



Animals and Us

Animals don't have a voice – they
need you to speak for them!



AnimalAid



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Animal rights

Defending animals does not mean caring about them more than about people. It's about protecting other species from cruelty and unfair treatment, and not causing them any harm.

Wanting to stop suffering is something of which you should be proud. Going veggie or vegan, not buying products that have been tested on animals and boycotting zoos and circuses with animals, are all important ways in which you can help to make this world a kinder place.



What rights do animals need?

Obviously, animals do not need exactly the same rights as people. For example, the right to vote in elections would be useless to a parrot. But the right to freedom, the right to exercise their own free will and to live without being imprisoned or tortured are just as important to animals as they are to us.

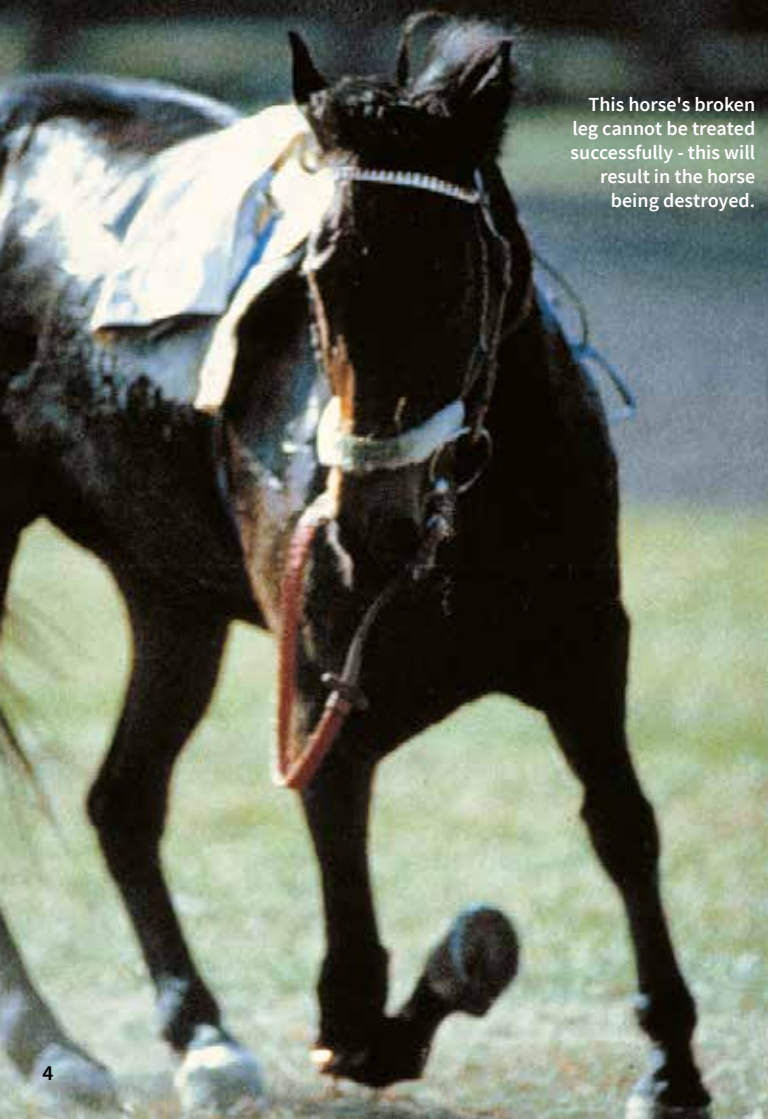
Why care about animals?

Today it is recognised that animals, just like people, experience happiness, sadness, fear, physical pain, anger and boredom. We know that they usually enjoy the company of their own kind; that there is a close bond between mothers and their young; that young animals enjoy and learn from play; and that they develop friendships. They have needs, just like people do.

Are people more intelligent?

Animals can't play the piano or pilot a plane - but neither can most people! And animals can do some amazing things that we can't. Can you swing through the trees like an orang-utan? Or sniff out a bone 100 yards away like the average dog can? Calling it 'instinct' doesn't make it any less amazing. Anyway, deciding how to treat other creatures on the grounds of their intelligence is wrong. You wouldn't want your rights to be decided by how well you had done in your exams, would you?





This horse's broken leg cannot be treated successfully - this will result in the horse being destroyed.

Can animals communicate?

Anyone with a companion animal will have had first-hand experience of the range of emotions animals can feel, and the ways in which they express them. They use sounds and other signals - such as body language - to 'talk' to each other, to attract a new mate, to express contentment or to warn each other of danger. Some animals, such as whales, are able to communicate over vast distances in ways that humans not only cannot match, but can't even fully understand.

Do animals feel pain?

Have you ever heard of an animal who could be cut by a knife or burnt by a flame and not feel it? Whether in your home, on a factory farm, in a laboratory, in captivity or in the wild, animals experience pain and fear and will try to protect themselves from being hurt. This is as true of fish as of people. Even where we can't be certain that animals experience pain - for example, in the case of worms or insects - we should give them the benefit of the doubt and not cause deliberate harm.

In 1948, the world's nations joined together to issue the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This states that all people should have freedom and respect, whatever their ethnic origin, gender, religion or race.

Human rights and animal rights

Similar excuses to those given for treating animals badly were once used to defend the exploitation of certain people. Children were forced to work in mines and as chimney sweeps until society decided that it was unacceptable. Women were not allowed to vote in elections until, after years of campaigning, their rights were recognised. Slaves suffered abuse, humiliation and cruelty and were worked to the point of collapse, even death. Their 'owners' argued that the slaves didn't deserve justice or equality because they were of an 'inferior' race. Is it so far-fetched to compare their fate with that of animals today?



Animal experiments

Each year around 4 million animals are used in experiments in UK laboratories. Many of these 'scientific procedures' are conducted for medical research, to try to find the causes of, and treatments for, human disease.

Some are undertaken to test the safety of a wide range of products such as medicines and agricultural and industrial chemicals. These 'safety' experiments are called toxicity tests.

About half the procedures involve the creation and breeding of genetically altered animals.

As well as causing the animals a great deal of pain and distress, these experiments are also unreliable and misleading. This is because animals' bodies are different from ours. They do not react to chemicals in the same way and they do not suffer from the same diseases as people.

Substances that are harmless to humans may be toxic to animals, and vice versa. Numerous drugs that were passed as safe in animal tests are withdrawn after causing serious side effects, even deaths, when given to people. For example, Vioxx – an arthritis drug that had been tested on animals – was reported to have caused up to 140,000 heart attacks and strokes before being withdrawn. At the same time, cures for human disease may have been lost because animal tests indicated that they would be ineffective or harmful.

The many biological differences between humans and other species mean that animal experiments produce results that are unreliable when applied to people. Scientifically speaking, animal experiments are not reliably predictive for humans.

Some of the many differences in reactions between people and animals*:

- Paracetamol is toxic to cats
- Penicillin is poisonous to guinea pigs
- Chocolate and onions are toxic to dogs and cats

* When proportionately equivalent quantities are consumed by people and animals



What happens in laboratories?

The government defines an animal experiment as a 'procedure' that may have the effect of causing an animal 'pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.'

The majority of animals used are bred specifically for the purpose and are kept in small cages or kennels inside the laboratories.

Which animals are used?

Mostly mice and rats, because they are small, cheap and easy to breed - but guinea pigs, rabbits, fish, cats, dogs, monkeys, birds, reptiles, pigs, sheep, cattle, chickens and horses are also used.

Genetically altered (GA) animals

Approximately two million genetically altered animals are specially bred every year. These animals can be crudely manipulated by having specific genes added, removed or altered. This

is to make them grow abnormally, automatically develop a particular disease or be born with certain characteristics that the researcher wants to examine. For example, GA mice have been created so that they are born with a form of cystic fibrosis or develop fatal breast cancer. Despite the genetic trickery involved, GA animals are still poor 'models' for human disease.

What laws govern animal experiments?

In the UK animal experiments are regulated by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, that states experiments can take place only if the expected benefits to humans, other animals or the environment justify the animals' suffering. The Home Office, however, has admitted that it has never conducted any research into whether or not animal experiments are directly relevant to human medicine. Researchers like to keep their experiments secret and the law encourages that. In fact, someone working in a lab can be imprisoned simply for exposing what takes place.



What kind of experiments are carried out?

Medical research: new drugs and surgical techniques intended for people are first tested on animals. In an attempt to recreate human diseases, animals are also surgically mutilated, given cancer, infected with viruses and brain-damaged with toxic chemicals.

Product ‘safety’ tests: animals are poisoned and killed to test the safety of new products such as medical drugs, agricultural and industrial chemicals such as weedkillers and pesticides as well as new ingredients for cleaning fluids, paints, food, drinks and even pet food. They are force-fed substances, have chemicals rubbed into their skin or dripped into their eyes and are made to inhale toxic fumes.

Pain analysis: levels of pain are measured in barbaric tests such as putting animals on hot plates or dipping their tails in hot water.



Psychology research: animals are deliberately driven mad, starved, given electric shocks, brain damaged, deprived of sleep and taken from their mothers to see how this affects their behaviour.

How many animals are used?

In the UK, around four million animals are used in laboratory experiments each year. Countless more animals are bred and killed so parts of their bodies can be used in research. In addition, ‘surplus’ animals are bred but never used – they are killed and their deaths are not even recorded.

Who’s paying for these experiments?

In the UK, animal experiments are carried out by contract research organisations (CROs) that conduct research on behalf of organisations such as the manufacturers of medical drugs or industrial or agricultural chemicals. Many medical research charities, such as Cancer Research UK and the British Heart Foundation, fund research using animals. And, without even knowing it, the average citizen is paying for them, too. The government uses money from people’s taxes to fund animal experiments in its own laboratories or in university science and medical departments.



The way ahead

Stopping animal experiments will not mean an end to medical progress - quite the opposite, given that information from animal research cannot be reliably applied to people. Non-animal methods produce results that can actually be trusted.

These include:

‘In vitro’ tests: scientists can study human cells or tissues in test tubes. Human cells can be used to investigate disease, to develop and test drugs, and for the manufacture of vaccines and antibodies. Every cell type can now be studied in vitro.

Computer modelling: sophisticated computers can imitate the workings of the human body and duplicate the spread of disease so that researchers can predict how drugs will work and what effects they will have.

Clinical case studies: a clearer picture of disease can be built up by monitoring illness in individual patients.

Epidemiology: health problems can be analysed by the study and comparison of groups of people.

Post-mortem studies: examining the bodies of people who have died can give clues about diseases and their causes.

Scans: a range of sophisticated scanning devices is now used to study the workings of, and problems present, in vital organs, such as the brain and heart.

Action:

- **Buy cruelty-free. Check labels on products for the leaping-bunny logo, which shows that the company does not test on animals.**
- **Don’t donate to or buy from charities that fund animal experiments. Check out our Victims of Charity campaign at www.victimsofcharity.org**

Animal Farming

Every year in the UK approximately 1 billion animals are farmed and killed for food – and that figure doesn’t include fish.

Factory farms exist to produce meat, eggs and dairy products as quickly and cheaply as possible but come at great cost to the animals. To keep production costs down, the animals are given the bare minimum needed to survive. You might see happy farmyard scenes on egg boxes or in TV ads for meat and dairy products, but the reality of most modern farms is very different.

Huge, stinking barren sheds are crammed full of miserable animals, who will never breathe fresh air, experience the sun on their backs or feel the earth beneath their feet. They can hardly stretch their wings or legs and will never be able to roam freely.

Farmed animals are treated as though they are stupid and unfeeling, but they experience pain, discomfort, fear, loneliness and frustration in the same way as other animals do.



Pigs

Female pigs (sows) are subjected to a cycle of pregnancies to produce as many piglets as possible. The majority are forced to give birth and feed their young in cages known as farrowing crates, which prevent them from moving freely. Piglets routinely have their tails cut off and teeth cut without anaesthetic. After three or four weeks, the piglets are transferred to pens.

Pigs are killed at around six months of age. Around half of the UK’s pigs sent for slaughter in the UK are killed using CO2 gas. This causes a huge amount of suffering. Pigs panic and kick out and try to escape. Others are stunned with ‘tongs’ that span the brain before they have their throats cut.

Pigs in factory farms suffer from boredom, frustration and health problems, such as lameness and viral infections.

Poultry

In the wild, chickens like to dust-bathe, turkeys fly considerable distances, and ducks spend most of their lives on water. But in poultry farms, thousands are crammed together in sheds, unable to express their natural impulses.

‘Broiler’ birds reared for meat are fattened up so quickly that their legs may not be able to carry the weight of their own bodies. Each year, millions die from thirst and hunger because they collapse and are unable to drag themselves to the food and water units.

Eggs

Egg-laying hens are a different breed from the chickens kept for meat production (known as ‘broilers’). Around half of the egg-laying hens in the UK are reared inside factory farms where they spend their entire lives confined in metal cages inside huge windowless sheds.

Millions of ‘useless’ day-old male chicks are gassed, or shredded alive in giant shredding machines, because they can’t lay eggs and being the ‘wrong’ type of chicken, won’t grow enough meat to be considered profitable.

Cows

For cows to produce milk, they have to give birth to a calf. To keep up the supply, they are kept in a constant cycle of being made pregnant and having their babies taken away, usually within 24 hours of birth, so that the milk meant for the calf can be bottled up for humans. This separation of the newborn calf from the mother is upsetting for both cow and calf and both usually cry out for each other as they are parted.

The male calves may be seen as a waste by-product and thousands are killed every year soon after birth. A small number are separated from their mothers and transported many miles in trucks to be fattened for ‘veal’ meat in awful conditions on the continent.

When they reach five to six years of age, dairy cows are too worn out to produce the quantities of milk required, and so they are killed. Increasingly, dairy cows are being permanently confined indoors inside factory farms, called ‘mega dairies’.

Sheep and lambs

Each year, around 1 in 20 adult sheep die of cold, starvation, sickness, pregnancy complications or injury. Ewes are forced to have more and more babies, often giving birth in the middle of winter. About 15 per cent of lambs die within days of being born - mostly from exposure, disease or hunger. The lambs who survive are killed at around four months old.

* the breeding animals are kept alive longer.

MOST FARMED ANIMALS ARE SLAUGHTERED AT A VERY YOUNG AGE

ANIMAL	NATURAL LIFESPAN	AGE AT WHICH TYPICALLY KILLED*
Cattle raised for meat	25-30 years	16-30 months
Sheep	15 years	3-12 months
Pigs	15 years	6 months
Chickens raised for meat	10 years	6 weeks
Egg-laying hens	10 years	18 months
Turkeys	10 years	12-26 weeks
Rabbits raised for meat	6-8 years	8-12 weeks



'Free-range' doesn't mean 'cruelty-free'

Free-range animals may have a better quality of life than those who are intensively reared, but they are still slaughtered at an early age in the same way as factory-farmed animals. 'Free-range' conditions are not always as 'free-range' as you are led to expect. The sheds are often very cramped with little access to outside.

More, more, more!

Animals are now being genetically selected and manipulated to produce more milk, more meat, more eggs and more babies. Intensively reared hens lay 20 times more eggs than they would naturally. This comes at a huge cost to their bodies.

Dairy cows now produce ten times more milk than their calves would ever require. Research is constantly carried out to increase 'output' - as measured by the

volume of milk, the number of babies born and the speed at which they can be fattened for slaughter. This drive towards increased 'efficiency' is pursued regardless of the consequences for the animals' own health or welfare.

Fish

So many fish are killed each year that many species are threatened with extinction. When hauled up from the deep, fish undergo agonising decompression. Frequently, the internal pressure ruptures their swim bladders, pops out their eyes and pushes their gullets and stomachs out through their mouths. Factory ships process the fish at sea and they are often gutted alive. Industrial farms breed fish in huge underwater pens with no room to swim. Disease is rife in the crowded, dirty water. Sea lice pose a particular problem, eating the fish alive.



Never-ending suffering

The suffering goes on even after animals have left the farm. Some will be trucked straight to a slaughterhouse and others to market. In addition, hundreds of thousands are exported abroad. These live export journeys can last for days in cramped conditions with limited rest, food or water.

Some animals arrive with wounds and injuries. The weaker ones may die on the way.

The lives of all farmed animals come to a brutal end at the slaughterhouse. The last few moments may be filled with terror as they hear other animals being killed. Although they are supposed to be stunned first to prevent them feeling pain, many

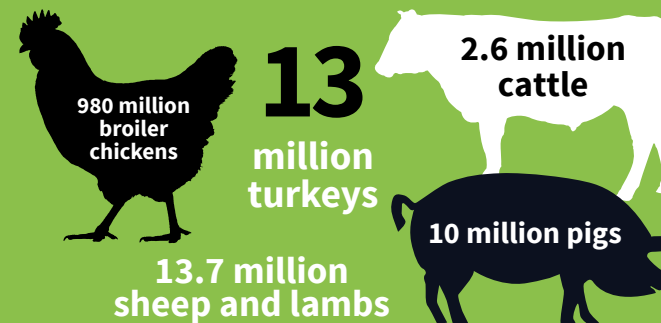
animals are not stunned correctly and might still be alive when they are hung upside down to have their throats cut.

Use of antibiotics

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned that global industrial meat farming poses a serious threat to human health.

The widespread use of antibiotics in livestock farming represents a serious health hazard because it helps to generate drug-resistant strains of bacteria that cause disease.

In the UK, approximately how many animals are killed each year for food?



Action:

- Take animal products out of your diet - visit our website and order a Go Vegan Action Pack at animalaid.org.uk/veganpack
- Visit our website to find out how you can get involved in campaigns against animal farming.

Killing wildlife

Hunting

After more than 100 years of campaigning, using packs of hounds to hunt foxes, deer, hares and mink became illegal in 2005 in England, Wales and Scotland. In Northern Ireland, however, the traditional form of hunting with hounds is still legal. In most of the UK, despite the 'ban', hunters are still permitted to send two hounds into a wood to 'flush out' foxes and then shoot them. Nearly all packs continue to go out. Some follow artificial scent trails, while others carry on hunting almost exactly as before, ignoring the intention of the law.

Shooting

Every year, millions of pheasants and partridges are bred on farms and then released into the wild so that they can be shot for sport.

The breeding birds are often confined in battery cages and have 'bits' fitted to their beaks to prevent them aggressively pecking each other due to the stress of living in confined conditions. Their babies will be reared in huge sheds before being old enough to be shot.

Grouse and ducks are also used as feathered targets by shooters.

Gamekeepers trap and kill other wild animals, such as stoats, crows, weasels and foxes, who might eat the birds they want to shoot.

Angling

Fishing is often regarded as a gentle activity that puts people in touch with nature. But what is gentle about spearing living creatures on a hook, dragging them out of the water and leaving them struggling for

life as they suffocate? There is plenty of evidence showing that fish feel pain when, for example, they are caught by the mouth on a sharp hook.

Culling

Wild animals are often killed because they are considered to be a 'pest' or because they are not wanted for other reasons.

Badgers, for example, are persecuted because they are blamed for spreading the bovine tuberculosis (bTB) disease to cattle despite a lack of scientific evidence.

Grey squirrels are culled because it is said that they damage trees. They are also unfairly blamed for the disappearance of the red squirrel.

Action:

- Visit our website to find out what you can do to support our campaigns against culling wild animals such as badgers and grey squirrels.



Fur and leather

Every year millions of animals are killed so that their fur can be turned into fur coats and other products trimmed with fur.

Foxes, mink, rabbits and other animals are bred on farms in tiny wire cages. They live a short and miserable life and are killed by gassing, electrocution or having their necks broken. Sometimes, they are skinned alive.

Fur farming is banned in the UK, although fur is still imported and sold in shops.

Other animals, including wolves, lynx, beavers and wild cats are trapped in the wild. It may be days before the trapper returns to retrieve the victims, and they may die slowly and in agony. Trapped animals have been known to gnaw off their own limbs in an attempt to escape.

There is no excuse for wearing real fur. Modern, synthetic fibres are warmer, much lighter and more waterproof. Often, people don't even realise that they are buying real fur, as they assume that it is fake.

The leather trade kills more than a billion animals (mainly cows but also pigs, goats, sheep and kangaroos) for their skins each year.

Many people think that leather is 'just a by-product' of the meat trade, but buying leather helps to support the farming and killing of animals as it makes the meat industry more profitable.

Action:

- Don't buy fur or leather - if in doubt, don't buy.
- Visit our website to order our Fur trade factsheet.

Photo: © Jo-Anne McArthur/We Animals



Horse racing

The racing industry wants the public to believe that betting on horses is just a harmless flutter. But, it is actually a ruthless business that treats animals as objects to be used for making money.

The number of horses bred for racing has spiralled out of control over the last 50 years. Around 13,000 foals are 'produced' annually for the closely linked British and Irish racing industries. A considerable number of these will fail the racing system and never race. It is thought that many of the 'failures' are shot at stables or killed for meat.

Those who do compete run a high risk of serious injury. In Britain, each year, around 200 horses die as a result of racing and an unknown number are killed whilst training for races. Deaths are a result of pushing horses too hard in races and in training. Fatal injuries include: a broken leg, back, neck or pelvis, or horses may die from a heart attack or burst blood vessel.

Jockeys use whips to try to keep

horses running – or, as they put it, for 'encouragement' or 'correction'. As well as being cruel, whipping horses does not actually increase jockeys' chances of winning. The whip can drive horses off a true line and place them, and other horses, in danger.

Around 7,500 horses leave British racing each year. The industry does little to provide for retired animals. Many suffer a downward spiral of neglect, which can end at the slaughterhouse.

Action:

- **Don't back the cruelty. Visit our website to find out how you can get involved in campaigning against horse racing.**



Pet trade

Each year, millions of dogs, cats, rabbits, budgerigars, 'ornamental' fish, snakes and other animals are bred or captured to supply the pet trade.

Lots of people share their life with a companion animal. Some of these animals are well looked after, but sadly many are not so fortunate.

Many companion animals are abused and cruelly treated while others are neglected because people don't know how to look after them properly.

Often, people don't think through the responsibility they are taking on before getting a companion animal. As a result, countless animals end up being neglected or abandoned.

Animal shelters are filled to bursting with unwanted animals. Hundreds of thousands are killed each year because they have not found new homes.

Despite this, pet breeders – often ordinary owners of pets – continue to produce more animals to meet the demand.

Some people choose to own exotic animals, such as reptiles and birds, who are especially unsuitable as companion animals.

Huge numbers of pedigree animals suffer serious health problems because of the selective breeding that is done to exaggerate certain characteristics, such as the squashed faces of Persian cats and pug dogs.

Action:

- **If you are thinking of giving a home to an animal it is important that you first check out what this will involve.**
- **Never buy an animal from a pet shop or animal breeder. Instead, provide a home for an animal from a sanctuary or rescue centre.**



Eight easy ways to help animals:

1

Stop eating them - taking animal products out of your diet is the best thing you can do to save animals from a life of pain and misery.

2

Stop wearing them - don't buy clothes made from animal products such as leather, wool, silk or fur.

Become a compassionate consumer - look for the leaping bunny logo on cosmetics, toiletries and household products.

3



4

If you are at school or college, ask your teacher to invite a speaker from Animal Aid to give a talk to your class.

5

Give zoos, aquariums and animal circuses a miss.

Support medical charities that don't fund experiments on animals.

7

If you decide to get a companion animal, give a home to one from a rescue centre or sanctuary, rather than buying one from a pet shop or breeder.

6

Visit the Animal Aid website to see how you can help animals.

8



www.animalaid.org.uk

Choose life — go vegan

If you really care about animals, the best way you can help is to stop eating them.

Make your body an animal-free zone!

Vegetarians don't eat meat, fish and other slaughterhouse products such as gelatin. Vegans don't eat dairy products and eggs, either.

You can get all the nutrients that you need from eating a balanced, animal-free diet that will be naturally low in fat and high in nutrients and fibre.

Meat and dairy products contain saturated fats, which are a major cause of heart disease, stroke and cancer. By cutting out these foods, you are less likely to suffer from these diseases.

Planet in peril!

A United Nations report stated that farmed animals are responsible for 14.5% of global greenhouse gases worldwide – more than is produced by land, sea and air transport together. In Central and South America, the rainforest is

being cut down to make way for cattle ranching and for growing cattle feed such as soya beans.

Save our seas!

Commercial fishing fleets are stripping the oceans bare, catching dolphins, whales and turtles as well as billions of fish in nets the size of football pitches. Some species are facing extinction. Sea birds are at risk because fish for them to eat are disappearing.

Fight world hunger

Global food shortage is a serious problem - people in poorer countries are still dying of starvation. Rearing animals for food is a terrible waste of resources. The same amount of land feeds up to ten times as many people if we grow crops on it for people, rather than grazing animals for meat.

Visit our website, or contact us, to order a free Go Vegan Action Pack. animalaid.org.uk/veganpack



Support Animal Aid

Animal Aid campaigns against all animal cruelty!

Action

We carry out investigations, produce reports, gain widespread media coverage and lobby politicians and businesses.

Education

We produce education resources for teachers and have a network of volunteer speakers throughout the UK, giving hundreds of talks every year.

Cruelty-free goods

Visit our online shop at animalaidshop.org.uk for a wide range of cruelty-free goods. Join Animal Aid to get a 10% discount on all goods!

Join Animal Aid

Visit our website: animalaid.org.uk to join and to find out more about our campaigns.

We can
do more with
your support!



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