



FEDERATION OF VETERINARIANS OF EUROPE

Dr David Wilkins
World Society for the Protection of Animals
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Brussels, 5 April 2007
FVE/07/corr/27

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Subject: Universal Declaration Animal Welfare

Dear Dr Wilkins,

With reference to our earlier e-mail correspondence on this matter, I ' am happy to confirm that the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) has decided to support the government-led initiative which aims to achieve the adoption of a

"UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON ANIMAL WELFARE"

in order to achieve global consideration of the welfare of sentient animals and recognition of animal welfare as an issue of importance as part of the social development of nations worldwide.

For this purpose FVE confirms that it subscribes the stakeholder declaration, which means that:

- FVE acknowledges that the welfare of sentient animals is an issue of importance as part of the social development of nations worldwide.
- FVE understands that the Declaration will be a non-binding statement and is intended as a global benchmark to guide member states when formulating their policies concerning animals at national and regional level.
- FVE recognizes that recent scientific, ethical and legislative developments regarding animal sentience will require due consideration throughout the progress of this initiative. This includes principles such as the internationally recognized 'five freedoms'.
- FVE recognizes that consideration of animal welfare furthers the UN Millennium Development goals, including those concerning sustainable development, human health and poverty reduction.

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- FVE recognizes that animal welfare impacts on animal health.

In summation, the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe supports the progress of the initiative to achieve a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare at the United Nations.

Wishing you and your colleagues every success in the promotion of Animal Welfare, we remain,

Yours sincerely,

Jan Vaarten, DVM
FVE Executive Director

FVE is the umbrella body for veterinary organisations from 37 European countries, including all EU and EFTA countries and most of the Eastern and Central European countries