

NDP Response

World Animal Protection

Thank you for reaching out to the NDP for comment on the important issue of animal welfare.

Your survey raises key questions about the responsibilities humans have to animals. New Democrats believe in the ethical treatment of animals and are committed to pursuing a nature agenda, anchored by our commitment to safeguarding ecosystems and biodiversity. The NDP has a long history of standing up for animal rights and for proposing legislation to tackle animal abuse. We were proud to have played a strong leadership role in ensuring that bills to end the captivity of whales and dolphins in Canada passed through Parliament.

In government, New Democrats would lead the way on protecting animals and ecosystems. Part of our initiative is a plan to reverse species loss and curbing the import and domestic trade of wild animals in Canada. We would also consider legislation to protect elephants, great apes and big cats from exploitation for public entertainment.

We also know when we talk about protecting the environment and taking care of our health, that means having a conversation about the foods we eat and where it comes from.

New Democrats take a whole-of-government approach to address regional needs and priorities by investing in agricultural communities, supporting young and new farmers, and taking steps to ensure that rural livelihoods are good and sustainable. We believe that Canada's Food Guide should be based on the best-available nutrition science, and this guide should inform how grocery stores stock their shelves.

We'll work with farmers and food producers to develop a National Food Policy, making food systems stronger across the country, including food labelling and traceability, so that Canadians can be confident in what they're purchasing to put on their family's plate. This means exploring and supporting efforts that support plant-based farming and business initiatives, in line with Canada's Food Guide.

The way we grow crops, raise livestock and use food also has an impact on our climate future, nutrition for all Canadians, and the welfare of animals. We'll work to connect communities to farmers through local food hubs and develop a national food waste strategy to reduce the huge amounts of food that go to waste. We'll also partner with farmers and communities to support biodiversity and to monitor and protect pollinator health.

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New Democrats have been engaged on the critical issue of antimicrobial resistance since well before the pandemic. Almost a decade ago, NDP Members of Parliament initiated a study on the issue that resulted in 10 recommendations for changes to the government's plan for tackling antimicrobial resistance. Like the European Union, an NDP Government would consider a ban on prophylactic antibiotic use to protect both human and animal health.

Thank you for raising these important questions about animal welfare. Preventing animal suffering, combatting climate change, and addressing health concerns are all critical issues to New Democrats.

Sincerely,

The NDP Team