

Badger culls – inhumane and unscientific

The Green Party has been strongly opposed to the badger cull from the outset, saying that all the evidence showed it would be both inhumane and ineffective at tackling bovine tuberculosis. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) controversially went ahead with culling by 'free shooting' in Gloucestershire and Somerset in 2013. The trial was a failure, being shown to be both inhumane and ineffective, as predicted. The Coalition has nonetheless chosen to continue to pursue this strategy.

In October 2012 Green MP Caroline Lucas secured a major parliamentary debate to challenge the government's badger policy and led MPs in a successful vote against it.

Greens want to see an end to all animal experimentation and will ensure that research funding is directed away from failing animal disease models and towards modern human biology-based techniques, which offering greater opportunities to cure disease and improve product safety.

We will work to end **animal experiments** but believe immediate action must be taken to:

- *Stop non-medical experiments*, experiments using *primates, cats and dogs*. End the use of live animals in military training.
- Stop the breeding of and use of *genetically altered animals*.
- *End government funding* of animal experimentation, including any that is outsourced to other countries.
- Provide greater funding for *non-animal research* methods and link funding to a target for developing of humane alternatives to animal experiments.
- Increase transparency and ensure *publication of all findings of animal research*, including negative findings.
- Introduce a comprehensive system for reviewing animal experiments and initiate a *comparison* of currently required animal tests with a set of human biology-based tests.

On **companion animals** Greens will push to:

- Completely review and update existing *dog legislation*, particularly relating to dog control.
- Ensure properly coordinated action on *dog fighting*.
- Update the rules on *selling animals* and tackle problems associated with online advertising of pets and illegal imports.
- Introduce *mandatory licensing of breeders* and control on genetic manipulation through breeding to prevent exaggerated characteristics likely to cause suffering.
- End *puppy farming* by banning the sale of young puppies unless the mother is present.
- Introduce regulations that make it illegal to use *aversive training aids* such as electric shock collars.

Greens in power carry out our policies

In Brighton, the Green-led Council ensures that new Council tenancy agreements include a requirement that dogs living in council-owned homes should be micro-chipped. This has encouraged more tenants who own dogs to behave responsibly as their pets are much easier to trace.