



THE VETERINARY SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

Vet Sustain defines sustainability as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, supported by the pillars of environmental stewardship, social and economic equity, and animal health and welfare.

Vet Sustain has compiled the following six interrelated Veterinary Sustainability Goals to highlight the roles of veterinary professionals in driving sustainability, and to unite our professions around the goals and actions required to address multiple connected challenges facing our society. Examples of the actions our professions can undertake and advocate are shown in *italics* beneath each goal.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are “the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all...addressing the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice” (UN, 2020). The veterinary professions are uniquely placed at the human-animal-environment interface to address the SDGs, in our own work including in practice, policy, research, academia, government, non-governmental organisations and industry, and also in the sectors we influence, through the animals under our care. The following goals and actions provide a framework for our professions for contributing to the UN’s SDGs.

THE VETERINARY SUSTAINABILITY GOALS

THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

DIVERSE AND ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

Conserve and enhance natural landscapes, habitats and biological diversity and abundance of wild terrestrial and aquatic plant and animal species



- *Conserving and creating wildlife habitats*
- *Preserving and regenerating high conservation-value landscapes*
- *Mitigating water, air and light pollution*
- *Supporting wildlife health and conservation programmes*
- *Understanding the merits and trade-offs in land-sharing and land-sparing approaches in human activities*
- *Developing and promoting diverse food and farming systems that work in harmony with and restore natural ecosystems*
- *Supporting where appropriate alternative protein-based diets for humans and animals*
- *Promoting sustainable sourcing of feed ingredients and reducing dependence on human-edible feedstuffs for animals*



A GOOD LIFE FOR ANIMALS

Safeguard and advocate for the health and welfare, in life and at the point of death, of animals under our care and those that are affected by human activity



- *Advocating animal welfare as a core sustainability objective, as a hallmark of our social progress*
- *Ensuring recognition of animal sentience in policy and practice*
- *Advocating the use of welfare-centred sustainable breeding practices and appropriate genetic selection*
- *Supporting animal welfare-centred husbandry and management, including stimulating living environments to permit highly motivated behaviours*
- *Ensuring humane slaughter and transport*
- *Supporting the phase-out of mutilations*
- *Advocating for wildlife welfare (e.g. opposing wildlife trade, cruel sports, marine animal entanglement, ocean plastic pollution, habitat loss)*



NET ZERO WARMING

Implement and promote decarbonisation through energy efficiency, the generation and use of renewable energy, mitigation of global warming and sequestration of carbon



- *Developing climate literacy within our profession*
- *Understanding and mitigating the climate impacts of veterinary activities, agriculture and animal ownership, including supporting the concept of less and better to reduce overall consumption of animal derived products whilst buying from higher welfare sources.*
- *Using and generating renewable energy*
- *Sequestering carbon*



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Safeguard and enhance the physical and mental wellbeing of people and support a transition to livelihoods and lifestyles that are fit for the future



- *Supporting food and nutritional security for all*
- *Mitigating antimicrobial resistance*
- *Reducing risk of zoonoses*
- *Improving food safety and quality*
- *Upholding human rights*
- *Identifying and mitigating domestic and animal abuse*
- *Optimising the health benefits of animal ownership*
- *Supporting sustainable livelihoods in our profession and in the sectors we influence*
- *Promoting sustainable lifestyles*
- *Ensuring diversity and inclusion*
- *Supporting mental health and wellbeing, organisations including [Vetlife](#) offer support for the veterinary community*



A NO-WASTE SOCIETY

Minimise the usage and disposal of resources and materials, and support a transition to a circular economy



- *Supporting a circular economy*
- *Reducing food waste from farm-to-fork*
- *Reducing the wastage of resources and its impacts on ecosystems and landscapes*
- *Minimising plastic waste by reusing and recycling materials where possible*
- *Reducing medical waste whilst upholding infection control*
- *Understanding supply chains*



ENOUGH CLEAN WATER FOR ALL

Uphold best practice in fresh water conservation and protection to mitigate water stress and prevent water pollution



- *Conserving and recycling water in the workplace*
- *Understanding and mitigating medicine ecotoxicity*
- *Supporting the conservation and recycling of water in agriculture*
- *Protecting waterways from pollution*
- *Supporting soil health and management*

