

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

For the 1990s

BY
AMERICAN ANIMAL
PROTECTION
ORGANIZATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

In order to establish the 1990s as a decade of rapid progress in diminishing the pain and suffering that billions of animals experience each year in laboratories, on farms, in the wild, as pets, in sports and entertainment, in exhibits and work situations, the undersigned humane organizations, representing millions of concerned American citizens have adopted the following Resolutions to promote and guide both individual and joint efforts on behalf of these animals who are so much in need of our immediate and compassionate care and protection.

NON-VIOLENCE

WHEREAS *the foundation of the animal protection movement is that it is wrong to harm others; and*

WHEREAS *threats and acts of violence against people and willful destruction and theft of property have been associated with the animal protection movement; therefore be it*

RESOLVED that we oppose threats and acts of violence against people and willful destruction and theft of property.

RESOLVED that we shall energetically work to reduce, as rapidly as possible, the massive pain and suffering of billions of animals through non-violent means.

LABORATORY ANIMALS

WHEREAS *millions of animals are confined and subjected to experimentation and testing in research, testing and educational facilities each year; and*

WHEREAS *current laws and regulations do not require or actively encourage corporations and institutions to reduce animal use, pain or suffering, nor develop and implement alternatives; and*

WHEREAS *many corporations and institutions continue to perform the classic Lethal Dose 50% test (LD50), the Draize test, and other needless and outdated tests which cause suffering and death to millions of laboratory animals; and*

WHEREAS *the United States Food & Drug Administration has stated that it does not require use of the classic LD50 test but has not stated which tests it would find acceptable in lieu of the classic LD50; and*

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture has arbitrarily excluded rats, mice, birds and farm animals used for research and testing purposes from the protection of the federal Animal Welfare Act despite the fact that rats and mice are estimated to comprise more than 90% of animals used in laboratories; and

WHEREAS a number of states exempt research and testing on animals from the protection of anti-cruelty statutes; and

WHEREAS the public, through taxation, pays for much of the research and testing involving animals, and therefore should have free access to information about the use of animals in laboratories; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we shall initiate and support legislation, regulations, litigation and shareholder proposals that encourage corporations and institutions to promote and implement alternatives, thereby reducing animal use, pain and suffering. Some of the initiatives we support are to:

- Ban the classic LD50 test.
- Ban the Draize rabbit eye test in cosmetic and household product testing.
- Eliminate, where applicable, provisions in state legislation which exempt animals used in research, testing and education from the protection of anti-cruelty statutes.
- Support legislation and regulatory action to promote alternatives and to facilitate and encourage the sharing of data and alternative methods.
- Support legislation and regulatory action which mandates that regulatory agencies specify which alternatives will be accepted by them to replace traditional animal tests.
- Support legislation to require the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to enforce the federal Animal Welfare Act (the Act) so that rats, mice, birds, and farm animals used for research and testing purposes are included under the protection of the Act ; increase efforts to urge the USDA itself to initiate these changes; or initiate litigation to ensure that the above-mentioned animals are no longer excluded from the Act.
- Support legislation to prohibit elementary and secondary school students from performing experiments on animals which cause or could tend to cause pain, suffering or death.
- Support students at all levels who object to experimenting on animals or dissecting animals to ensure that they be given an opportunity to choose alternate projects, approved by their teachers, without a grade reduction.

- **Support efforts to make institutional animal care and use procedures (protocols) and the minutes of institutional animal care and use committee meetings available to the public.**

FARM ANIMALS

***WHEREAS** billions of farm animals are raised each year using intensive production systems; and*

***WHEREAS** the conditions under which farm animals are raised frequently do not meet the animals' basic physical and behavioral needs; and*

***WHEREAS** frequently the confinement systems used for raising farm animals necessitate the routine use of sub-therapeutic doses of antibiotics and other drugs; and*

***WHEREAS** antibiotic and other drug residues in meat and dairy products raise public health concerns; and*

***WHEREAS** Sweden and other western European countries have enacted laws and regulations to provide farm animals with an environment in which their natural behavior is considered, and in which husbandry practices are designed to safeguard animal health and well-being; and*

***WHEREAS** there are no laws and regulations in the United States which specifically define standards for the raising of animals for food; therefore, be it*

RESOLVED that we shall work together to secure enactment of legislation that requires the basic behavioral and physical needs of farm animals be met, so that America's farm animals are assured the following minimum standards: the freedom to be able to stand up, lie down, extend their limbs or spread their wings, and make other normal postural adjustments; an adequate supply of nutritious food; adequate veterinary care; and an environment that suits their physical and behavioral requirements.

RESOLVED that we shall work together to eliminate, where applicable, state legislation which exempts animals used for food from the protection of anti-cruelty statutes, as regards husbandry practices.

RESOLVED that to facilitate the establishment and passage of such legislative efforts, we shall encourage state and federal bodies to study alternative systems used in other countries as well as existing practices in the United States.

RESOLVED that we shall work cooperatively with consumer and environmental organizations and farm groups to accomplish our goals, so that legislation is compatible with current initiatives aimed at protecting farmers, consumers, farm animals, and the environment.

WILD ANIMALS

WHEREAS millions of wild animals are killed each year for their fur; and

WHEREAS these animals are either caught in cruel traps which maim their victims; or are kept for their entire lives in confinement with little consideration given to their basic behavioral and physical needs; or are otherwise hunted and killed; and

WHEREAS wild animals often are brutally killed by trappers for their fur, and animals raised for their fur are generally killed by methods that cause suffering; and

WHEREAS trapping, hunting and raising of animals for their fur are unjustifiable, cruel practices that in addition to causing pain, suffering and death to animals have also resulted in the depletion of some species; and

WHEREAS the killing of animals for their fur is unjustifiable, unnecessary and wrong and is against principles of respect and reverence for all life; and

WHEREAS millions of animals are maimed and killed for recreation by sport and trophy hunters each year; and

WHEREAS some hunters use particularly cruel hunting methods including, but not limited to, bow-hunting and engage in particularly cruel and unnecessary hunting activities, including, but not limited to, shooting tame animals, most notably birds, that are bred and raised solely to be released and shot; and

WHEREAS national wildlife refuges were established to preserve, protect and enhance wildlife yet many of these refuges allow sport hunting and/or trapping; and

WHEREAS as a result of hunting and other factors, many species have become threatened or endangered; and

WHEREAS the mass destruction of elephants for ivory may soon cause their ecological extinction; and

WHEREAS millions of wild birds and other wild animals suffer and die every year due to capture, transport, and confinement for the international pet trade; and

WHEREAS commercial and recreational trapping results in cruel and brutal destruction or injury to millions of pets and other non-target animals each year; and

WHEREAS the world's tuna industry, in the course of fishing with purse seine nets, knowingly kills tens of thousands of dolphins annually; and

WHEREAS some commercial fishermen engage in particularly cruel practices such as the use of drift nets which indiscriminately kill hundreds of thousands of dolphins, sea birds, turtles and other animals each year; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we shall work together to educate the public about the cruelty involved with the trapping, raising and hunting of animals for their fur, and to urge the public not to purchase or wear fur.

RESOLVED that we shall work together in an effort to enact laws to ban particularly cruel practices associated with the capture and raising of animals for their fur such as, but not limited to, the use of steel jaw leghold traps.

RESOLVED that we shall work together to secure the passage of laws to prohibit particularly cruel hunting practices and activities.

RESOLVED that we shall work together to secure passage of a law to prohibit sport hunting and trapping on national wildlife refuges.

RESOLVED that we shall work together to require local and federal wildlife agencies to develop and promote programs to curb overpopulation of wildlife through means which do not involve the killing of animals.

RESOLVED that we shall work together to ensure that species are appropriately designated as threatened or endangered and receive the protection afforded under federal laws and international treaties.

RESOLVED that we shall work together to secure a ban on the indiscriminate use of drift and purse seine nets.

RESOLVED that we shall work together to secure passage of legislation and regulations to end the slaughter of dolphins by the tuna industry; and to urge the public not to purchase tuna products derived from fishing practices that result in the death of dolphins.

COMPANION ANIMALS

WHEREAS millions of stray, homeless and unwanted dogs and cats are euthanized each year at animal shelters and pounds; and

WHEREAS countless dogs and cats that are abandoned, along with those animals that are lost or born on our streets, die from starvation, accidents, the elements or abuse; and

WHEREAS wild animals are often kept as pets despite the fact that few people have the knowledge or ability to provide humane care and a suitable environment to house these animals; and

WHEREAS millions of dogs are mass produced at "puppy mills" where they are often kept in unsanitary conditions and deprived of necessary care and then sent to pet stores where they also may receive inadequate care; and

WHEREAS public trust in shelters and pounds and the well-being of animals are threatened when the care and treatment of animals in shelters and pounds are substandard or when shelters and pounds transfer animals in their custody to research and other institutions for experimentation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we shall continue to develop and implement programs to educate the public about the serious dog and cat overpopulation problem and their responsibility to have their dogs and cats spayed or neutered.

RESOLVED that we shall continue to develop and implement programs to educate the public about responsible and humane care and treatment of their animals.

RESOLVED that we shall continue to develop and implement programs to discourage the public from keeping wild animals as pets.

RESOLVED that we shall work cooperatively to secure passage of laws to encourage and facilitate the spaying and neutering of dogs and cats, to establish humane standards for the care and disposition of animals at shelters, pounds and pet stores and to provide for greater fines for violating cruelty to animals and animal abandonment laws.

RESOLVED that we shall work cooperatively to secure the passage of laws to ban pound seizure--the practice of transferring animals from shelters and pounds to research and other institutions for experimentation.

RESOLVED that we shall endeavor to secure greater enforcement by the United States Department of Agriculture and local law enforcement agencies of those laws and regulations which

provide for the humane care of dogs, cats and other animals which are bred, raised and kept for sale or other purposes.

EXHIBITION/WORK ANIMALS

WHEREAS millions of animals are used in circuses, zoos, carnivals, rodeos, races, films, videos and in other animal acts, exhibits and work, and

WHEREAS these animals often are made to perform in ways that are both dangerous and unnatural for their species, and

WHEREAS the behavioral and physical needs of these animals often are not adequately provided for, and

WHEREAS the training practices that animals are subjected to are often abusive, and

WHEREAS some animals are captured from their natural habitats for the sole purpose of putting them on public display; and

WHEREAS the confinement of animals in zoos, roadside zoos, and menageries results in indiscriminate breeding and production of large numbers of captive animals which are often subject to cruel and abusive treatment and disposal; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that we shall work together to secure the enactment of laws to prohibit abusive training practices, to prohibit practices that are dangerous to the animals, to prohibit the capture of animals in the wild to be used for exhibition or work purposes, to limit the breeding of captive, wild animals and to prohibit their cruel disposition and to require that the behavioral and physical needs of exhibition/work animals be considered.

RESOLVED that we shall work together to secure greater enforcement of laws and regulations which provide protection to animals used for exhibition/work purposes.

Animal Protection Organizations**Signatories**

The American Society for the Prevention
of Cruelty to Animals

John F. Kullberg, *Ed. D., President*

The Humane Society of the United States

John A. Hoyt, *D.D., President*

The Massachusetts Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Gus Thornton, *D.V.M., President*

*Additional organizations to be added following distribution of
these resolutions.*