as to whether this should be illegal. Fundamentally our party is opposed to the cropping of dog's ears. We would introduce legislation that ends this practice along with any cosmetic mutilation.

More specifically, we are the only party that is committed to ending the exploitation of animals including breeding animals and selling animals for profit, and using animals for show or entertainment.

Fur Farming

10. Fur farms cause ecological damage to nearby waterways, and hurt air quality, while causing millions of wild animals to suffer in cages, unable to engage in their natural behaviors. Without government subsidies, the industry would not stay afloat.

Farming animals for fur also poses a major public health risk. Three Canadian mink fur farms have already experienced COVID-19 outbreaks, and experts warn that the disease could mutate in minks to evade vaccines.

Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including phasing out fur farming in Canada? Y/N

Please elaborate:

Yes, the Animal Protection Party of Canada is the only federal party that is committed to the end of the fur-trade in Canada, not just fur farming. One million animals are killed in the wild for their fur each year and this must also end for the severe cruelty it causes the animals.

We would end subsidies to the fur industry and shut down the remaining fur farms. Other countries have taken such steps due to the spread of COVID-19 especially among mink and Canada must follow suit for the health of the population, the animals that suffer for unfashionable garments, and the environment.

Ending the Wildlife Trade

11. The wildlife trade is cruel and exploitative, contributes to the spread of zoonotic diseases, and loss of biodiversity. The COVID-19 pandemic was likely caused by a disease jumping from animals to humans.

Does your party commit to curbing the trade of wild animals? Y/N

Please elaborate:

The Animal Protection Party of Canada is the only federal party committed to ending the trade in wildlife in and out of Canada. We have called on the government to end the trade in wildlife as a part of its response to the pandemic as it was likely caused by zoonotic disease transmission. Trade in wildlife is a global emergency that must be address as a part of any governments plan to tackle the climate crisis.

Ending the trade in wildlife is not just about its cruel nature and the potential health risks, it is about the destruction of natural habitat and the loss of biodiversity globally.