

March 29, 2023

Michèle Hamers
Wildlife Campaign Manager
World Animal Protection

Dear Ms. Hamers

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Liberal Party's support in addressing animal welfare. The below responses are in reply to communications received March 10, 2023.

1. Would your party support regulations to prohibit interactions between people and wild animals that pose a risk to public health and/or safety or cannot be done humanely?

Yes. The Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island is committed to the protection of all animals. Protecting animals and restricting the captivity of wild animals will minimize the potential spread of zoonotic pathogens to humans and to the Island's livestock. Protecting Islanders from the spread of such diseases is important.

2. Would your party support regulations to restrict trade, keeping and breeding of exotic wild animals as pers, in cases where these animals either cannot be kept humanely or may pose a threat to public health and safety or the environment?

Yes. Exotic wild animals, when unregulated, results in the inhumane treatment of the animals and unnecessarily increases the risks to Islanders, our animals and our industries. Exotic wild animals can introduce invasive species and pathogens into Island waterways and livestock operations. Previous Liberal governments undertook substantial reviews of the Animal Health Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, c. A-11.1 in 2009 and 2015. Protecting public health and safety by monitoring and swiftly responding to animal health concerns continues to be a matter of concern for the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island.

3. Would your party commit to implement the recommendations of the 2021 PEI Animal Welfare report development by the Department of Agriculture and Land?

Yes. The Liberal Party was the governing party when the Animal Welfare Act, R.S.P.E.I. 1988, c. A-11.2 was enacted. The Liberal Party will continue to work towards the protection

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of wild animals, humans, and livestock. The Liberal Party will always take an evidence-based approach to achieving these goals.

Thank you for your enquiry and interest in this issue.

**Sharon Cameron** 

Sharon Cameron

Leader of the Liberal Party of Prince Edward Island