



A political party for people and animals

Animals Count News Winter 2009

Despite the economic downturn, we have raised nearly £4,000 thanks to generous supporters, and we are well on our way to reaching our target for the £5,000 deposit in order to contest the European Parliament (EP) election on 4th June. We need at least an additional £1,000 for campaigning costs, such as leaflets and posters.



Many policies and laws that affect UK agriculture and animals are decided in Brussels. The June EP election is a huge opportunity to raise animal issues to the top of the EP agenda. Governments and economies are desperately in need of funds for education, healthcare, pensions and jobs, yet half the EC budget is currently wasted on animal farming subsidies, with all the implications that has for health and the environment. Animals Count is the only UK party contesting the June election to offer comprehensive solutions where everyone wins – consumers, governments, farmers and most of all, animals. The EP election will be decided by proportional representation, so with a campaign to ensure that all voters who care about both animals and people know about Animals Count's policies, we believe that we can bring about change in European animal policies. However, we depend entirely on the support of our members.

If you are interested in helping to increase political representation for animals within the UK and Europe, and improving laws to protect them, please support this crucial and exciting electoral campaign. If you know other people who might be interested, please pass this letter on to them.

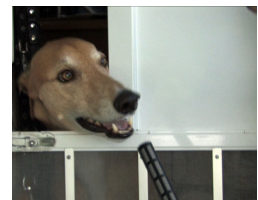
Party Conference, 4th October (World Animal Day), Birmingham

At our first Party Conference members agreed on a revised constitution, standing orders and principles; approved the financial reports for 2007 and the 2008 London Assembly elections; and elected national party officers. A draft 2009 budget was discussed, which included an income target in order to be able to contest the June 2009 European Parliamentary elections. For further details, please request a copy of the minutes and official documents from Jasmijn de Boo.



Campaigns, events and outreach

- On 16th August, 7th September, 1st November and 30th November, Animals Count had stalls at the Oxford Vegan Fair, the London Vegan Festival, the Wolverhampton Vegan Fair, and the Christmas Without Cruelty Fayre respectively. We reached thousands of people with leaflets and information.
- An initiative to improve racing greyhounds' welfare was launched by Animals Count and the International Society Against Exploitation of Racing Animals (ISAERA) in London on 26th September. The results of a new investigation into animal suffering as a result of commercial greyhound racing in the UK was presented to animal protection groups and international dog experts. DEFRA will be drafting secondary legislation in 2009 and we are urging DEFRA to ban betting on racing greyhounds.
- On 6th October Animals Count provided detailed comments on the Scottish Marine Bill, which includes provisions that allow for seal killing. We condemned this, and further believe that more can be done to promote biodiversity at sea.
- On 18th November, Andrew Knight, Animals Count President, gave a presentation entitled 'The Making of Animals Count,' at the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics.
- On 6th December, Animals Count members joined the Climate Change march and educated members of the public about the link between livestock farming and global warming.
- On 12th December we held a successful and fun fundraising dinner and auction, raising over £600. Many thanks to Cathy for organising this!
- On 14th December, Jasmijn de Boo attended the Dutch political Party for the Animals Conference, which was really inspiring. It is the fastest growing party in the Netherlands with 20 democratically elected representatives, and over 8,000 members! They are set to win at least one seat in the June EP elections.





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Media & publications

- The Birmingham Post reported on our 4th October Party Conference.
- The first issue of 'Off the Hoof', a new vegan lifestyle magazine, included Animals Count as one of six best campaigns nationally. **Animals Count has been nominated in the annual Vegan Environmental Awards 2009 as 'Best Vegan Small Campaign Group'!** This is a welcome recognition of all the hard work we have put in during the past two years. You can vote for us every month, please go to: <http://bristol.veganfayre.co.uk/awards-vote/>. Thanks!



- In December, Animals Count Chair Jasmijn de Boo and President Andrew Knight produced two scientific papers describing alternatives to laboratory animal use. Andrew published a series of scientific studies demonstrating the poor human predictability and utility of animal experiments, and describing alternatives. Jointly, this sizeable set of publications now provides most of the strongest scientific evidence in this field.

Forthcoming Events

- 8th February: Sponsored walk from Angel (underground) to Limehouse along Regent's Canal (round trip 8 miles). Participants/sponsors welcome. Call Cathy: 079 83167588 or email info@animalscount.org.
- 22nd February: Event *Be Veg Go Green Save the Planet*, 12-3pm, Trafalgar Square, London.
- 1st March: Animals Count meeting in London, near Waterloo/London Bridge (exact location TBC), 3pm.
- 21st March: Stall at the Brighton Vegan Fayre, <http://brighton.veganfayre.co.uk/>.
- 31st March: Animals Count meeting in London, Inspiral Lounge, Camden, 6.30pm.
- 18th April: Stall at the Incredible Veggie Show, <http://www.viva.org.uk/roadshows09/veggieshow.html>.
- 2/3 May: **Three Peaks Challenge**. The first ever *Team Vegan* will be climbing the three highest mountains in Scotland (*Ben Nevis*), England (*Scafell Pike*) and Wales (*Snowdon*, pictured right) in 24h to raise funds for the election campaign.
- 9th May: **Second Animals Count Party Conference** (see below). The conference will kick-start our intensive outreach campaign in London for 3.5 weeks before the elections. All help welcome!
- 30/31 May: Stall and talk at the Bristol Vegan Fayre, <http://bristol.veganfayre.co.uk/>.
- 4th June: Polling day for the European Parliamentary elections!



Second Animals Count Party Conference

The second Animals Count Party Conference will be held in London on 9th May. The aim is to launch our campaign for the last four weeks before the 4th June EP elections, and to present the candidates and our manifesto. Even if you don't live in London, please show your vital support and consider helping for a day or a couple of days during these important elections. Together we can reach most Londoners!

The conference is open to members and supporters. Please return the slip below to Animals Count. Confirmation of location, directions and agenda will be sent in the second week of April.

Thank you again for your support and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Jasmijn de Boo,
Chair, Animals Count



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Second Animals Count Party Conference, 9th May, London – Return Slip

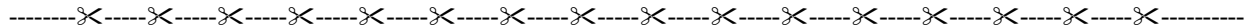
Please circle the applicable option below:

1. Yes, I will definitely attend, please add my name to the guest list.
2. I may attend, I will confirm either way **by 30th March**. After this date, registration is no longer possible.
3. No, I am not able to attend, but please send me relevant documents in due course.
4. No, I am not able to attend.

Name:

Address, city + post code:

In order to cover room hire fees, we kindly ask for a contribution of £5 per person. Refreshments and drinks during the reception are included. Please return this slip **before 2nd March** to: Animals Count, PO BOX 51250, London SE11 4UN, email info@animalscount.org or call: 078 80624310.



Animals Count Merchandise

T-SHIRTS (Fair Trade)

Black, **white**, **pink** and **green** skinny fit tees £10
Available in sizes S, M and L

Black and **white** unisex tees £8
Available in sizes S, M, L, XL and XXL

NEW: **Plum** and **brown** long sleeved shirts £15

Beautiful enamel badges £1.50



Eco-friendly shopping bags £2.50



Pink small skinny fit T-shirt



White medium skinny fit T-shirt



Black medium unisex T-shirt



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Ordering information

You can order Animals Count merchandise online by using PayPal, for which you don't need a PayPal account (just a debit or credit card) and which is easy and secure to use. Go to the Animals Count Merchandise page: http://www.animalscount.org/animals_count_tees.html

Alternatively, fill out the form below and return it to Animals Count.

Order Form

Your name:
Address:
City:
County:
Post code:

Tel no:
Email:

ITEM	Number	S	M	L	XL	XXL	Total (£)
Black skinny fit (£10)							
White skinny fit (£10)							
White skinny fit small logo (£10)							
Green skinny fit (£10)							
Pink skinny fit (£10)							
Black unisex (£8)							
White unisex (£8)							
White unisex small logo (£8)							
NEW! Plum long sleeve (£15)							
NEW! Brown long sleeve (£15)							
Eco-friendly shopping bag (£2.50)							
Enamel badge (£1.50)							
Environment cards (free)							
Leaflets (free)							
Stickers (sheet of 18) (£1)							
Postage/shipping (international orders: enquiries welcome)							£2
Total							Total (£)

Please send the completed form and cheque to the address below. Alternatively, you can pay by making a bank transfer directly to the Co-operative Bank:

Animals Count
 Sort code 08-92-99
 Account number 65231694

Thank you!

Animals Count • PO BOX 51250 London SE11 4UN UK
 Email: info@animalscount.org • Web: www.animalscount.org • Tel: +44 (0)78 80624310