



# Animal Protection

**Green Party MEPs working for progress in the European Parliament**

**Caroline Lucas** MEP for the South East

**Jean Lambert** MEP for London



The Greens | European Free Alliance  
in the European Parliament

**Green Party** 

*The UK's Green Party MEPs, Caroline Lucas and Jean Lambert, have placed animal rights high on the agenda of the European Parliament. Most animal protection legislation is now agreed at EU level, so the impact made by elected Greens is crucial.*



## *EU ban on battery cages for laying hens*

**Jean and Caroline took immediate action** on hearing that the egg industry and some EU countries were trying to derail the ban on barren battery cages, due to come into force in 2012.

It was, therefore, heartening to hear in January 2008 that the Commission had rejected the case made for a postponement of the ban. While the egg industry continues to press for a delay, Jean and Caroline will remain vigilant and will counter any new attempts to delay it.

Consumer campaigns are further

helping to shift production from cage to free-range systems. Caroline has actively supported **Compassion in World Farming's** Good Egg Awards, which have helped to ensure that several major retailers have already switched to cage-free systems.



*Right: Caroline hosts Compassion in World Farming's Good Egg Awards.*



*Above: Caroline joins Dr Jane Goodall DBE from the Jane Goodall Institute and Dr Gill Langley from the Dr Hawden Trust in presenting a petition calling for the replacement of animals used in experiments.*

## *Animal experiments*

**Over 12 million animals were used in experiments** conducted within the EU in 2005. Both Jean and Caroline have pressed for the implementation of an EU strategy to replace animal experiments and testing, supporting the Dr. Hadwen Trust for Humane Research's EU wide petition on replacement.

Caroline co-hosted an event in the Parliament calling for an overhaul of medical research policy, and describing the benefits of various non-animal approaches. Dr. Jane Goodall DBE, primatologist and founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, attended and spoke on the need for a more compassionate approach to medical research, which would avoid the use of animals.

This campaign coincides with a re-negotiation of EU legislation on animal experiments – Directive 86/609. Green MEPs will press for the strongest possible measures to be introduced, including a ban on the use of primates in experiments, regular reviews of

welfare standards in response to improved scientific knowledge and for the urgent implementation of a strategy to end all animal use. Both MEPs have supported calls for increased funding for the development and validation of alternative test methods.

## *Cat and dog fur trade victory*

**Green MEPs were at the forefront of the campaign** for the EU ban on the import, export and trade in cat and dog fur, which was agreed in June 2007 and comes into force on 1 January 2009.

## *REACH and animal testing*

**REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals)**, the EU's new law to regulate chemicals, is now in force – but it means that millions of animals will be used in cruel, outdated and unreliable toxicity tests.

Caroline has proposed a system of testing based entirely on non-animal methods and many of her arguments

have recently been echoed by the US National Academy of Sciences. Its report made the case that scientific advances will pave the way for 'major improvements' in the way chemicals are evaluated, making 'toxicity testing quicker, less expensive, and more directly relevant to human exposures'.



*Above: Caroline calls for a ban on the import of seal products at a demonstration in Brussels organised by MEPs and animal welfare organisations.*



*Above: Jean receives a petition on REACH from the European Coalition to End Animal Experiments.*

## Seal products import ban

**Green MEPs have led calls for an EU ban** on the trade in seal products, through a written declaration presented by Caroline and adopted by the European Parliament in 2006. Since then, Caroline has written to the Commission and spoken in the Parliament on the issue, and has written numerous press articles and letters, all calling for swift action to ban the trade.

Encouragingly, the Commission has indicated that it supports a ban on the import of seal products in principle, although the current legislative

proposals fall far short of MEPs' demand for a full ban. It proposes a continuation of the trade if hunts are conducted 'humanely'. However, because there is ample evidence to show that commercial seal hunting is inherently cruel, Caroline and Jean will press for a complete ban.

## Wild animals and habitats

**The Green MEPs have repeatedly written to the European Commission** seeking enforcement of the requirements to protect the habitat of the endangered Iberian Lynx, and have pressed the Commission to enforce





*Above: Jean supporting habitat protection at the RSPB reserve at Rainham Marshes, East London.*

protection measures contained in the Birds Directive. They have urged the UK Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to oppose the killing of badgers suspected of carrying TB.

Jean and Caroline have been in contact with the Japanese Embassy seeking an end to Japan's policy on whaling, regardless of the pseudo-scientific justifications offered by the authorities.

They have also fought for an end to the 'harvesting' of bile from moon bears in China. Jean helped launch a campaign against the cruel practice with **Animals Asia** in the European Parliament. She has continued to support it since 2000, during which time sustained action has helped to close down over 40 bear farms.

Both Green MEPs supported a campaign on the protection of tigers from the destruction of habitat and poaching on International Tiger Day.

Jean has written to the Chinese Ambassador about China's intention to

re-open the domestic trade in tiger bones for use in Chinese medicine. The Green MEPs condemn the idea of tiger farming and are calling for the tiger products to be substituted with alternatives.

## *Animals in 'entertainment'*

**When Bulgaria joined the EU**, Caroline pressed for EU zoo welfare standards to be implemented in a timely fashion following reports of terrible conditions in the country's zoos. Caroline has also called for an end to the use of animals in circuses in the UK and elsewhere.

Jean and Caroline have supported calls for an end to bullfighting and to the granting of EU subsidies for 'fighting' bulls which help prop up the industry.



*Above: Jean in the European Parliament backing the campaign against bullfighting.*

## Live animal exports

**Both Caroline and Jean have opposed live exports** of farm animals from the UK, raising the issue of horse transport with Defra and supporting calls to limit EU journey times for farm animals.

Jean raised the issue of live puppy transportation between Ireland and Britain with the Commission and the UK Government. She called for the enforcement of the regulation on the protection of animals during transport.



## Intensive farming

**Caroline co-authored a report** on the increased risk of lethal pandemic influenza due to the intensification of commercial poultry farming. She has organised meetings and European Parliament Hearings on the subject.

Green MEPs advocate a reduction in meat consumption in order to improve the welfare of animals, protect the environment and – crucially in this time of looming food shortages – prevent human hunger caused by inequitable food production and distribution.

Caroline has asked the Commission to respond to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation report,



*Above: Caroline is Vice-President of the European Parliament's cross-party Animal Welfare Intergroup and in 2006 received the RSPCA Michael Kay Award for her outstanding contribution to European animal welfare*

**Livestock's Long Shadow**, which identifies livestock farming as a major contributor to climate change. She asked in particular what measures the Commission would take to create a shift away from livestock production to more farming of plant based food for human consumption.



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