

Manifesto for Wales: animals, vets, and public health

Develop a Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) that supports good animal health and welfare outcomes

SFS funding should incentivise and support good animal health and welfare outcomes, including the need for animals to have a good life. This is a cornerstone of sustainable agriculture, and leads to improved productivity through better health, and reduced inputs. Strong veterinary involvement is essential to develop and implement the scheme and bring maximum benefit to Welsh livestock.

Support a collaborative approach to tackling bovine TB

We're calling for enhanced data sharing between government vets and private vets, and farmers rewarded for good biosecurity practices, including safe sourcing, through earned recognition, to improve collaboration on reducing incidence of bovine TB in Wales. The Pembrokeshire pilot should be thoroughly evaluated and the recommendations rolled out across Wales.

Commit to evidence-informed disease control

We want to see the compulsory BVD eradication scheme fully implemented by July 2026 without further delay.

We also urge the next Welsh Government to continue taking an evidence-informed approach to tackling endemic disease by funding and expanding schemes, like Gwaredu Scab and Arwain DGC, which use a collaborative approach.

Champion the responsible use of antibiotics and parasiticides

Welsh government should continue to support the successful Arwain Vet Cymru programme, to reduce antibiotic use and tackle resistance. This work should be expanded to reduce parasiticide use in companion and farm animals, where we are seeing increased resistance and significant impacts on biodiversity and soil health.

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Support increased oversight of licensing of animal activities

The current Welsh Government's efforts to introduce a clear and enforceable outcome-focussed licensing regime to safeguard animal welfare, should be developed even further. Any scheme must be workable for all types of activities, including small charities with limited administrative resources.

Strengthen the veterinary workforce

We're concerned about veterinary provision, notably in rural areas of Wales, and are calling for the new Welsh Government to make vets central to delivery of their animal health and welfare policies, incentivising job creation and opportunities for both private and government vets.

We'd also like to see the new government continue to work with Aberystwyth University to develop Wales' only vet school, including through increased funding where necessary.

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representing vets in
the UK, with around
19,000 members,
including nearly
1,000 in Wales.**

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