

## YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO RESEARCH

# Brexit

and speak **for and against** whether Brexit is good for animal welfare

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**This brief has been produced as part of the *RSPCA's Animal Welfare: The Great Debate* and is a starting point for the research you will need to do into the subject in order to ensure a successful debate. The points for or against a subject may not be RSPCA policy and represent some of the wider thinking around the subject.**

- The UK voted to leave the European Union (EU) in a referendum in 2016. From 29 March 2019, the UK will no longer be a member.
- This means that EU law, which currently covers lots of key areas like rights for workers and protecting the environment, will no longer apply in the UK.
- A lot of law relating to animal welfare is made by the EU. We will now have to make our own choices to replace it and whether we strengthen our standards, weaken them, or leave them as they are.

### FOR

Here are some reasons why Brexit **is good** for animal welfare – what other points can you find?

- Brexit is an opportunity to strengthen animal welfare protection in the UK.
- The EU has stopped us taking action that would have improved animal welfare in some cases. Now we can press on and make these improvements on our own.
- We will have new powers to make our own trade deals – on what and how we buy from and sell to other countries. We can use these powers to make other countries strengthen their animal welfare standards to match ours.

### AGAINST

Here are some reasons why Brexit **is not good** for animal welfare – can you find any more?

- Brexit is such a huge and complicated process, animal welfare could be forgotten and standards allowed to slip.
- Trade deals are a threat to animal welfare. Other countries could sell the UK animal products where the animals have been raised to lower welfare standards, and because these products would be cheaper they would financially harm British farmers too.
- The fact is Brexit is full of things we don't know. How can we be certain what will happen to animals?

### Information you may want to find out

- How much animal welfare law currently comes from the EU? Which animals will be affected?
- What is the UK Government proposing in relation to this topic? What laws has it passed or proposed already?
- How do trade deals work? Why are they so important?

### Potential sources of information

- RSPCA website: [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)
- Political Animal website: [www.politicalanimal.org.uk](http://www.politicalanimal.org.uk)
- RSPCA facts and figures: <http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts>
- Defra website: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-environment-food-rural-affairs)

