

TOWARDS AN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Apartheid state, notorious for its blatant violation of all forms of human rights, has also been insensitive to other life forms. Animal Welfare work has been left entirely to numerous, often competing, private associations. The National Party Government has consistently refused to provide the appropriate legislation and necessary material resources.

The abdication by the Government of their responsibility in this context, has created a situation where the vast majority of South Africans have no access whatsoever to veterinary services. Once again, those who have been dispossessed have also been denied another basic social service. The Government has shown no interest in assisting animal organisations and these organisations are looking to the ANC-led Alliance to take the initiative.

Consequently, the responsibility of providing the aforementioned services will inevitably fall on an ANC- led Government. It is entirely consistent with the core values of our Alliance that in creating a just humane, dignified, kinder and gentler society, we do not forget any other life forms. Furthermore, at this stage when we are in the process of creating a programme to address the needs of all our people, we should not omit the provision of any essential community service. The issue is a developmental one and should form part of our overall programme.

In this regard the Animal Working Group of the ANC has began a process of consultation with the numerous relevant animal organisations. Although this process is in it's infancy, we have already identified a number of important areas for consideration.

OBJECTIVE A

PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS THE IMBALANCED PROVISION OF VETERINARY SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. The construction of Veterinary Hospitals in all communities in South Africa;
2. The training of veterinary personnel to staff these facilities;
3. Insertion in the National Junior School Education Curriculum of a compulsory component dealing with animal awareness.

OBJECTIVE B

TO CREATE A LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTROL, KEEPING, BREEDING, COMMERCIAL USE OF, EXPERIMENTATION ON AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO ANIMALS.

1. DOG RACING: If dog racing is to be re-introduced, then there needs to be clear guidelines so that abuses can be prevented;
2. HORSE RACING: This industry has much to answer for with respect to the keeping, breeding, experimentation on and disposal of horses. Guidelines for the prevention of these abuses, amongst others, are necessary;
3. RODEO: Rodeo is an activity which cannot be implemented without abuse to animals;
4. PET SHOPS : Need for compulsory keeping of records by them with respect to the source of stock and proof of valid vaccination;
5. DANGEROUS/VICIOUS DOGS : Control measures are necessary;

6. LEASH LAWS;
7. CONTROL OF THE KEEPING AND IMPORTATION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES / BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN;
8. TRAINING WITH RESPECT TO THE KEEPING OF HEALTHY, DISEASE-FREE ANIMALS;
9. GUIDELINES FOR THE KEEPING OF GUARD DOGS BY THE POLICE, THE SOUTH AFRICA DEFENCE FORCE AND PRIVATE SECURITY AGENCIES;
10. EXEMPTION OF PRIVATE ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETIES FROM V A T;
11. GUIDELINES WITH RESPECT TO THE KEEPING OF UNSTERILISED DOMESTIC ANIMALS;
12. APPROPRIATE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MINISTRY / DEPARTMENT TO CONTROL ANIMAL ISSUES : Health and Welfare or Reconstruction and Development;
13. THE ROLE OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT : to what extent will Regional and/or Local Government have responsibility for the abovementioned issues;
14. SPECIALISED ANIMAL COURTS.

The above information is by no means exhaustive and is entirely provisional. The Authors have in no way attempted to elaborate issues with respect to animal rights. This is a different/supplementary area of enquiry which will be dealt with in the ongoing process of consultation.

**THE ALLIANCE SHOULD MAKE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF INTENT IN OUR
ELECTION MANIFESTO WITH REGARD TO ANIMAL ISSUES.**

Address Comments and Inquiries to:

ANC CAPE TOWN CENTRAL BRANCH
ATTENTION : EDWARD SHALALA OR WAYNE MORRIS
P O BOX 3684
CAPE TOWN
8000

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