

Manifesto for Scotland's vets and animals

ANIMAL WELFARE

Improve the welfare of farmed fish

We are calling for the implementation of legislation based upon the principles of humane slaughter of farmed fish as set out by the Animal Welfare Committee. While current practice under veterinary oversight sets a high standard for fish welfare at slaughter, legal protective measures must be implemented to maintain Scotland's reputation as a leader in animal welfare. As an interim measure, statutory guidance under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 must be issued without delay.

Ban electric shock collars

We are calling for a complete ban on the sale and use of electric shock collars for dogs and cats. These are used as an aversive method of training. Evidence shows that reward-based training is not only the most effective training method for animals but also makes sure they are protected from any pain or suffering as part of their training.

EDUCATION

Teach children about animal welfare and animal sentience

We are calling for animal welfare and sentience to be part of the national curriculum. Children should learn about animals' needs, our duty of care, and the meaning of sentience so they grow up treating animals and people with compassion and respect.

Ensure veterinary education is properly funded and supported in Scotland

We are calling for financial barriers for universities and students to be removed, so more homegrown talent, particularly from rural areas, can enter the profession. There must also be supporting initiatives highlighting the variety of career options available to those with a veterinary degree.

BVA manifesto for Scotland's vets and animals

EMPLOYMENT

Support the veterinary workforce

We are calling for the visa/sponsorship process for international vets to be streamlined, to attract and support veterinary talent from overseas and sustain the vital roles they contribute to in Scotland, including public health.

FIREWORKS

Tighten the regulation of fireworks

We are calling for the recommendations of the Fireworks Review Group – such as, placing further restrictions on the days and times fireworks can be set off – to be implemented as soon as possible and for the effective application of Firework Control Zones across the country.

AGRICULTURE

Champion the veterinary voice in farming policy

We are calling for the veterinary profession to be recognised as key partners in shaping agricultural policy. The Government must commit to maintain the current level of resource spent on the scanning surveillance network to safeguard both animal and public health. Endemic diseases can only be eradicated through partnership working between farmers, vets and government.

We are the leading professional body representing vets in the UK, with around 19,000 members, including nearly 2,500 in Scotland.

Join the discussion

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A strong voice for vets