

animals count



A political party to help create a better world for animals



We are contesting the 2009 European Parliament elections!

Dear **Animals Count supporter**,

Building on the success of the May 2008 London Assembly Elections, when Animals Count received nearly 2,000 votes in the Lambeth/Southwark constituency, we are now aiming to contest the European Parliament elections on 4th June 2009.

A total of 72 Members of the European Parliament (EP) will be elected in the UK, and Animals Count aims to contest at least one region.

The EP elections are of utmost importance for animals and the environment. Many EU Directives, Conventions and other regulations determine policy relating to animals, and have implications for UK legislation. For example, the EU recently announced a ban on seal products (see Case Study 1 below). The EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies and trade regulations have a huge effect on billions of farmed animals, and long distance transport of livestock is cruel and unnecessary (see Case Study 2).

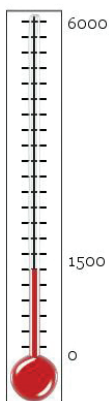
The EU often sets policy based on the lowest common denominator, while the UK is usually more progressive than other European countries in terms of animal protection. The Lisbon Treaty, for example, which has not yet been ratified by most EU Member States, allows for practices that respect cultural and traditional views. This means that bullfighting and other cruel animal practices are condoned. Animals Count wants this

article to be amended. There can be no exceptions for animal cruelty as "entertainment" in small pockets of the EC because "it has always been this way."

During the coming months Animals Count will be preparing for the EP elections. The Dutch political Party for the Animals is very likely to win one or two seats in the European Parliament. We hope to achieve similar success so that we can work together in the EU to improve billions of animals' lives, not only in the UK, but across Europe, and put an end to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) squandering half the EU budget subsidising cruel, unhealthy animal foods.

However, the deposit to contest any region is **£5,000** so we need to raise sufficient funds for our election campaign. Our target is a minimum of **£6,000**, which would allow **£1,000** to run a shoestring campaign similar to our recent London electoral campaign, although **£10-15,000** would be required in order to run a full-fledged campaign (leaflets, posters, other public awareness items and media engagement).

Five generous Animals Count members (*below*) have jointly pledged to match any donations by supporters before mid December, on a pound for pound basis, up to a total of **£1,500!!** E.g. a donation of **£100** would result in **£200** for Animals Count! **Can you, or anyone you know, help us give animals a voice in the UK European Parliamentary elections of 2009?**



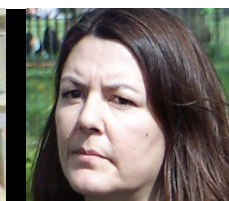
Jasmijn de Boo
Leader, AC



Alex Bourke
Vice-Chair, AC



Andrew Knight
President, AC



J. Crawley
(Financial Officer)



P. Collins
(Lawyer)

Case Studies



Case study 1 'Import ban on seal products'

In January 2007, the Belgian Parliament implement a national ban on the import of all seal products, making Belgium the first nation in

the European Union to do so. The Dutch government banned the import, trade and possession of harp seals and bluebacks in June 2007.

Canadian authorities challenged the EU on the basis that the Belgian and Dutch ban was contrary to WTO regulations (of free trade). However, the EU stood firm and on 23rd July 2008, the EU Environment Commissioner Mr. Stavros Dimas announced a proposed ban on the trade in seal products in the European Union.

However, the proposed ban allows exemptions for seal products obtained from hunts which meet certain criteria for killing seals. Animals Count believes that only a complete ban can prevent products from these annual cruel seal hunts from entering European markets. Due to the difficult environmental conditions in which seals are killed, proper monitoring or enforcing so-called humane killing methods is impossible.

Case study 2 'Long distance transport of farmed animals across Europe'

The EU has more comprehensive legislation for animal welfare during transport than anywhere else in the world, and the EU Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 lays out a number of important minimum standards during transport.

However, the maximum length of the overall journey is not limited which means that animals can travel for days, leading to many animals getting dehydrated, injured and diseased. Every year, thousands die before reaching the slaughterhouse.

Furthermore, a large degree of variability of enforcement exists both within and between member states of the EU, leading to persistent areas of non-compliance with legislation and diminished animal welfare—especially for those animals transported on long distance journeys.

Animals Count is calling for shorter journey times and stricter regulations, inspections and enforcement in all EU Member States. Ideally, live animals should not even be transported across borders at all.



How you can help:

Join Animals Count!

Become a member or supporter. **Join Animals Count** for only £12 (waged) or £8.50 (low/unwaged) per year.

Recruit new members and you'll be rewarded:

- Recruit one new member and receive an **Animals Count eco-bag**
- Recruit three new members and receive an **Animals Count T-shirt**
- Recruit five or more new members and receive a **'Vegetarian Guide to Britain' by Alex Bourke.**

Other ways of helping (contact us for more information):

- **'Adopt-a-candidate'** who will stand in the next elections.
- Organise stalls, jumble sales, sponsored walks, raffle tickets, fundraising parties and carry out street collections (permit required).
- Include Animals Count in your **will**.
- Join our **London Christmas Fundraising Dinner** on 12th December, complete with auction!
- Become an active member and progress this initiative at local or national level. E.g. help us with memberships and mailings, writing letters to the editor and mentioning Animals Count, designing ads and banners, getting involved in local political campaigns, staffing stalls and distributing materials, suggesting stories for the website or contributing other skills. Come to our next meeting or contact us.
- Spread the word to friends and family and distribute the leaflet to as many people as possible (e.g. in shops, libraries, at veterinary clinics etc.) Download our poster.

What impact can we have?

We understand that some people would question how much impact we can make up against the established parties. However, there are many people (voters!) who care deeply about animal welfare, and the experience of our sister party in the Netherlands demonstrates that our very presence threatens to take votes away from these parties, which can be decisive particularly in marginal seats. We believe therefore that, as in the Netherlands, we will influence the main parties to adopt stronger policies to protect animals.

Thank you very much in advance for your support. Animals Count; they count on you!

Jasmijn de Boo

Leader, Animals Count

