



How to... Email your MP

Contacting your local member of parliament (MP) is a quick and easy step to help put animal welfare issues onto the political agenda.

While politics can feel frustrating and slow at times, MPs do listen to what voters in their electorate have to say. They depend on your vote for re-election, so use your voice to help bring animal welfare issues to the top of the political agenda.

If you've never emailed, written or called an MP's office before, that's okay! Here are a few tips to help make your first call or email with an MP's office a success:

1. Find out which electorate you're in and who the sitting MP is: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/mps-and-electorates/members-of-parliament/>

You will have a constituency MP elected directly from your area. You may also have a local 'List' MP who is elected via the Party List but may be assigned to represent your area too. It's worth writing to both MPs, who may be from different political parties.

2. Introduce yourself and tell them you live in the electorate. It's important they know that you are a potential voter.

3. Clearly state your position and be as brief as possible. If you've been personally impacted in anyway, it's good to add those details too. Check out our guides for more info.

4. Be polite. As frustrating as it can be when politicians don't take a stand, it's important that the message be heard. Visits, emails or phone calls that contain swearing or anger will often be ignored.

5. If you feel comfortable about having a meeting with an MP let them know you would appreciate the opportunity to meet with them in the next four weeks.

You can contact your local MP(s) about any animal welfare issue that's important to you. But can also support one of our current campaigns.

- **A ban on the global wildlife trade:** The global trade in wildlife is incredibly cruel and it can lead to the spread of zoonotic diseases like Covid-19. That's why we're asking the New Zealand Government to support a ban on the global trade in wildlife.
- **Call on the NZ Government to give Aotearoa New Zealand's animals better protection by:**
 - overhauling the New Zealand Animal Welfare Act.
 - removing the responsibility for animal welfare from The Ministry for Primary Industries.
- **A ban on cruel farming processes:** Millions of pigs, and meat and laying chickens are kept in small, inhumane cages across New Zealand. They are denied basic freedoms and a life worth



living. Ask your MP(s) to support a phase out of battery cages and high-density barns for chickens, and farrowing crates for pigs.

- **Better national environmental laws:** New Zealand's national environmental laws and regulations are occasionally reviewed. Whether it's freshwater or marine / mammal protection, public fireworks use, live animal shipments or winter stock grazing, there are chances throughout the year to speak up for animals. Keep an eye on local media for current opportunities to take part in formal consultation processes and have your say.