
Protect the welfare of animals at slaughter and during transport

Slaughter without pre-stunning compromises the welfare of millions of animals. We're calling for clear labelling of meat and meat products from animals that have not been stunned before slaughter, to improve consumer choice. We're also calling for mandatory CCTV in all Welsh abattoirs and new evidence-based regulations on welfare during transport.

Direct agriculture funding towards improving animal health and welfare

Public money to replace the Common Agricultural Policy should be used to incentivise and support good animal health and welfare outcomes within the planned Sustainable Land Management framework. We also want to see strong veterinary involvement in developing and implementing the new funding policy.

Commit to evidence-based disease control

Poor animal health leads to welfare problems. It can also result in economic costs for Welsh agriculture and can contribute to climate change as low productivity is not sustainable. Endemic diseases such as Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) and sheep scab can only be eradicated through partnership working between farmers, vets and government. We are calling for legislation to follow the end of the voluntary Gwaredu BVD scheme.

Apply behavioural science to tackle bovine TB

Behavioural science is core to our approach to tackling bTB. We'd like to see enhanced data sharing between government vets and private vets; and farmers rewarded for good biosecurity practices, including safe sourcing, through earned recognition. Research funding must be directed to the areas which would have the greatest impact, such as the development of a cattle vaccine and improved tests, and a better understanding of the effects of badger vaccination. The new Centre of Excellence for Bovine Tuberculosis for Wales at Aberystwyth University offers an exciting opportunity to support this research agenda.

Champion the responsible use of antimicrobials

Ongoing work by vets, farmers, and industry has already led to significant reductions in sales of antibiotics for use in food-producing animals, and government support for the successful Arwain Vet Cymru programme must be continued. A One Health approach to responsible antimicrobial use, encompassing environmental concerns, must be included in agricultural and trade policies.

Enshrine animal sentience in law