

# MAKING TRACKS



**This summer UK Green MEPs joined an overwhelming majority of their colleagues in voting to end EU subsidies being used to raise bulls for bullfighting.**

The European Parliament was considering the future of food and farming in the EU. During the votes, MEPs supported, 358 to 291, an amendment demanding the end of a controversial Common Agricultural Policy that permitted bullfighting subsidies.

Keith, Vice Chair of the European Parliament's Animal Welfare Intergroup, said: "The vote is just the latest example of what the Greens have said all along: the EU isn't perfect but we are fighting and winning on reform. It is by working together across borders that we can do the most good for the most animals in Europe."



*Bull-fighting is an outdated and barbaric industry; this vote to remove EU funding should, hopefully, see it collapse entirely."*

Jean said: "This report is a positive improvement and important recognition of the importance of animal welfare in Europe. National governments must now work with the Parliament to stop EU funds being used to prop up this dying practice which degrades us all."

Molly added: "This vote shows that the European Parliament is not afraid to tackle cultural traditions, where and when these contravene human and animal rights."

## DISAPPOINTED BUT NOT 'STUNNED' BY DESPICABLE SAUDI DEAL

Keith has condemned the UK government's export deal with Saudi Arabia to allow meat from lambs slaughtered without being stunned. The South East MEP said:

"Understandably, the focus of much widespread condemnation has been the Conservatives' insistence on selling Saudis the weapons used against Yemeni civilians. What has attracted much less attention, however, has been the decision to misapply EU rules to facilitate a £25m deal to export non-stunned

lamb meat to the Kingdom of cruelty."

"It is a reminder that Ministers may have realised the PR benefits of talking the talk on animal welfare issues but fail to walk the walk. This just the latest sign that Tories see no issue in sacrificing animal welfare standards on the altar of free trade post-Brexit. Take, as another example, the desperate rush to sign a deal with Trump's chlorine-washed and hormone-fed America."

## GOVE'S LIVE EXPORTS U-TURN FURTHER PROOF OF BREXITEERS 'HOLLOW' PROMISES

In response to Michael Gove's decision to back off from a ban on live animal exports, despite Vote Leave's claims during the referendum, Keith said:

"Time and again, leading Brexit campaigners like Michael Gove have shown that their promises are hollow. Reneging on the pledge to ban the cruel practice of live exports might not be surprising, but that doesn't make it acceptable."

"It has become blindingly clear that Gove, Johnson and their Brexiteer colleagues cannot be trusted. Greens will continue

fighting alongside campaigners in the UK and across Europe for an immediate end to this barbaric industry."

In March this year, Keith published an 'Animals and Brexit' report outlining why Brexit is not the silver bullet to end live exports while setting out a path to banning the barbaric industry for good.



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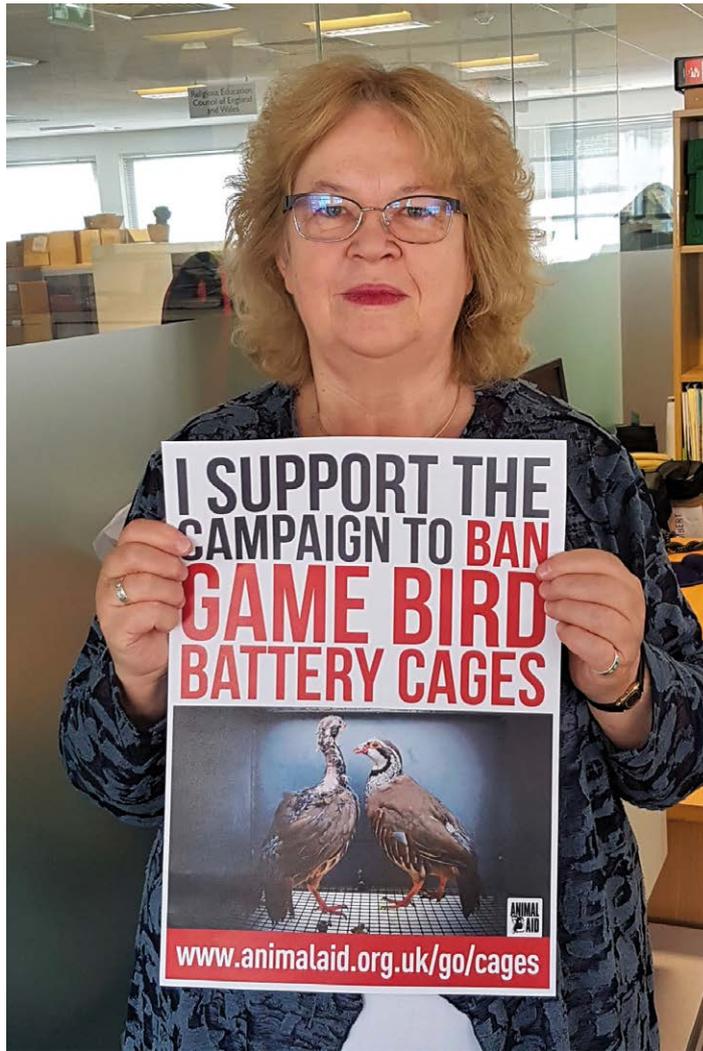
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# WE MUST BAN GAME BIRD BATTERY CAGES!

Around 50 million pheasants and partridges are reared in the UK each year for shooting – often bred in caged battery units, and sometimes in totally barren cages. Jean wrote to Michael Gove, calling on him to take urgent action to stop this cruel practice and ensure the proper enforcement of the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds. His reply was very disappointing.

Jean said: *“Welfare standards should not be lower for birds reared for shooting than for animals reared for food – although many would question the need to rear them anyway. Yet, the current system does exactly that. I’m echoing calls from Animal Aid, Compassion in World Farming, the RSPCA and others, urging Defra to crackdown on the operators who keep gamebirds in these cramped and cruel conditions. It’s time to overhaul the current regulatory system and make sure it’s fit for purpose”.*



## WALKIES TO PARLIAMENT FOR A PEOPLE’S VOTE

Since the Brexit vote, EU nationals have been leaving the UK at an unprecedented rate. This includes many of the people qualified to care for our companion animals. According to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, around half of new UK registrants each year graduate from vet schools in other EU countries. In response, thousands of dogs (and their companions!) will march to Parliament in October demanding a ‘Woofendum’ on the final Brexit deal.

Jean said in support: *“Almost 20% of EU veterinary staff working in Britain are already actively seeking work elsewhere. If the government continues down this reckless path we could see veterinary surgeries stripping back services or closing down, leading to reduced access and higher costs. Now we’ve seen the potential damage – not only to people in the UK, but their pets – we need a People’s Vote on Brexit”.*

## TIME TO VACCINATE OUR MUCH-LOVED BADGERS



**Killing me won't stop TB**

STOP THE CULL  [join.greenparty.org.uk](http://join.greenparty.org.uk) 

The Green Party of England and Wales campaigns vigorously against the cull of badgers through Greens for Animal Protection (GAP)

The Environment Secretary, Michael Gove, has approved 11 new badger cull licences including in Cornwall, Devon, Gloucestershire and Somerset.

Over 40,000 badgers could be killed across the country by the end of 2018, more than during the last five years of the badger cull combined.

Shooting badgers can lead to them experiencing long painful deaths and is condemned as inhumane by the British Veterinary Association.

The government has yet to provide any reliable evidence that badger culling is having any significant impact on reducing the rates of bovine TB. The cull policy is also hugely expensive,

costing the tax payer over £1,000 per badger. Meanwhile, badger vaccination teams across Britain are now trapping and vaccinating badgers against TB for less than £200 per badger.

Molly said: *“If the government is serious about reducing the spread of TB in badgers, it should halt the cruel, ineffective and hugely costly badger cull and introduce a publicly funded national badger vaccination programme. This should be combined with improved TB testing for cattle, tighter bio security and cattle movement controls. This would create a win-win-win-win, for farmers, tax payers and for our much-loved badgers.”*