



**Conservative Party Conference
Countryside Alliance
Fringe Events 2018
#CAFringe**



Do Animal Rights Influence Elections?

Location: **Birmingham**
Venue: **Fortissimo Room, Hyatt Regency Birmingham**
Date: **Monday 01 October**
Time: **15.45 – 17.00**
Refreshment: **Tea and coffee**

What motivates people to vote is a question that keeps many politicians awake at night. There is no doubt that most people want to see high standards of animal welfare, and campaigners have focused on these issues in countless elections, including the General Election last year. Animal issues often top the list of emails and social media posts received by MPs, but evidence suggests that these campaigns do not translate into votes at the ballot box. Whilst we may be a nation of animal lovers, do animal rights determine how people vote when it comes to elections?

CHAIR: Abi Kay @FGAbiKay

Abi took up the post of Chief Reporter at Farmers Guardian in 2016 after a stint working for the NFU as part of its government affairs team. Prior to that, she spent five years in Parliament as an assistant to a rural MP.

SPEAKER 1: Victoria Prentis MP @VictoriaPrentis

Victoria is MP for Banbury in North Oxfordshire. She is a qualified barrister and worked in the Civil Service for 17 years as a government lawyer before she was first elected to Parliament in 2015. Victoria serves on the Commons Justice Committee and is also Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Leader of the House of Commons, Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP. She was born in Banbury and grew up on the family farm in nearby Aynho.

SPEAKER 2: Tim Bonner @CA_TimB

Tim is Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance. He used to farm in the West Country and joined the Countryside Alliance as a press officer in 2002 at the time of the Liberty and Livelihood March which brought 400,000 people to London to protest against the hunting ban. He became Chief Executive in September 2015 and continues to play a leading role in the campaigning work of the Alliance.

SPEAKER 3: Jim Barrington @jimbarrington

Jim is a consultant on animal welfare to the Countryside Alliance, and Council of Hunting Associations. He is a former Executive Director of the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) and resigned after concluding that a ban on hunting was not in the best interests of animal welfare. He has been involved in various animal welfare campaigns for almost 40 years and is freelance writer and commentator on a range of wildlife management issues.

SPEAKER 4: Johnny Heald @ORB_Johnny

Johnny is Managing Director of the polling and market research company, ORB International. He was appointed in 2006, following eight years as Research Director. The majority of his work is in social and political opinion research. He provided private polling to the Conservative Party for the 2005 and 2010 General Elections and has moderated and reported on more than 300 political focus groups in the UK, including for the BBC. He is also a Vice President of the Gallup International Association.