



CAP

CONVERGENCE . ANIMAUX . POLITIQUE

ACTIVITY REPORT : 6TH YEAR OF POLITICAL ACTIONS FOR ANIMALS

July 2023

Éditorial

Second five-year term: where do we stand?

A rather favorable configuration in the National Assembly.

Last year's legislative elections were quite profitable for us. While we lost some MPs who were aligned with our cause, we gained many others. Beyond individual dynamics, animal-friendly parties have gained importance in the political arena. For instance, the fact that a party like Europe Ecologie Les Verts (EELV) once again has a group in the National Assembly provides us with an additional opportunity each year to put bills favorable to animals on the agenda. Overall, **we observe a growing interest in animal welfare among MPs**, which is made apparent by the increasing number of outreach efforts initiated by them. This trend reflects the legitimacy gained by CAP, which also gives us better access to the executive branch: our relationships with ministries have intensified this year.

An uncertain political balance, that we must leverage to our advantage.

The current situation is complex: on the one hand, the pension reform has left its mark and created instability that raises the possibility of a dissolution in the coming months or years, which could disrupt political calculations. On the other hand, it has also generated dissatisfaction among the majority's MPs and their allies. This might lead to more freedom on their part, with some being supportive of our demands. It could also push the government to allow these MPs to advance on the issues we champion. As always, it will be our responsibility to remain vigilant and anticipate these macro-political changes while seizing the opportunities they represent.

The European context will be crucial.

Moreover, the European Union will be at the center of our action this year. The 2024 European elections will be an opportunity to enliven the national debate around issues that concern us and perhaps "conquer" new favorable positions from various political forces, as was the case in 2022. But above all, **the European agenda in the coming months highlights issues more or less directly related to animal welfare**, be it in the field of experimentation (REACH revision) or animal husbandry conditions (animal welfare revision). In this context, we are carefully calibrating our national-level action, especially by attempting to influence France's position at the supranational level.

We are only at the beginning of the five-year term, but we must already think about the future!

Our action is part of the long term. Thus, on certain issues, we are already preparing the ground for victories in the next five-year term. Some issues (like hunting and bullfighting) are highly symbolic in our country and can pave the way for future political opportunities. **It is up to us collectively to set achievable short-term goals while keeping the political debate alive around less directly accessible subjects.** Our short-term victories are, in fact, a means to this end. We can already feel the tide turning: let's accelerate this movement together!

 Melvin Josse, founder and director of Convergence Animaux Politique



What is CAP ?

Since 2017, our non-profit organization has made it its mission to **integrate animal protection into the law through effective and coordinated political action**. Our mission revolves around four main areas of action:



Mobilize and raise the awareness of all political decision-makers in favor of the animal cause. Our advocacy efforts aim to identify and create legislative opportunities by fostering collaboration between NGOs and political decision-makers.



Support and coordinate our 25 partner NGOs in their advocacy strategies, promoting the emergence of collective actions and the formulation of common, coherent, and impactful political demands.



Establish and strengthen connections between political and non-governmental actors. Over the past years, we have built a network of political allies who are receptive to the concerns of NGOs. We create opportunities for regular meetings and exchanges.



Inform citizens and foster public debate on these issues.



“ As an NGO, we really need to meet with MPs to propose new bills, vote on them, advocate for our demands in the political debate, and question the government. Politicians, on the other hand, need arguments and our expertise. CAP provides us with the approach to engage with these politicians, exchange ideas with them, and also offers us many tools and opportunities. It provides a framework, such as during CAP meetings, where we can effectively have discussions with them. “

Sophie Maffre-Baugé - President of COLBAC (partner NGO)

Our values

These values guide our actions. We share them with all our supporters and partners to build lasting and aligned relationships.

Independence

We are politically independent and not affiliated with any party or political movement. We believe this independence is essential to convince and mobilize all political actors.

Effectiveness

Above all, we believe in collective effectiveness. Our approach aims to strengthen cooperation between political and associative actors to achieve concrete results. To do so, we strive for professionalism and rigor and develop solid political expertise to promote the adoption of new laws. This way, we can have a significant impact on the lives of millions of animals.

Pragmatism

For us, pragmatism is a prerequisite for effectiveness. We advocate for demands that can be heard by political actors and firmly believe in the utility of taking "small steps" to build more ambitious policies in the long term.

Kindness

Our advocacy work is not about coercion but about persuasion. We are committed to being honest, empathetic, and educational towards all our interlocutors.

Respect

We place great importance on maintaining respectful relationships with all our interlocutors, including our opponents. Likewise, respecting democratic institutions is a fundamental part of our values. We ensure that our actions and discourse uphold dignity and human rights.

What we advocate for

CAP does not have its own political asks, it carries those of its partner NGOs, covering all issues related to animal protection :

 **Farmed animal welfare and food transition**

 **Wild animal welfare**

 **Animal experimentation**

 **Captivity and bullfighting**

 **Pets**

 **Education, governance and law**

Our expertise lies in our advocacy strategy, based on our knowledge of the institutional environment and our relationship building.



The CAP Team



Melvin Josse
Executive Director



Milton Federici
Public Affairs Officer



Hugo Marro-Menotti
Advocacy and Legal Officer



Charlotte Clabaut
Fundraising and Development Officer



Juliette Parade
Operations and Communication Officer



Our sixth year in key figures



25

Partner
NGOs



64

Meetings with
MPs and ministries



3

Events



55

Amendments
tabled



20

Questions to
the government



18

Bills supported



2

Collective
mobilizations



2

Training sessions
for NGOs

A look back at our 10 most impactful actions of the year :

1. Adoption of a bill on coercive collars in the National Assembly.
2. Placing the bill against bullfighting on the agenda.
3. Adoption of an amendment to prohibit the use of wild animals by influencers.
4. A decisive step towards the ban on trophy hunting.
5. Project Finance Law: 26 amendments tabled.
6. Two bills on plant-based food and a ban on hunting were placed on the agenda of the National Assembly.
7. Participation in ministerial meetings on the “Agricultural orientation and future” law.
8. Organization of 3 CAP Events with NGOs and MPs (including 2 on food transition and farmed animal welfare).
9. Submission of a European resolution proposal on animal experimentation.
10. CAP Municipal Network: 5 thematic meetings between local officials and NGOs.

1. Adoption of a bill on coercive collars in the National Assembly.

We accompanied MP Corinne Vignon from the drafting to the submission of a bill aiming to ban the use of choke chains and electric collars on dogs and cats, with three of our partner NGOs (APRAD, Le Chien Mon Ami, and Défense de l'animal). Fourteen amendments were submitted to enrich the text. The proposal was voted in favor with almost unanimous support in the first reading.



2. Placing the bill against bullfighting on the agenda.

This autumn, we accompanied MP Aymeric Caron in the context of his bill to ban bullfighting. We mobilized 34 NGOs to urge all members of the group to prioritize the text and allow for a debate in the Assembly. As a result, it moved from the fourth to the second position on the agenda. Unfortunately, the debate could not take place due to obstruction by some parliamentarians. CAP and its partner NGOs are now supporting two senators on bills aimed at prohibiting minors' access to bullfights.



3. Adoption of an amendment to prohibit the use of wild animals by influencers.

We achieved a victory in Parliament by prohibiting influencers from interacting and featuring themselves with wild animals for content creation on social media, a request we advocated for on behalf of AVES France. Through an amendment proposed by Senators Arnaud Bazin and Céline Boulay-Espéronnier, we were able to enforce the ban on this mistreatment, which fuels wildlife trafficking, captive animal breeding – as the young ones are more docile and favored on social media – and inhumane conditions of captivity, leading to the abandonment of these animals, viewed merely as tools for garnering views.

4. A decisive step towards the ban on trophy hunting.

Throughout the year, we have raised awareness among MPs about the prohibition of importing hunting trophies of certain endangered species, for our partner Humane Society International (HSI) Europe. These efforts led to the submission of a bill by Senator Céline Boulay-Espéronnier on May 26th. CAP is now mobilizing to ensure its debate and adoption in the Senate.

On June 23, an amendment tabled by MP Sandra Regol, initiated by CAP for HSI Europe, aimed at providing customs officers with more resources to combat the illegal importation of hunting trophies, was passed in the National Assembly. This unprecedented vote marks a decisive step towards banning hunting trophies of certain endangered species.

5. Project Finance Law: 26 amendments tabled.

In the context of the Finance Bill and after consulting our partner NGOs, we forwarded their proposed amendments to the deputies. **A rare occurrence, all 26 amendments were tabled.** Unfortunately, the use of Article 49.3 [a constitutional provision allowing the government to pass legislation without a parliamentary vote] prevented these amendments from being included in the text enacted by the government. We will try again to incorporate amendments in favor of animals in the 2024 Finance Bill.

Testimonial of Keyvan Mostafavi, Assiettes Végétales (partner NGO) :

"The support from CAP has been impeccable. I needed to transition to political advocacy. Without CAP's assistance, I would certainly have been much more disoriented. Thank you for enabling organizations to connect with policies and receive training in advocacy. I find your initiative crucial for our movement."



6. Two bills on plant-based food and a ban on hunting were placed on the agenda of the National Assembly.

CAP has been working for several months to include two bills related to animal welfare on the agenda of the parliamentary niche of the Ecologist - NUPES group. MP Charles Fournier tabled **a bill for a ban on hunting on Sundays**. We gathered the support of 27 NGOs to have the bill placed on the agenda through a letter to the parliamentary group, and proposed that our partners be heard before the vote on the bill.

At the same time, we accompanied MP Francesca Pasquini on **a bill on plant-based food**, with our partner NGOs Assiettes végétales and AVF. We supported an event organized by the MP and Greenpeace on the subject, and later organized a visit to a school canteen offering vegetarian options in Paris a few days before the bill was scheduled for a vote in the first position within the parliamentary niche.

On April 6, 2023, both of these bills supported by CAP, were put on the agenda of the National Assembly. Despite the failure to hold a debate, this legislative opportunity served to remind all MPs of the expectations of the French people and reveal their positions on these issues. CAP and its partner NGOs remain committed to promoting new initiatives on these subjects.

7. Participation in ministerial meetings on the “Agricultural orientation and future” law.

CAP represented its partner NGOs during the six-month national consultation process preceding the presentation of a bill on the future of French agriculture, particularly within the livestock subgroup. This bill runs in parallel with the revision of European legislation on animal welfare, which we are closely monitoring. On April 12, CAP notably took part in a **collective mobilization of NGOs and parliamentarians** in front of the National Assembly to call upon the Minister of Agriculture and urge France to take action on this issue.



8. Organization of 3 CAP Events with NGOs and MPs (including 2 on food transition and farmed animal welfare).

Throughout the year, three CAP Events were organized, each gathering around thirty MPs and their staff.

On October 26, 2022, **our first event dedicated to the Food Transition** allowed MPs to benefit from the expertise of NGOs and the experiences shared by local officials, in order to identify future political actions to accelerate the plant-based food transition.

On February 8, 2023, **thematic workshops** covering all topics related to animal welfare in France (wild animals, biodiversity, farming and food, pets, captivity, and bullfighting) allowed NGOs and MPs to discuss upcoming opportunities for action in the form of working groups.

On June 28, 2023, we brought together MPs and NGOs to discuss **the future of farming in France**. Six of our partner NGOs proposed actions to policymakers to move away from intensive farming and improve farmed animal welfare, ban cages, reduce meat production, enhance consumer awareness through animal welfare labeling, and encourage farmers to transition to plant-based alternatives.



“This kind of meeting is truly significant as it allows organizations and MPS to come together, build connections, and also realize the common interest they have in certain issues.”

Capucine Meyer - Humane Society International / Europe (partner NGO)

9. Submission of a European resolution proposal on animal experimentation

We advised MP Vincent Ledoux in the development of a European resolution proposal on the development of alternative methods to animal experimentation. The text has been submitted to the National Assembly, and we are now working on having it included on the agenda.

10. CAP Municipal Network: 5 thematic meetings between local officials and NGOs

Since 2020, the CAP Municipal Network has enabled elected officials with responsibilities for animal welfare in their municipalities to exchange ideas and learn from the expertise of CAP's partner NGOs.

This network, run by a volunteer team, allows more than 50 local officials to exchange information through an online platform as well as in thematic virtual meetings.

This year, our volunteers organized five thematic meetings to help NGOs better understand the challenges at the municipal level and provide local officials with new ways to act on animal welfare issues. Topics covered included animal welfare in public markets, vegetarian meals, the animal charter in cities, and the involvement of NGOs at the municipal level.



Your donations make our action

These advancements would not have been possible without the support of our patrons. Thank you to all those who stand by our side !

Why support Convergence Animaux Politique?

In recent years, animal cause has become a significant societal issue. Since 2017, **CAP has achieved concrete political progress**, including the adoption of the Law against animal cruelty in 2021. **Our approach promotes cooperation** among NGOs and strengthens the collective effectiveness of the movement. **Our strategy has proven its efficiency** and provides the potential for even more significant advancements in the years to come to integrate the protection of animals and their environment into the law.



CAP has been recommended by Effective Altruism France: "CAP has achieved results, and their approach fills a gap in the movement. The issue of animal protection is now given much greater consideration by policymakers since the creation of CAP."



Our nonprofit organization is approved by 1% for the Planet, an international network that brings together actors in environmental philanthropy.

Our actions align with the following Sustainable Development Goals :



How to support us?

Various types of patronage can be considered. Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this further: contact@convergence-animaux-politique.fr



Our Partner NGOs





CAP
CONVERGENCE ANIMAUX POLITIQUE



contact@convergence-animaux-politique.fr

convergence-animaux-politique.fr

Convergence Animaux Politique,
101 Avenue du Général Leclerc 75014 Paris 14

Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique.