

JOINT RESOLUTIONS FOR THE 1990s BY AMERICAN ANIMAL PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS

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.

NONVIOLENCE

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and institutions continue to perform the classic Lethal Dose 50% test (LD50), the Draize test, and other needless and outdated tests which cause suffering and death to millions of laboratory animals; and

Act) so that rats, mice and birds 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

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.

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