



For Animals
Ngā Kararehe Haumaru

Supporter Update

SPRING 2020



Keeping animals on the agenda page 6

Live Export
Disaster
page 3

.....
Bringing an end
to the Cage Age
page 4

Working together to ensure the rights of animals

Keeping animals on the agenda

As the days get longer and we step into spring, it is time to reflect on an important season of action for animals.

With New Zealand's general election just around the corner, SAFE is ensuring that animals are still being kept on the political agenda. Together, we are fighting for a new normal – one that doesn't include cruel colony cages or intensive farming practices.

Between lockdowns, we convened a political panel event to discuss the most significant issues facing animals in Aotearoa today. The panellists included former Green MP Gareth Hughes, New Zealand First MP Mark Patterson, National MP David Bennett and Agriculture Minister Hon. Damien O'Connor, from the Labour Party. Meanwhile, we tackled other pressing matters such as exposing winter grazing and pushing for a ban on live export in light of September's live export disaster.

In the following pages you can find further information and updates on all of these important issues and more.

On behalf of the team at SAFE, thank you for standing with us to create a kinder word for all animals.



Debra Ashton
Chief Executive Officer

Help us advocate for a **CROWN ENTITY FOR ANIMALS**

A dedicated voice for animals with the power and resources to ensure our animal welfare laws are upheld.

Go to www.safe.org.nz to take action.



Image: Jo Moore Photography



LIVE EXPORT DISASTER

On 3 September, Gulf Livestock 1 capsized with the loss of 41 crew and almost 6,000 cows.

After announcing a temporary ban on live export tThe Labour-led Government announced a temporary ban on live export following the disaster, but have swiftly and quietly given the okay to resume exports ‘conditionally’ on 24 October. Catastrophic loss of human and animal life and international headlines about our unsafe trade practices apparently mean little to our political leaders.

Live export is not worth the suffering, the politics or the profit. It’s not worth the kind, high welfare reputation we present to our trade partners.

But live export is not worth the suffering, the politics or the profit. It’s not worth the kind, high welfare reputation we present to our trade partners.

With your support SAFE launched an ambitious international awareness campaign to shine the spotlight on New Zealand’s continuing cruel live export



Above: Live export ship Gulf Livestock 1

trade. With advertising targeted across social media audiences in Europe, Australia and the US and in the Guardian online, we called for people to speak up and contact Labour leader Jacinda Ardern to demand a complete ban on live export from New Zealand. We also published an open letter in the NZ Herald and five other leading regional newspapers co-signed by SPCA NZ CEO, Andrea Midgen, highlighting the need for a ban.

The time for Government reviews and discussion has passed. We know that live export is not worth the risk – what we need now is decisive action. ■

Visit safe.org.nz for more information on how you can help



Bringing an *end* TO THE CAGE AGE

For years we have worked along with you to free hens from cages as a core part of our advocacy. Together, we have persevered for animals, and now our voices are being heard.

With our general election just around the corner, there has never been a better time to demand for an end to the cage age, once and for all.

Kiwis' attitudes towards eggs have shifted enormously since the last election. In 2017, in response to SAFE's campaigning and subsequent public pressure, all major NZ supermarkets announced their commitment to no longer selling caged eggs. Since then, a staggering number of restaurant chains, petrol stations, convenience store brands and food service wholesalers have all followed suit and made their own cage-free commitments.

Battery or colony
— a cage is still a cage.

In 2012, we secured a ban on battery cages. Now the most important thing we can do for hens is to secure a legal ban on colony cages. With our elected representatives vying for our attention, it is the perfect time to follow up on the broken promises from before the 2016 election. Both the Labour Party and the Green Party promised in 2014 to ban cages if they were elected – but six years on, millions of hens are still waiting. Battery or colony – a cage is still a cage.

IT'S TIME

TO PUT THE CHICKEN

BEFORE THE EGG

*Help free hens
from cages*



In the lead up to this general election, we will be meeting with decision makers, raising public awareness and putting pressure on MPs to put animals on the agenda and commit to a ban on cruel colony cages for hens. COVID-19 has affected the work we are able to do at a consumer level – not just in New Zealand, but internationally by our partner organisations in the Open Wing Alliance. This is why a legislative ban is more important than ever before.

SAFE's work to free hens from cages will not stop until these sensitive animals are free – but we need your help. ■

You can help by:

- Contacting your MP and telling them why you want a total legislative ban on cages for hens.
- Tell the Minister of Agriculture that a legislative ban is the only way to keep hens free from cages. Email Hon Damien O'Connor at d.o'connor@ministers.govt.nz.

No market for *cruel cage eggs* anymore

According to the Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand, over the past 19 months the number of colony caged hens in New Zealand has only increased by around 161,000 hens. It is understood that this increase is the result of a single new colony cage farm that was built last

year. With over 180 egg farms in New Zealand, and a national hen flock growing from 3.6 to 4.1 million hens over the last year, this strongly indicates the majority of the egg industry understands there is no market for cruel cage eggs anymore. Without the support of caring people like you, we would have

seen the current battery hen flock (1.6 million hens) be moved into colony cage systems by 2023!

It's encouraging that the industry hasn't invested in large scale colony cage farms – yet. Let's keep it that way.



Political Panel for Animals 2020 — *It's Time!*

SUPPORTER UPDATE / SPRING 2020 | 6

Ahead of the New Zealand 2020 general election, SAFE convened a political panel to discuss the most pertinent issues facing animals in Aotearoa today.

The panel was hosted by journalist Charlotte Graham-McLay and was attended by panellists Green MP Gareth Hughes, New Zealand First MP Mark Patterson, National MP David Bennett and Agriculture Minister, Hon. Damien O'Connor.

The panel proved to be one of the most important conversations had about animals in New Zealand, revealing where key political parties stand on the animal issues we all care about most. This included everything from live export and rodeo, to animal welfare enforcement and intensive farming.

Right: SAFE CEO Debra Ashton and SAFE's Campaign Assistant, Paris Waterworth.

The panel proved to be one of the most important conversations had about animals in New Zealand.





From left to right: New Zealand First MP Mark Patterson, Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor, Green MP Gareth Hughes, National MP David Bennett and host Charlotte Graham-McLay.

We'd like to give a huge thank you to all our wonderful supporters who joined us for this event. Over 1,000 of you registered to watch live on the night, and hundreds of you sent in your pressing questions for the panellists.

Colony cages were a key talking point for the evening, with the panellists expressing varying degrees of concern about hens still being kept in cramped cages. The Green Party went a step further and committed to phase out colony cages and all intensive animal farming! While not every politician agreed to the same extent, they all knew that the writing is on the wall for colony cages. ■

They all knew the writing is on the wall for colony cages.

If you missed out on the live panel, you can watch the recording on SAFE's YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/SAFEAnimalAdvocacy.

Intensive Winter Grazing

SUPPORTER UPDATE / SPRING 2020 | 8

The appalling scenes of animals deep in mud and mother cows being forced to give birth in cold, wet, muddy conditions with no shelter, shocked Kiwis. This exposé led to a government taskforce being set up. However, despite new rules being written for what is and isn't allowed, we've seen the same conditions on many farms again this winter, especially in Southland and Otago.

Yet again, we are seeing farmers confining large numbers of cows in small barren areas, to make dairying profitable in parts of New Zealand that are known for their

cold, wet winters. And it's not just animals who suffer from these dirty dairying practices. Waterways get polluted from these intensive winter grazing practices too.

When complaints are made to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), even when inspectors visit farms, little, if anything, changes for these animals. MPI has a conflict of interest in that their job is to promote New Zealand's primary industries, including dairy, while also being the body who are supposed to protect the welfare of animals on farms. ■

Animals deserve better!

We need an independent Crown entity to take over this essential job.

Please email Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor telling them why you want a Crown entity for animals at

safe.org.nz/take-action/demand-an-independent-agency/



What is winter grazing?

Winter grazing is the practice of 'strip feeding' animals including cows, sheep and deer over the colder months, when grass is scarce. A large number of animals are confined to a restricted area, where they remain until the land is grazed to bare mud.

This practice causes animals to suffer, they can experience dental problems to negative social interactions to death. Additionally, intensive winter grazing causes environmental damage and is also problematic for human health.

ANIMAL SQUAD *update*

The Animal Squad is overflowing with kind kids who want to make the world a better place for animals. This winter, we teamed up with KidsFest to host the annual Animal Squad beach clean for animals on New Brighton beach. A crowd of kind Canterbury kids braved the winter elements and collected piles upon piles of rubbish. Most of it was plastic that had been broken down by the ocean swell and washed back up onto the beach. This debris is particularly troubling as it can look like an especially tasty treat for marine life and it can be quite hard to spot!

Meanwhile, as part of our latest newsletter release, we asked members to “be a hero for chickens”. Kids let Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern know that we want chickens out of cages by sending her colouring pages about why chickens deserve better. Animal Squad also held an animal photography competition which received over 400 submissions. The SAFE team was in awe of all the stunning entries we received – we certainly have a talented squad of budding young photographers!

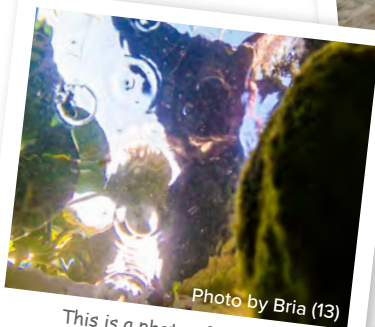


Photo by Bria (13)

This is a photo of my dog getting her tennis ball from the pond in our backyard.

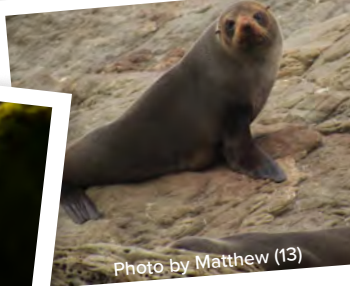


Photo by Matthew (13)

I took this photo in Kaikoura on my way to Picton. We stopped to visit the seal colony.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the awesome work that our members have done so far in 2020. It is wonderful to see so many motivated, creative and caring young people take a stand for the rights of animals in Aotearoa.

Our website has all the tools you need to help kids help animals. Check it out today!
safeanimalsquad.org.nz/action-kit



We were incredibly grateful to host a team of such compassionate kids!





ANIMAL ACTION NETWORK *update*

What happens when a group of passionate people all band together against injustice? They get results! That was certainly the case when members of SAFE Animal Action Network demanded that disgraced dairy farmer Nick Bertram be stripped of his 'Share Farmer of the Year' award.

Bertram had been awarded the prestigious title, along with over \$50,000 worth of prizes, but those who saw his worrying tweets, bragging about violative and illegal milking procedures and referring to the cows in his care as 'b****s', were not impressed and demanded Bertram be stripped of his award. After extensive media coverage, multiple emails, phone calls and Facebook comments, the Dairy Industry Awards announced their decision to strip Bertram of his award and launch an investigation. Great team work!

If you have a few minutes to spare each week to take part in actions like this and want to help create a better world for animals, join SAFE Animal Action Network today! Visit us at:

safe.org.nz/get-involved/safe-animal-network



Right: SAFE reps Laura Gentle and Michelle Perkins busily working the Go Green Expo stall in Christchurch.

Outreach between lockdowns

Between lockdowns we managed to squeeze in a very busy and successful stall at the Christchurch Go Green Expo. As usual, the crowd didn't disappoint, and we gave away close to 700 Plant-Based Starter Guides to Kiwis who wanted to know more about how plant-based eating can heal our planet, better our health and save animals.

You can download or order your free copy of the Plant-Based Starter Guide at:
safe.org.nz/take-action/guide-to-goodness



Above: Packed crowds at the Christchurch Go Green Expo.

WELLINGTON

Winter Actions

During winter in our windy capital, SAFE attended two important events for animals.

Racing industries cruelty

SAFE joined the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses at Parliament where they presented their petition asking our Government to cancel their \$72.5 million bailout for the racing industry.

Over 11,000 people signed the petition, which was accepted by Green MP Gareth Hughes. Speeches from Frances Baker, co-organiser for the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses New Zealand, as well as SAFE's Campaigns Director, Ilan Goldberg, highlighted how the racing industry inflicts incredible cruelty on the animals involved. Racehorses are pushed



Above: SAFE stood outside parliament in solidarity with the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses.

far beyond their limits, resulting in painful injuries, bleeding from the lungs and even deaths on track. Taxpayer money should instead be invested in cruelty-free industries that do not exploit animals for the sake of sport or entertainment.



“I’m trying. I don’t know if it does any good. But I know doing nothing does no good.”

—Regan Russell

Justice for Regan Russell

SAFE also supported a peaceful protest outside the Canadian High Commission, organised by the group Wellington Animal Save.

In late June, Canadian animal activist Regan Russell attended a vigil for animals outside a slaughterhouse in Toronto. It was a scorching hot day, and Russell was giving water to pigs that arrived in trucks. As well as showing kindness to animals in their last moments of life, Russell was also there protesting an ‘ag-gag’ law which had just been passed. In a tragic turn of events, Russell was struck and



Above: SAFE Campaigns Director, Ilan Goldberg, delivering a speech in honour of Regan Russell outside the Canadian High Commission.

killed by a truck carrying pigs, which unexpectedly accelerated and turned towards her, ending her life. The driver was charged with only a traffic offense.

SAFE joined the protest in Wellington to call for accountability and justice for the death of Regan Russell, and to demand an end to ‘ag-gag’ laws, which try to cover up animal exploitation.

EAT KIND *update*



Mooove over, dairy – it's time to give plant-based a go!

If you've been thinking about trying plant-based but want to take things slower, or perhaps you're vegetarian but stuck on the idea of giving up cheese, we have just the thing for you!

During the winter months, Eat Kind have been busily creating the new Dairy-Free Challenge email series, which covers everything from plant-based cheeses to ice cream, condiments, spreads and milk alternatives – making dairy-free easy for everyone.

Learn how to make creamy sauces, how to work with the magical ingredient to turn everything 'cheesy' – nutritional yeast,

how to make your own plant milk using two ingredients and how to assure your family that your bones and teeth will be just fine without dairy, as we debunk the dairy myths.

The Dairy-Free Challenge is free, and it's packed with information about dairy-free products you can find right here in Aotearoa! Visit safe.org.nz/take-action/dairy-free/ and sign up today.

The Dairy-Free Challenge is free, and it's packed with information about dairy-free products you can find right here in Aotearoa!

Visit safe.org.nz/take-action/dairy-free

Update to Eat Kind's Plant-Based Challenge

You'll also be pleased to know that we've been listening to your feedback and have recently updated the Plant-Based Challenge email series. It now includes new and exciting products, more options for dining out, and lots of tasty recipes. So even if you've taken the challenge before, you can still learn something from taking

it again. Our number one goal is to make eating kind as easy, fun and inspiring as possible for everyone!

To take the challenge visit safe.org.nz/take-action/eat-kind-challenge

Animal Matters.

Animal Matters is now accessible through all the top podcasting platforms including Spotify and Apple podcasts. To subscribe, head to safe.org.nz/animalmatters

SAFE launches podcast show

Since the beginning of April, subscribers of the Animal Matters podcast have been able to get the scoop on the latest current affairs involving animals every fortnight. We recently passed our first milestone with our tenth episode and look forward to growing the show in the months to come.

We've spoken to decision makers, like Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage, who

we questioned over the current methods of pest control. In episode two, we spoke to departing MP Gareth Hughes, an ally for SAFE and the sole voice for animals in Parliament.

We've also made connections with some of the leading animal rights voices globally. In episode eight, we spoke with Camille Labchuk, Executive Director of Animal Justice in Canada. In that same episode, we spoke with Regan Russell's close friends,

after Regan was tragically killed campaigning against a pig slaughterhouse in Toronto.

Other leading voices who have joined us on the podcast include Dr. Michael Greger, who spoke about the links between intensive farming and zoonotic diseases, and Jake Conroy, who shared his story campaigning against one of the world's largest animal testing laboratories, a campaign that saw him spend four years in federal prison.

Recent Podcasts



The dairy industry's uncomfortable truth, and carnism with **Melanie Joy**



Putting the chicken before the egg, and a conversation with **Jake Conroy**



Political Panel for Animals 2020– It's Time!



The dairy industry's failings, and rescuing animals with **Shawn Bishop**



In memory of Regan Russell, featuring her friends, Toronto Pig Save, and **Camille Labchuk**



Our attitudes towards animals considered pests, and going plant-based with **SAFE's Eat Kind team**



For Animals
Ngā Kararehe Haumaru

safe.org.nz



“I am no longer
accepting the things
I cannot change.
I am changing the things
I cannot accept.”

Anonymous

Thank you
for your support
and helping us make
a kinder world
for animals.



Facebook | Twitter | Pinterest | Instagram: **SAFEnewzealand**

YouTube: **SAFEAnimalAdvocacy**

PO BOX 28110 Kelburn, Wellington 6150