

Organisational Animal Welfare Policy

World Animal Protection is a global not for profit campaigning organisation. We know that every animal counts. As a trusted voice for animals, we are led by science and fuelled by our passion to transform the systems that drive animal suffering and cruelty at scale. With offices in 14 countries, 50 years' experience and consultative status within several UN bodies we have a proven history of protecting animals across the globe.

Scope

This policy covers all staff and volunteers of World Animal Protection and will inform how they deliver and communicate all campaign and project work within our 2021 – 2030 strategic plan.

Policy

The work of World Animal Protection is underpinned by four interrelated dimensions.

The first of these is the science of animal sentience, which is at the heart of everything we do. . Secondly, we want to ensure **sustainability** for animals, people and our planet. Thirdly, we want to **transform systems**. Lastly, we aim to achieve this change at **scale**, benefiting billions of animals around the world.

These dimensions frame this overarching statement under which all our other policy positions will be aligned to achieve our vision of '*A world where animals live free from cruelty and suffering*'.

Sentience

We view the world through the eyes of animals, we give them a voice and we strive to ensure they live a good life where their needs are met. At the heart of all our work and the solutions we propose is the most recent science on sentience. We recognise that animals feel and experience emotions such as joy, pleasure, pain and fear.¹ We believe that every animal deserves a life where the balance of their experiences are positive, and where they can express their natural behaviours, such as freely interacting with others of their own species.

Sustainability

Animal welfare and human welfare are inextricably linked, through the *One Health One Welfare* concept.^{2 3} Urgent issues like the climate emergency, the biodiversity crisis, public health risks (including AMR and pandemic risks), and inequality and social injustice have increased public awareness of our interconnectedness with animals. Our work needs to achieve lasting change and our solutions will position animals, and their humane treatment, as indispensable for achieving a sustainable future.

Systems transformation

Our focus is on transforming entire global systems to break the chain of cruelty that exploits and commodifies animals for profit. These cruel, entrenched systems include the industrial food system and those driving the damaging extraction of wild animals from their natural habitats where they are

¹ Proctor H. (2012) Animal Sentience: Where are We and Where are We Heading? (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4494284/>)

² *One Health One Welfare* highlights the interconnections between the health and wellbeing of animals, humans and the environment (<https://www.onewelfareworld.org/>)

³ Fraser S. (2016) What do we mean by "One Welfare"? (<https://www.oie.int/eng/animal-welfare-conf2016/Abstracts/2.1.%20Fraser.pdf>)

often bred in captivity for consumption, as exotic pets or for traditional medicines, or used in entertainment. These systems are inextricably linked.

An equitable, sustainable and resilient food system capable of feeding the world must be based on respect for animals, both domestic farmed and wild, and for nature. World Animal Protection will promote meat reduction along with the consumption of humane and sustainable proteins. We want wild animals kept in the wild where they belong and we will promote a highly precautionary approach to stop cruel and unsustainable wildlife extraction and exploitation. Very limited and specific exemptions are made for indigenous peoples and local communities for genuine 'subsistence' use of wildlife. We will work with all countries to gain acceptance of these solutions.

With '*almost 50% of humanity's impact on the living world... attributable to the richest 16% of the human population,*'⁴ we recognise equity and social justice are key to transforming systems. All countries bear responsibility for ending cruel exploitation. However, countries who have contributed disproportionately to this problem have the added responsibility to fund solutions such as secure alternative food sources and livelihoods for those who need them.

We believe individual and collective action by millions of our supporters and allies will drive the necessary systems transformation. Our role is to promote a new perspective and bring about a shift in behaviours and mindsets.

Scale

We focus our attention on transforming the lives of the greatest number of animals both now and in the future. We prioritise those animals enduring the most severe and long-lasting suffering. This includes the billions of animals confined in the global industrial food system, the millions of wild animals cruelly exploited in the lucrative global wildlife trade and the wild animals who suffer when their habitats are destroyed or degraded. Habitat destruction occurs largely because of the expansion of the industrialised global food system.

Animals within these systems are also severely impacted when disasters strike. Through partners we will respond to specific emergencies where domestic farm or wild animals are impacted.

Our engagement is informed by our vision and the change we are striving to achieve. We work on our own and in alliance with others, including communities, to influence, advocate and campaign to bring about changes in policies, practices and behaviours that will improve the lives of animals. Our focus of change is often on governments, business, and international institutions.

At World Animal Protection we live our values and will apply them to our own practices, and we engage and work with those who also align with our animal welfare goals.

Although the challenge is great, our determination is greater

Approved by International Board: 02/June/2021

⁴ UK Treasury, *Interim Report – The Dasgupta Review: Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/interim-report-the-dasgupta-review-independent-review-on-the-economics-of-biodiversity>, p31