On July 12, 2021, World Animal Protection sent a survey to Canada's five main political parties about important animal welfare issues in the country. Below is the response submitted by the Green Party of Canada.

Click here to review the Green Party's platform and see pages 21-24 for farm animal welfare-related commitments.

Animal welfare survey

Please check the appropriate answer and feel free to provide additional comments to explain your party's position on this issue.

The commercial wildlife trade

The COVID-19 pandemic has drawn attention to the links between the commercial wildlife trade and deadly diseases. Seventy-five percent of new or emerging infectious diseases over the past decade originated from animals, principally from wildlife (e.g., SARS, MERS, Ebola, HIV, H5N1).[1] The wildlife trade is one of the most important pathways of zoonotic disease emergence and a top driver of pandemic risk and biodiversity loss.[2][3]

Canadian demand for wild animals facilitates the spread of zoonotic diseases and threatens biodiversity. Between 2014 and 2019 at least 1.8 million wild animals were imported into Canada from 76 countries, including from known emerging disease hotspots, and 93% were not subject to any permits or pathogen screening.[4] A review of import records found gaps in important information, including the type and origin of the animal being imported, the purpose of the import and whether the animal was wild-caught or captive-bred.

To prevent future pandemics, China has permanently banned the farming and consumption of many wild animals and is helping farmers transition to alternative livelihoods.[5][6] Australia and

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[1] Jones, K.E., N.G. Patel, M.A. Levy, A. Storeygard, D. Balk, J.L. Gittleman, and P. Daszak. 2008. Global trends in emerging infectious diseases. Nature 451:990–994; Available at: https://doi.org/10.1038/nature06536; World Health Organization. "Neglected zoonotic diseases" https://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/diseases/zoonoses/en/;

[2] https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/preventing-future-zoonotic-disease-outbreaks-protecting-environment-animals-and

[3] https://ipbes.net/pandemics

[4] https://www.worldanimalprotection.ca/trading-animals-and-diseases-canadas-role-global-commercial-wildlife-trade

[5] https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/china-adds-over-500-species-wildlife-protection-list-14125056#:~:text=SHANGHAI%3A%20China%20has%20added%20517,trade%20and%20destruction%20of%20habitats

[6] https://news.mongabay.com/2020/05/china-offers-buyouts-to-wildlife-farmers-in-response-to-pandemic/

the U.S. have called for a ban on wildlife markets. [7] [8] A U.S. bipartisan bill, *The Preventing Future Pandemics Act*, would, if passed, prohibit the import and export of wildlife for human consumption and medicine.[9] The Netherlands has expedited a permanent ban on fur farming[10] and Italy agreed to ban the import, possession, and trade of wild animals.[11]

There is strong Canadian support for government action on this issue. A 2020 poll found 75% of Canadians support a permanent ban on wildlife markets; 70% support a global ban on the commercial trade in wild animals and 70% support stronger laws to reduce the trade in wild animals in Canada.[12]

1. **Would your party support global initiatives to ban wildlife markets and curb the global and domestic commercial trade in wild animals, products and derivatives that could contribute to the spread of zoonotic diseases, biodiversity loss and/or animal suffering?**

    Yes
    No
    Additional comments:

2. **Would your party support establishing, and adequately funding, a comprehensive and transparent system for monitoring the import, export and sales of live wild animals and their parts and derivatives in Canada?**

    Yes
    No
    Additional comments:

3. **Would your party support working with provinces and territories to mitigate inherent risks to public health, animal welfare and our natural environment by harmonizing and strengthening regulations to significantly reduce captive breeding, transport, and the physical and online trade in wild animals?**

    Yes
    No
    Additional comments:

4. **Would your party support strengthened enforcement of both the legal and illegal wildlife trade, through better coordination across agencies and federal/provincial/territorial jurisdictions and increased funding and resources?**

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[7] https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-52391783

[8] https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/16/835937420/calls-grow-to-ban-wet-markets

[9] https://www.booker.senate.gov/news/press/booker-introduces-bipartisan-legislation-to-shut-down-commercial-wildlife-markets-which-pose-a-threat-to-global-public-health

[10] https://www.economist.com/europe/2020/09/05/covid-19-ends-dutch-mink-farming

[11] https://www.lav.it/cpanelav/js/ckeditor/kcfinder/upload/files/files/LAV%20PRESS%20RELEASE_04212021.pdf

[12] www.worldanimalprotection.ca/wildlifetradepoll

==Yes==
 No
 Additional comments:

The use of wildlife for entertainment

In June 2019, Canada passed legislation to ban the breeding, display and trade of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) for entertainment. However, there are no other provisions at a national level restricting the use of other species of wildlife that similarly suffer for entertainment.

5. **Does your party support further regulations to restrict or end the use of wild animals for human entertainment in Canada (activities where wild animals are forced to perform circus-like tricks in shows, give people rides or be handled for photos)?**

 ==Yes==
 No
 ==Additional comments: The Green Party of Canada is committed to working to end animal cruelty in all forms, including via entertainment, as demonstrated by the GPC's successful efforts to introduce legislation such as the one mentioned above to ban the breeding, display and trade of cetaceans for entertainment.==

Intensive animal agriculture

There is compelling scientific evidence to support a shift away from a high animal protein diet to one that is primarily plant-based for reasons of public health, environment, and animal welfare.

Meat and dairy do not provide nutrition in an efficient or sustainable way. While meat and dairy provide just 18% of calories and 37% of protein, they use 83% of farmland and produce 60% of agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions.[13]

A 2020 report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) cited increased demand for animal protein and agriculture intensification as key drivers of pandemics, biodiversity loss and climate change and responsible for over 50% of infectious diseases from animals since 1940.[14]
Antibiotic resistance, identified by the World Health Organization as one of the world's top 10 public health threats, is also fueled by the industrial animal agriculture system since ¾ of the world's antibiotics are given to farm animals.[15] Currently, about 700,000 people die each year

[13] Poore J, Nemecek T. Reducing food's environmental impacts through producers and consumers. Science. 2018;360:987–992. Retrieved from: https://josephpoore.com/Science%20360%206392%20987%20-%20Accepted%20Manuscript.pdf

[14] https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/report/preventing-future-zoonotic-disease-outbreaks-protecting-environment-animals-and

[15] https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antimicrobial-resistance

from antibiotic resistant infections. Without countries taking action, up to 10 million people will die annually by 2050 due to superbugs rendering antibiotic treatment ineffective.[16]

Experts recommend reducing meat and dairy consumption in favour of more plant-based foods to help reduce public health threats from animal agriculture and to reduce impacts on climate change. This approach would also align with the recently revised Canada Food Guide.

6. **Would your party support phasing-out the prophylactic use of antibiotics in animal farming?**
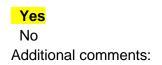
   Yes
   No
   Additional comments:

7. **Would your party support initiatives to increase consumption of plant-based foods, as recommended by Canada's Food Guide and other experts?**

   Yes
   No
   Additional comments:

8. **Would your party support initiatives to reduce animal protein consumption, for the benefit of human and planetary health?**

   Yes
   No
   Additional comments:

9. **Would your party support instituting financial incentives to promote plant-based farming and plant-based business initiatives?**

   Yes
   No
   Additional comments:

10. **Would your party support instituting financial incentives to support farmers to transition to higher-welfare, more sustainable animal agriculture systems?**

    Yes
    No

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[16] https://amr-review.org/sites/default/files/AMR%20Review%20Paper%20-%20Tackling%20a%20crisis%20for%20the%20health%20and%20wealth%20of%20nations_1.pdf

Additional comments:

Thank you for your time and consideration! **Please submit your responses by August 6, 2021** along with any relevant sections of your policy platform related to animal welfare in English and French**.**