



Alternattiva Demokratika - The Green Party
www.alternattiva.org.mt

ANIMAL WELFARE PROPOSALS - SEPTEMBER 2007

As part of a coalition government, Alternattiva Demokratika will work to implement the following proposals:

- Amending the Animal Welfare Act 2002 such that the minimum fine for dog fighting rises to Lm,2000 to reflect the cruelty of this crime.
- Amendments to make sure that people found guilty of maltreatment of animals are prevented from keeping animals.
- The problem of strays must be tackled effectively. AD proposes the introduction of a centralised dog registration system. All dogs should be micro chipped against a nominal fee. If a dog is found roaming about it can be traced back to its owner. If the owner of the dog does not report his dog missing during a stipulated period, the owner will be charged with abandonment. Money from dog registration fees and fines will go into a neutering fund.
- Ban on the use of animals, particularly exotic animals in circuses.
- A legal structure should be introduced stipulating the maximum number of hours horse-drawn carriages can work (karozzini).
- Enforcement. Introducing Animal Welfare Officers. Although Animal Welfare Officers are mentioned in the Act of 2002, these were never appointed.
- Livestock intended for food production should be given the same welfare protection as other animals. Particular problem areas in animal welfare are livestock transportation and conditions at slaughterhouses.
- Education. Continuous Educational campaigns in schools and media are essential for a mentality change. Animal Welfare Societies should be involved in such programs.

The public is encouraged to send in their comments and proposals about the issue to Simon Galea, AD's Animal Welfare policy coordinator, on email simonmlt@hotmail.com.