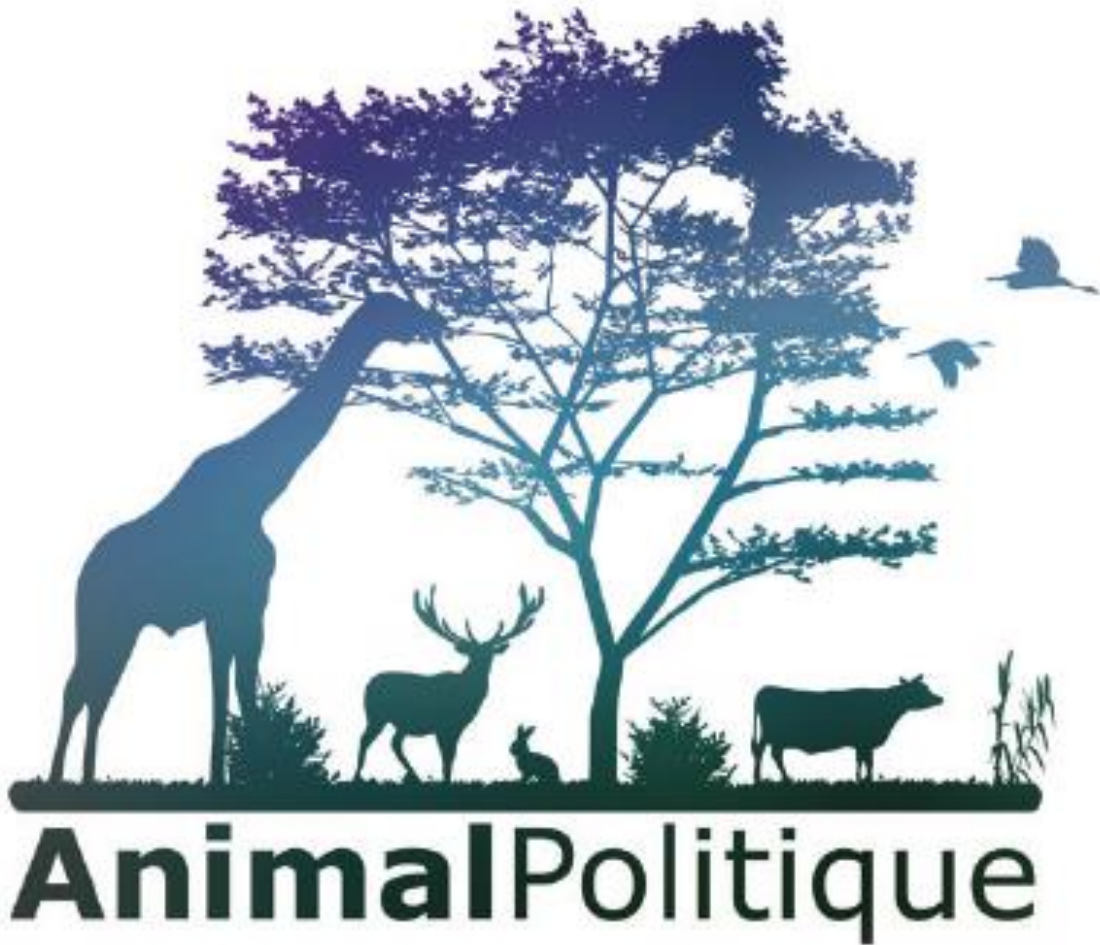


# **AnimalPolitique**

## **Manifesto**



# **AnimalPolitique**

**30 proposals**  
to bring animal welfare  
to the forefront of politics

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# The AnimalPolitique Collective

Despite France's growing interest in animal welfare, and the condemnation of animal cruelty, as well as recognition that animals are sentient beings, by both science and French law, there is still a significant lack of political commitment to improve their situation, which is at odds with the majority of the population's expectations.

In light of this situation, 26 animal welfare organisations have decided to join forces, combining their wealth of experience to form the AnimalPolitique (Policies for Animals) collective. Our aim is to give those who cannot defend themselves a voice, and bring important issues concerning animals to the forefront of the political agenda.

In anticipation of the forthcoming 2017 French presidential election (at the time of publication the election had not yet taken place), our collective has drawn up AnimalPolitique's manifesto. It provides an overview of the current situation regarding wild and domestic animals in France, and outlines 30 concrete and realistic proposals, which can be implemented immediately, to voice our most pressing concerns for each of the six main areas of animal welfare. These are as follows: livestock, animal testing, animals in the entertainment industry, pets, wildlife, and the role of animals in our society.

The manifesto is aimed at the French presidential candidates, as well as the parliamentary candidates, in the hope that they will publicly take a stand on each of these issues.

Today, together, we can build an animal-friendly society.

## **AnimalPolitique's members:**

Alliance Anticorrida (Anti-Bullfighting Alliance), Antidote Europe, ASPAS (Association for the Protection of Wild Animals), Association Stéphane Lamart (Stéphane Lamart Association), C'est Assez! (Enough is Enough!), CIWF France (Compassion In World Farming France), CNSPA (National Confederation of the French Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), Code Animal, CRAC Europe (Radical Anti-Bullfighting Committee Europe), FLAC (Federation for the Fight to Abolish Bullfighting), Fondation Assistance aux Animaux (French Animal Assistance Foundation), LFDA (French Foundation for Animal Rights, Ethics and Science), Fondation Brigitte Bardot (Brigitte Bardot Foundation), Fondation 30 millions d'amis (30 Million Friends Foundation), FUDA (United Forces for Animal Rights), IFAW France (International Fund for Animal Welfare France), L214, OABA (Association for Assistance for Slaughterhouse Animals), One Voice, PETA France (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals France), Pro Anima, SNDA (French National Society for the Defence of Animals), Sea Shepherd France, la SPA (French Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), WELFARM, and 269 Life France.

# Foreword

Every year in France, several billion animals are used for their meat, hide, fur and plumage, as well as for scientific experiments, education, entertainment, and even companionship. Humans interact and cohabit with millions of wild animals. Animals play a crucial role in both our society and our everyday life. Their own interests, however, are rarely taken into account. It is therefore essential that we respect the intrinsic value of animals, recognized by the European Union, and behave accordingly.

The law (Article L. 214-1 of the French Rural Code, and Article 515-14 of the French Civil Code) recognizes that animals are living, sentient beings. However, the legal status of animals still does not adequately safeguard them, and some species are not protected by any specific regulations. As for the current regulations, even when they are enforced, they still allow some practices which cause animals to suffer.

We must not forget the current situation of livestock in France. Throughout their entire lives, livestock are mostly confined in cages or enclosed buildings, in conditions which do not meet their physiological and behavioural needs. Almost 2 million animals are treated as objects for experimentation. Bullfighting, cockfighting, circus acts, and zoos continue to this day, just for the sake of tradition, despite their violent nature. Even pets are not spared and are victims of abuse, neglect, intensive breeding, abandonment (more than 100,000 cases each year in France) – the list goes on. Wild animals, for their part, suffer from the impact of human activities on their environment, while fishing and hunting continue to be considered recreational activities.

Animal welfare organisations, which work on a daily basis to protect and defend animals, are gathering more and more support among the French. The general public has largely expressed support for animal welfare, and in a survey conducted in 2012 during the French presidential election, 81% of the French said that they believed that it was important to protect animals.

Our relationship with animals is a major and unavoidable challenge facing society today, and it must finally be addressed in political debates. It is the responsibility of every individual in the political sphere to quickly and sustainably improve the living conditions of animals.

# Livestock

More than a billion terrestrial animals are slaughtered every year in France, mainly for food. The majority of them are intensively reared in conditions which do not meet their physiological and behavioural needs, for example, kept in battery cages and confined in buildings. So that the animals are adapted to the livestock industry or production targets, they are forced to undergo numerous painful practises, such as mutilations, force-feeding, and harmful genetic selections. This suffering is not just restricted to the confines of the farm, but also takes place during their transportation. While they are being transported, animals suffer from stress and pain, and this particularly exacerbated during long journeys. Human errors, equipment failures and institutional problems in the livestock industry, as well as slaughtering the animals without stunning them beforehand, all contribute to extreme suffering in the slaughterhouse.

Lastly, food which is currently available in supermarkets is poorly labelled and not diverse enough, and does not enable consumers to help improve the welfare of livestock. Alongside reducing our consumption of animal products, there is an urgent need to promote change in farms, using incentives, so that the livestock industry becomes more animal-friendly.

This is why we believe we urgently need to implement the following actions:

- 1. Promote raising livestock outdoors, and ban cages, as well as livestock conditions which do not meet the animals' needs.**
- 2. Put an end to painful rearing practices, such as castration without anaesthetic, dehorning, and force-feeding.**
- 3. Limit the length of time for which live animals are allowed to be transported, and stop exporting them outside the European Union.**
- 4. Improve animal welfare at the slaughterhouse, and make it mandatory for every animal to be stunned before they are slaughtered.**
- 5. Develop food and agricultural policies based on a better understanding of animals and their welfare (for example, labelling food products with the farming methods used and how the animals were slaughtered, and providing vegetable alternatives), and make signing free trade treaties, such as TAFTA and CETA, conditional upon adoption of clauses benefitting animal welfare.**

# Animal Testing

In 2014, statistics from the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research reported that 1.8 million animals were used for experiments, while, at the same time, scientists were questioning the suitability of 'animals as models' in studies of human health. Almost one million of these animals were subjected to procedures causing moderate to severe pain, and 19% suffered from a genetic mutation. The majority of the animals suffering from a genetic mutation exhibited a harmful phenotype.

Current French regulations are the result of implementing Directive 2010/63/EU, which aims to improve animal welfare by applying the principle of the Three Rs (replace, reduce and refine the use of animals used for scientific purposes), with the ultimate aim being to completely replace animal testing.

In order to allow alternative methods to animal testing to be developed and promoted in France, an independent body must be created, because the current network, FRANCOPA (French Platform for the Development of Alternative Methods in Animal Testing), is not being provided with the necessary resources. In conjunction with the creation of an independent body, a national plan must be launched in France which would provide tax incentives, and grants for purchasing material substitutes for educational purposes, or better yet, scholarships and degrees related to the field of alternative methods. Furthermore, the term 'alternative' could result in confusion with the principle of the Three Rs, undermining the effort made to promote replacement methods. Unambiguous terminology is needed. Lastly, the implementation of the Directive must be improved with regard to forming ethics committees and stipulating sanctions in the event of non-compliance with the legislation.

This is why we believe we urgently need to implement the following actions:

- 6. Replace the terminology 'alternative method' with 'replacement method'. The term 'replacement method' strictly means methods which do not involve any animal, whether alive or killed for this purpose.**
- 7. Create an independent administrative body dedicated to the development and promotion of replacement methods.**
- 8. Launch a national plan for replacement methods in France.**
- 9. Set up ethics committees in research institutions which are fully independent.**
- 10. Establish effective criminal sanctions that act as a deterrent.**

# Animals in the Entertainment Industry

Captured, separated from their families, reared to be displayed throughout their whole life or sent to their death in a bullring, trained to perform unnatural acts, and afflicted by behavioural problems, animals held prisoner by the entertainment industry suffer in captivity. Nevertheless, zoos, circuses, dolphinariums, and bullrings are still considered entertainment venues.

Relieving the suffering of these animals and improving their daily lives is a matter of urgency. For example, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) has recognized that animals are not suited to a circus life, as circus acts do not reflect natural animal behaviour, whilst the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has urged France to ban minors' access to bullfights, characterizing them as "violent practices" which have a "detrimental impact" on children.

"Freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from physical discomfort; freedom from pain and injury; freedom from fear and distress; and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour." These fundamental freedoms were laid down by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and are considered essential for animal welfare. Today, however, they are far from being respected in venues which make a business out of displaying animals.

This is why we believe we urgently need to implement the following actions:

- 11. Ban capturing and removing wild animals from their natural environment, and ban importing them to France for entertainment purposes.**
- 12. Discontinue the participation and use of wild and domestic animals in mobile or fixed venues and shows.**
- 13. Put an end to exchange and breeding programmes for commercial, entertainment and pedagogical purposes, and scientific studies, in zoos and dolphinariums.**
- 14. Abolish bullfighting and cockfighting.**
- 15. Enforce a code of good practice in French territorial waters to keep wild cetaceans safe from disruptions in the water caused by tourism.**

# Pets

According to the 2014 FACCO (French Federation of Feed Manufacturers for Dogs, Cats, Birds and Other Pets) study conducted by the research agency TNS SOFRES, there are more than 12.7 million cats, 7.3 million dogs, 5.8 million caged birds, 34.2 million ornamental fish, and 2.8 million small mammals in France. This means that France owns more pets than any other European country. In total, more than 63 million pets are living in our homes, and more than one in two households have one or more pets. Based on these facts, and the progress society has made, it is impossible to deny that this topic holds a special place in the hearts of the French, as well as playing a crucial role in current events.

Despite their obvious popularity, pets are often treated unfairly, and are on the receiving end of violence and abuse. In fact, every year in France, more than 100,000 animals are abandoned, and hundreds of proceedings for cases of abuse are brought by organisations which take care of several thousands of animals that are removed from their owners.

Often victims of a consumer society that ultimately only values them as a commodity, and ignores their actual needs, these animals (cats and dogs, but also an increasing number of exotic pets and farm animals) also suffer as a result of their owners' lack of knowledge of their physiological and behavioural needs. This lack of information often leads to the animals being abandoned, not neutered, and sometimes put to sleep for no other reason than the owner's own comfort.

This is why we believe we urgently need to implement the following actions:

- 16. Introduce an effective national sterilization and identification policy for domestic animals, implemented using tax incentives and public information campaigns. Particular attention should be paid to DROM (French Overseas Departments and Territories), which is a special case.**
- 17. Ban individuals from selling animals on commercial websites, free advertisements, and social media.**
- 18. Put the animal's best interests first in cases where an animal needs to be seized.**
- 19. Ban euthanasia if it is not medically justified.**
- 20. Establish animal services to help animals whose owners are facing either specific difficulties or social exclusion.**



# Wildlife

Unlike domestic animals or wild animals in captivity, animals in the wild are not always protected by French law. Inflicting severe suffering on wild animals, or slaughtering them barbarically, does not even result in prosecution. This absurd situation enables all sorts of abuse to take place, whether it is for the sake of tradition, hunting or commercial purposes. Every animal, whether they are captive or free, must be recognized as "living, sentient beings".

In France, more than two thirds of the 91 game species have populations that are in a poor state of conservation. Hunting them causes their numbers to be reduced, increases their scarcity, and counteracts any effective policy put in place to protect them. The only public data available on the number of animals shot dates back to the hunting season 1998-1999, during which 31 million animals were slaughtered. Hunting is also dangerous, and is a source of concern for everyone who wishes to enjoy nature outdoors. During the 2015-16 season, there have been 146 hunting accidents, 10 of which were fatal.

Selling wild animals is also a threat to their survival, and undermines any efforts made against trafficking and poaching.

This is why we believe we urgently need to implement the following actions:

- 21. Recognize that every wild animal is a living, sentient being.**
- 22. Ban barbaric practices, and punish practices that inflict stress on wild animals and do not contribute to their protection or conservation.**
- 23. Reform hunting practices to better protect wildlife, and encourage the natural return of large predators.**
- 24. Implement measures to prevent the public from feeling unsafe due to hunting, so that all outdoor activities can be enjoyed at the same time.**
- 25. Improve how trade in wild animals, which are protected by French and international regulations, is regulated.**

# Animals and Society

A comprehensive policy on the various uses of animals is crucial in order for real change to take place in animal welfare in France.

Respect for animals is not taught in the school curriculum, despite the fact that it is a community value, just like sustainable development. It is also regrettable that professionals who will be in contact with animals or responsible for their protection are not required to undergo training on the animals' needs and behaviour. Similarly, law enforcement and judges often, as a result of a lack of knowledge, experience difficulties in enforcing legal standards protecting animals.

Currently, animal welfare organisations are not routinely included in political decision-making processes, and are not allowed to take people to court in some cases where an animal's life or 'integrity' has been endangered. Furthermore, the status of 'conscientious objectors' and 'whistle-blowers' is not defined, nor adequately protected by the law. Lastly, it is unfortunate that the government lacks an independent body dedicated to animal welfare, and cannot supply reliable figures for various areas involving animals.

This is why we believe we urgently need to implement the following actions:

- 26. Include lessons on respecting animals in the school curriculum, and train the educational staff in this type of education.**
- 27. Make training in ethology and/or animal welfare compulsory for all professionals in contact with animals or responsible for their protection, for example, farmers, the police and judges.**
- 28. Increase protection for 'conscientious objectors' and 'whistle-blowers', and allow organisations to take legal action against any type of offence involving animals.**
- 29. Implement a data collection system that collects reliable figures in all areas involving animals**
- 30. Legitimise animal welfare policies by establishing an autonomous body dedicated to animals, which is independent from the Ministry of Agriculture, and ensure the relevant organisations are prioritised in decision-making bodies.**

## Member Organisations



### **Alliance Anticorrída (Anti-Bullfighting Alliance)**

Based in Nîmes, the capital of bullfighting in France, Alliance Anticorrída has been working tirelessly for 23 years. Its mission is to abolish the cruelty inflicted on bulls and horses used in bullfighting. One of its main successes was banning 'bull-on-a-rope' style bullfighting, as well as several bullfights that were using children as bullfighters.

[www.allianceanticorrída.fr](http://www.allianceanticorrída.fr)



### **Antidote Europe: promoting responsible science**

Antidote Europe is a scientific committee working to achieve better preventative healthcare, and raise awareness of the dangers of using data gathered from animal testing. It also promotes the use of more modern and reliable scientific methods that do not use animal testing, in particular in the field of toxicology, which Antidote Europe specialises in.

[www.antidote-europe.org](http://www.antidote-europe.org)



### **ASPAS (Association for the Protection of Wild Animals)**

The ASPAS is an independent NGO, which has been recognised for its contribution towards protecting wildlife since 1986. In 2008, it was registered as a state-approved charity in France. Its primary aims are to preserve wildlife and natural habitats, including its own 'Réserves de Vie Sauvage®' (Wildlife Reserves).

[www.aspas-nature.org](http://www.aspas-nature.org)



### **Association Stéphane Lamart (Stéphane Lamart Association)**

The Association Stéphane Lamart is a state-approved charity in France, which was established "to defend animal rights". It has been working for over 16 years to improve animal rights. It operates on a national level to rescue all types of animal and defend them in court.

[www.associationstehanelamart.com](http://www.associationstehanelamart.com)



### **C'est Assez! (Enough is Enough!)**

The organisation C'est Assez! strongly condemns the worldwide practice of killing cetaceans, particularly those which take place in Japan and are directly linked to the dolphinarium industry. It strongly condemns dolphinariums, as they are shams, and wants them to be phased out in Europe. It also wants captive cetaceans to be rehabilitated in marine sanctuaries.

[www.cestassez.fr](http://www.cestassez.fr)



### **CIWF France (Compassion In World Farming France)**

CIWF, an international NGO, was established in 1967 by a British dairy farmer in response to increasingly intensive factory farming. CIWF's mission statement is to promote farm animal welfare and end all factory farming. CIWF highlights how animal welfare, public health, food security and environmental issues are all closely linked.

[www.ciwf.fr](http://www.ciwf.fr)



### **CNSPA (National Confederation of the French Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)**

The CNSPA, based in Lyon, was founded in 1926 and is a state-approved charity in France. It unites and supports 260 animal shelters, which are all managed by independent, local associations that cover 94 out of 96 administrative departments in mainland France. These shelters take care of 180,000 animals each year.

[www.cnspa.fr](http://www.cnspa.fr)



### **Code Animal**

Code Animal was established in 2001 and is an organisation independent of any political ideology or religion. It is made up entirely of volunteers, and is based on respect for all living beings, human or non-human. It is dedicated to defending captive animals in circuses, zoos and dolphinariums, as well as exotic pets.

[www.code-animal.com](http://www.code-animal.com)



### **CRAC Europe (Radical Anti-Bullfighting Committee Europe)**

The CRAC is the longest-standing organisation against bullfighting in France. It was founded in 1991 by Jacques Dary and Aimé Tardieu. Previously, the 'R' in CRAC stood for reformist (Reformist Anti-Bullfighting Committee); however, in 2001, the 'R' changed to signify 'radical', reflecting a change in the organisation's policy and their view that the only way forward is the outright abolition of bullfighting. The CRAC Europe, governed by the 1908 law under the Civil Code of Germany, was established in 2007. Its focus is on child protection.

[www.anticorrida.com](http://www.anticorrida.com)



### **FLAC (Federation for the Fight to Abolish Bullfighting)**

The French FLAC takes action against violence committed against children, men, and animals in bullfighting schools and arenas. The FLAC serves as a source of information, an instrument for coordination, and a resource for taking federal action, so that animal welfare organisations can work together efficiently to fight against bullfighting.

[www.flac-anticorrida.org](http://www.flac-anticorrida.org)

### **Fondation Assistance aux Animaux (French Animal Assistance Foundation)**



Established in France in 1930 and registered as a state-approved charity in 1989, the Fondation Assistance aux Animaux manages around 20 animal shelters, veterinary clinics, an educational farm, and animal rehabilitation centres. It rescues abused animals, and prosecutes the perpetrators of abuse.

[www.fondationassistanceauxanimaux.org](http://www.fondationassistanceauxanimaux.org)

### **LFDA (French Foundation for Animal Rights, Ethics and Science)**



The LFDA, a state-approved charity, is a multidisciplinary study group which aims to incorporate scientific advances regarding animals and animal conservation into French law, acting in total independence and taking into account ethical developments in society.

[www.fondation-droit-animal.org](http://www.fondation-droit-animal.org)

### **Fondation Brigitte Bardot (Brigitte Bardot Foundation)**



The Fondation Brigitte Bardot, established in 1986 in France and registered as a state-approved charity in 1992, works to protect wild and domestic animals, both in France and around the world. It takes in thousands of farm animals and pets, as well as supporting conservation programmes in more than 60 countries.

[www.fondationbrigittebardot.fr](http://www.fondationbrigittebardot.fr)

### **Fondation 30 millions d'amis (30 Million Friends Foundation)**



The Fondation 30 millions d'amis, a registered state-charity, has been campaigning for over 30 years to improve animal rights. It works on all fronts, in France and overseas, to defend and protect animals and their rights.

[www.30millionsdamis.fr](http://www.30millionsdamis.fr)

### **FUDA (United Forces for Animal Rights)**



The FUDA is an international NGO for animal welfare, which was founded in 2011 in South America. It exists as part of the fight against all types of animal exploitation and suffering, and its extensive work includes operating on the ground in emergencies, organising rallies and meetings, giving presentations on their work and creating documentaries.

[www.mouvementfuda.com](http://www.mouvementfuda.com)

### **IFAW France (International Fund for Animal Welfare France)**



The IFAW, founded in 1969, is an international organisation working to improve the welfare of wild and domestic animals by taking action to reduce their commercial exploitation, protecting their natural habitats and rescuing animals in distress.

[www.ifaw.org/france/frontpage](http://www.ifaw.org/france/frontpage)



### **L214**

Established in 2008, L214 Éthique & Animaux (L214 Ethics and Animals) is a French association for the protection of animals used in the food industry. Its name is a reference to Article L. 214-1 of the French Rural Code, which recognises that animals are living, sentient beings. L214 aims to contribute to the public debate surrounding the role of animals in society, and raise the issue of speciesism, by organising collective action, and circulating photos and information.  
[www.l214.com](http://www.l214.com)



### **OABA (Association for Assistance for Slaughterhouse Animals)**

The OABA, founded in 1961 and registered as a state-approved charity since 1965, was the first French association dedicated to protecting livestock, from the farm to the slaughterhouse. The OABA carries out projects on the ground, such as rescuing abused animals (1,200 cattle and sheep in 2015), and visiting slaughterhouses.  
[www.oaba.fr](http://www.oaba.fr)



### **One Voice: for animal and global ethics**

One Voice advocates for animal rights and the recognition of the legal status of animals as sentient beings, both in France and overseas. It defends sentient beings against any type of exploitation, regardless of their species, and works towards extending the principle of 'equal consideration of interests' to include all sentient beings.  
[www.one-voice.fr](http://www.one-voice.fr)



### **PETA France (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals France)**

PETA France is a non-profit organisation dedicated to establishing and protecting the rights of all animals. The PETA believes in non-violence. It campaigns by raising public awareness, conducting research, taking legal action, holding special events, involving celebrities in its work, as well as staging protests.  
[www.petafrance.com](http://www.petafrance.com)



### **Pro Anima**

Pro Anima is a scientific committee which promotes responsible research. We strongly condemn animal testing, and we develop concrete alternative solutions by providing financial assistance, thanks to our fundraising campaign 'EthicScience', to scientific programmes which do not involve animal testing. We are trialling the VALITOX programme, a toxicity test that is an alternative to animal testing.  
[www.proanima.fr](http://www.proanima.fr)



### **SNDA (French National Society for the Defence of Animals)**

The SNDA works to ensure that the current legislation protecting animals in France is not only respected, but is also developed to provide animals with better protection. One way the SNDA achieves this is by publishing reports dedicated to specific aspects of animal welfare.

[www.snda.asso.fr](http://www.snda.asso.fr)



### **Sea Shepherd France**

Sea Shepherd is an international, non-profit NGO that fights tirelessly against poaching and defends all types of marine life, particularly in the absence of international police on the high seas and when governments fail to do so in many territorial waters.

[www.seashepherd.fr](http://www.seashepherd.fr)

### **La SPA (French Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals): protecting animals since 1845**

Founded in 1845 and registered as a state-approved charity in 1860, la SPA was the first animal welfare association established in France. Every year, we take in 46,000 animals, and treat 130,000 animals. La SPA is able to do this thanks to its 73 shelters, SPA Welcome Houses (open and friendly meeting places that welcome the public and potential adopters, raising awareness of animal welfare), and veterinary clinics. Our Animal Welfare team and our Anti-Trafficking Unit (known as CAT) conduct 2,500 investigations, and file 450 complaints concerning animal abuse every year.

[www.la-spa.fr](http://www.la-spa.fr)



### **WELFARM: worldwide protection for farm animals**

WELFARM, a state-approved charity, has been campaigning for over 20 years to improve the farming, transport, and slaughter conditions for animals. It works alongside professionals and public institutions to promote a better understanding of animal welfare, and raises public awareness about this issue.

[www.welfarm.fr](http://www.welfarm.fr)



### **269 Life France**

The animal rights organisation, 269 Life France, advocates abolitionist vegan ethics, and campaigns to overthrow the paradigm of society's view that animals are not equal to humans. It achieves this through demonstrations that are both shocking and artistic. 269 Life France advocates redefining the status of animals in France's legislation.

[www.269life-france.org](http://www.269life-france.org)



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