

## NDP Response: Anima Justice Canada

- 1. Which legislation, if any, has your party introduced or otherwise supported to improve legal protections for animals?**
  - Bill C-246 – the cross-partisan Animal Protection Act
  - Bill C-251 and S-238 – Acts to Ban the Importation and Exportation of shark fins)
  - Bill S-203 – Banning the Captivity of Whales and Dolphins
  - Bill C-257 – An Act to Amend the Fisheries Act (Closed Containment Aquaculture)
- 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**
  - When Parliament is not dissolved, the NDP Critics for Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change, and Fisheries and Oceans have overlapping responsibilities regarding animal welfare.
- 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. Does your party support implementing an Animal Protection Act? Please Elaborate.**

Yes – New Democrats believe there must be comprehensive overhauls to animal protections in Canada. While recently passed legislation cracks down on bestiality and animal fighting, existing legislation has failed to include basic standards of care and housing or have restrictions on tethering for domestic animals. In government, we would commit to a review of animal protections laws to ensure that federal policies serve the needs of animals and those that care for them.

- 4. Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including policies in its policy agenda that would:**
  - **Improve farmed animal welfare?**
  - **Regulate on-farm animal welfare conditions?**
  - **Improve welfare conditions in farmed animal transport laws?**

Yes – New Democrats know that the welfare of farmed animals is important. We want to ensure the welfare of animals on farms is improved, and that they are safe both on-farm and in-transit. The way we grow crops, raise livestock and use food has an impact on our climate future, nutrition for all Canadians, and the welfare of animals. We’ll work to develop a national food waste strategy, and partner with farmers and communities to support biodiversity and protect pollinator health.

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**5. 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**

Yes – New Democrats were proud to support S-214 (*The Cruelty-free Cosmetics Act*) and to see it through Parliament. We remain committed to ensuring that animals are safe from cosmetic testing and to strengthening the legislation to ensure our policies match the intent of the legislation.

**6. 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?**

Yes – New Democrats believe the government should pursue ethical testing policies that remove animals from the testing process. In government, we would invest in research methods that improves the quality of testing without putting animals at risk.

**7. 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?**

New Democrats believe that everyone in Canada should have access to nutritious foods. We will partner with provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous communities to ensure people in Canada have access to healthy food and the food literacy skills to make healthy choices. We will support local food systems by connecting Canadians to local food hubs and initiatives like plant-based protein agriculture.

**8. 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?**

New Democrats are committed to a Canadian Food strategy that will take a whole-of-government approach to addressing regional needs and priorities in agricultural communities. We want to make sure that agricultural communities are invested in, support young and new farmers, and take steps to ensure that rural livelihoods are good and sustainable. This includes making sure that agriculture is sustainable. We'll prioritize investments in sustainable land-management techniques and methods that reduce GHG Emissions, provide access to low carbon tools and technology, and adapt to climate-induced weather changes.

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

- Ban declawing cats?
- Ban docking dogs' tails?
- Ban cropping dogs' ears?

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New Democrats would work with provinces, municipalities and other stakeholders to ensure that there is a federal partner in initiatives that ban declawing cats, docking dogs' tails and cropping dogs' ears. For example, our NDP colleague in the Ontario Legislature Marit Styles recently introduced legislation to ban the declawing of cats.

### **10. Does your party have policies in its platform or commit to including phasing out fur farming in Canada?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased concerns about conditions on fur farms and their link to public health. New Democrats will work with the provinces and territories on this important issue.

### **11. Does your party commit to curbing the trade of wild animals**

Yes – New Democrats are committed to a 10-year nature plan to reverse species loss and curb the import and domestic trade of wild animals.