



Media release

For immediate distribution
Monday 15 June 2009

Patrick Harvie, MSP, has launched a Cruelty Free office

An MSP for Glasgow can now proudly declare that his constituency office is cruelty free. Patrick Harvie has taken the step to ensure that all the cleaning products in his office are genuinely cruelty free, strictly using those approved under the BUAV's humane standard.

Patrick has joined forces with the BUAV to *Clean Up Cruelty*, supporting the campaign to end animal testing for household products and their ingredients.

Patrick said: "I'm very happy to sign up to the *Clean Up Cruelty* campaign to ensure that no products that have been tested on animals are used in my regional office. Testing cleaning products on animals causes unacceptable pain and suffering to living creatures and is totally unnecessary. I hope other MSPs and MPs will sign up to the campaign and will encourage local businesses in their constituencies to join them."

Michelle Thew, chief executive of the BUAV, said: "It's fantastic that Patrick is supporting our campaign and putting Glasgow on the cruelty free map.

"I call on all politicians to follow his lead and sign up to this important campaign."

81% of the public said they would support a ban¹ on the testing of household products on animals, though many ingredients in UK household products have been, and can continue to be, tested on animals.

In 1997 the Government decided to stop granting licences for cosmetics tests on animals, because the suffering caused was not justified given the trivial nature of the products tested. There is, however, no such prohibition for household products, despite clear public support and very similar arguments.

For more information please contact Erin Seymour, marketing and communications officer, 020 7619 6978 or email erin.seymour@buav.org.

For a list of BUAV approved products please visit www.gocrueltyfree.org.

ENDS

Notes

(1) The Glasgow MSP was presented with a certificate by BUAV senior parliamentary adviser, Jenny Gowen.

¹ CIAO research 2006

(2) The BUAV (British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection) has been campaigning for over 100 years to achieve a world where nobody wants or believes we need to experiment on animals. We are committed to achieving our aims through reliable and reasoned evidence-based debate. We are proudly non-violent and respect the quality of life for all – animals and people.

(3) The BUAV's Humane Cosmetics and Household Products Standard is recognisable by the Leaping Bunny logo, an internationally recognised and patented cruelty-free certification. Approved companies must open up their supply chain to a robust but straightforward audit. The process ensures that neither the product nor, crucially, any of its ingredients have been tested on animals at any stage of the manufacturing cycle since a fixed cut off date. For more information on the auditing process and a list of approved companies visit www.gocrueltyfree.org