

## Universal Declaration for the Welfare of Animals

Preamble:

RECOGNISING that animals are living, sentient beings and therefore deserve special consideration and respect.

RECOGNISING that humans share this planet with other species and other forms of life and that all forms of life co-exist within in interdependent ecosystem.

RECOGNISING that although there are significant social, economic and cultural differences between human societies each should develop in a humane and sustainable manner.

ACKNOWLEDGING that many states already have a system of legal protection for animals both domestic and wild.

SEEKING to ensure the continued effectiveness of these systems and the development of better and more comprehensive animal welfare provisions,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WORLD SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS PROCLAIMS this Universal Declaration for the Welfare of Animals as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to strive by all appropriate means to promote respect for these principles and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance.

### ARTICLE 1

#### Definitions

- "animal" means any non-human mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or invertebrate capable of feeling pain or stress.
- "wildlife" includes any animal which has not been domesticated by humans.
- "human-dependent animals" means any animal whose welfare and survival is under human care and includes companion animals; animals raised for the provision of food, products, draught power, services, scientific research, or entertainment and wild animals held in captivity.
- "companion animals" refers to species which, within the context of the local culture, have traditionally been companions to humans and bred, whether systematically or not, for this purpose.
- "cruelty" means any infliction of unnecessary pain or distress on an animal whether by deliberate act or neglect.
- "welfare" is the degree to which the physical, behavioral and psychological needs of an animal are met.

### ARTICLE 2

#### Fundamental Provisions

- Humans have a positive obligation towards the care and welfare of animals.
- No animal should be killed unnecessarily or be subject to cruel acts by a human.
- Cruelty to any animal should be regarded as a serious offence, recognized as such in legislation at all levels and punishable with sufficient penalties to deter the perpetrator from acting in the same way again.

### ARTICLE 3

#### Wildlife

- Where it is deemed necessary to capture and kill wildlife, and in order to safeguard biodiversity, the maximum number of animals to be taken should be sustainable and determined on the basis of sound scientifically derived management practices.
- Where it is deemed necessary to capture and kill wildlife, only those devices and techniques should be used which do not:
  - inflict cruelty
  - harm non-target animals
  - damage natural habitat
- The capture and killing of wild animals for the purpose of entertainment or sport should be prohibited.
- To ensure the implementation of the above provisions all necessary measures shall be taken to protect habitat and ecosystems.

#### ARTICLE 4

##### Human-dependent animals

- Animals raised under the control of humans or taken into captivity by humans should be afforded the provisions of the basic Five Freedoms, being adopted increasingly throughout the animal welfare world, as follows:
  - Freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
  - Freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
  - Freedom from pain, injury and disease: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment
  - Freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering
  - Freedom to express normal behaviour: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of animal's own kind
- Veterinary surgeons and other qualified persons should be authorized to destroy humanely any animal which is so injured, diseased or distressed that its existence involves its continued suffering.

#### ARTICLE 5

##### Animals raised for food, products and draught power

- Where it is deemed necessary to kill for the provision of food or products, the method applied should immediately render the animal unconscious to pain until death supervenes.
- The process of slaughtering an animal should be carried out by a competent and well-trained individual.
- Animals awaiting slaughter should be unloaded, handled, housed, fed and watered in a humane manner.
- All appropriate steps should be taken to minimize the transportation of animals. Where such transportation does occur animal welfare concerns should be applied.
- The slaughter of animals should be undertaken as close as possible to their place of rearing.
- All appropriate steps shall be taken to ensure that animals used to provide draught power and other work duties for human should be entitled to a reasonable limitation on the duration and intensity of their work; such limitations should be based on a scientific evaluation.

#### ARTICLE 6

##### Companion Animals

- Owners of companion animals should be obliged to take responsibility for their care and welfare for the duration of the animals' lives or to make adequate arrangements to pass them on to a responsible person if they can no longer care for them.
- Appropriate steps should be taken to promote and introduce the neutering of companion animals.
- Appropriate steps should be taken to implement a process of registration and identification of companion animals.
- The commercial trade in companion animals should be subject to strict regulation, licensing and inspection to prevent cruelty and the breeding of unwanted animals.
- Veterinary surgeons and other qualified persons should be authorized to destroy humanely companion animals that are abandoned and cannot be re-homed or provided with adequate care to ensure their welfare.
- The destruction of companion animals by inhumane and indiscriminate methods, including electrocution, poisoning, eating, drowning and strangulation should be prohibited.

#### ARTICLE 7

##### Animals in Sport and Entertainment

- Where animals are used in legitimate sport and entertainment all appropriate steps should be taken to prevent them being exposed to cruelty or suffering.
- Exhibitions and spectacles using animals which are deleterious to their health and welfare should be prohibited.

#### ARTICLE 8

##### Live animals in scientific research

- The use of animals for the purpose of scientific research and testing, should only take place for purposes essential to human or animal welfare, including:
  - finding a cure, prevention or treatment for a specific disease

- developing a product to alleviate suffering or promote health
- the assessment of risk to harmful substances where no alternatives exist
- Where it is deemed necessary to use animals for research and testing purposes, the methods used should ensure that:
  - the number of animals used is minimized
  - pain and distress is minimized and/or alleviated
  - high standards of husbandry and care are provided throughout the animals' lives
- The replacement of experiments on live animals with alternative testing methods should be facilitated where possible and such alternative methods should be promoted, researched and validated.
- The use of animals for the purpose of scientific research and testing should be prohibited wherever:
  - it is possible to obtain information of similar scientific value without using animals
  - information of similar scientific value is already available
  - the results are not essential to human or animal welfare.

This Universal Declaration for the Welfare of Animals was unanimously adopted by the Board members of the World Society for the Protection of Animals at its meeting prior to the Animals 2000 Congress, in London on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2000.

It was further accepted by the 66 countries that attended the Congress and it is hoped it will be approved by the World Society for the Protection of Animals 30 members throughout the world. It will then be presented to the United Nations for approval and inclusion in its charter.