

COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association at its Council Meeting in Barbados on Saturday 3rd November, 2007 and, on the occasion of the 4th Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference have agreed on the following actions:

- To promote the leading role and competence of the veterinary profession in the protection of the health and welfare of the animals and
- To endorse and support the following resolution

The Commonwealth Veterinary Association

RECOGNISING that all sentient* animals deserve due consideration and respect,

RECOGNISING that animal welfare includes animal health and that veterinarians have an essential role in maintaining both the health and the welfare of animals and developing the science necessary for future progress,

RECOGNISING the importance of ongoing work of the OIE in setting global standards and for animal welfare,

CONSIDERS that it is important to achieve acceptance, at governmental level, of animal welfare as an issue of concern and importance,

CONSIDERS that all appropriate steps should be taken by states to prevent cruelty to animals to reduce suffering and to develop and enforce legislation vigorously,

SUPPORTS the development of an Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare as a first step towards the acceptance of such a Declaration by the United Nations, and

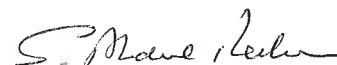
ENCOURAGES the efforts in promoting this Declaration throughout Europe, and

Urges all Commonwealth Governments to support an Universal Declaration of Animal Welfare and to attend a Ministerial Conference to be held in New York in 2009

* Sentience defined as the capacity to have feelings and to experience suffering and pleasure. Sentience implies a level of conscious awareness.



Robin Yarrow
President



S. Abdul Rahman
Secretary

Barbados 3rd November, 2007