

Response from Canada's Conservatives

Animal Welfare

Canadians love animals, now more than ever. Over the course of the pandemic, more and more Canadians have made a pet a member of the family. Over half of Canadian homes now have a pet, and 90% of them see the pet as a family member. Yet, the surge of demand for pets from Canadians looking for companionship during the pandemic has led to the growth of puppy mills and other unethical actors, taking advantage of Canadians' love for their pets. And too many pets are abused - with their abusers often going on to harm spouses and children.

Canada's Conservatives will protect animals and the humans who care for them by:

- Banning Puppy Mills
 - Stopping unethical breeders and dealers from misleading the public by claiming to offer rescue animals or pets bred humanely when that isn't the case.
 - Banning the importation of animals bred inhumanely.
 - Strengthening CFIA's ability to enforce current regulations and seize animals when imported under poor welfare conditions.
- Banning cosmetic testing on animals
 - Amending the Food and Drug Act and its regulations to implement a ban modelled on the European Union ban.
- Addressing the links between violence against animals and violence against people
 - Providing \$10 million per year to train judges and prosecutors on the links between violence against animals and violence against people.
 - Increasing cross-reporting between animal welfare and child welfare agencies
 - Adding animal cruelty as an aggravating factor in domestic violence prosecutions to go after abusers who hurt their spouse by hurting their spouse's pet
- Supporting pet owners fleeing violence by working with the sector to ensure that there are better options for women to leave abusive homes without having to abandon their pets
- Working with the Council of Ministers of Education to promote humane education as part of education on the environment and sustainability
- Addressing the Threat Posed by Animal Markets and Trade in Wild Animals
 - Supporting and encouraging the closure of poorly regulated wildlife markets globally that carry an elevated risk of becoming sources for future pandemics;
 - Ending the importation of and trade in wild or exotic animals and their products that carry an elevated risk of spreading zoonotic diseases.