



Animal welfare matters to animals, people and the environment



World Society for the Protection of Animals



*“Until we extend the circle of compassion to all living things, we will not find peace.”*

Albert Schweitzer



### How the numbers stack up

- 60 billion animals are raised for food each year
- More than half of the people living in developing countries depend on working horses, mules, donkeys and oxen for cultivating land or transporting goods.
- There are more than 500 million dogs in the world of which 80% are strays.
- 135 million animals are killed for sport hunting yearly
- 40 million animals are killed for their fur each year
- More than 10 million exotic animals are taken from the wild each year, to be sold as pets or for their fur, feathers, shells, horns, hooves, and bone
- There are some 5 million animals being held in zoos and private collections around the world.
- 10,000 bears, most of which are endangered species, are farmed for their bile

## Animals have a profound impact on the lives of everyone We have a responsibility to treat them with compassion

Animals play many vital roles in the lives of people all over the world. Billions of people rely on animals for their livelihoods. **The world's poorest people** depend on animals for survival. Nearly the entire planet relies on them for food. Millions of us cherish the comfort and companionship they provide. They are an integral part of fragile ecosystems and the web of life.

Scientific research has shown animals are sentient: they can experience pleasure, pain, distress and suffering. And yet animals are treated cruelly the world over. Wild animals are taken from their natural habitat, caged, traded, sold and exploited for commercial gain or human amusement. Many domestic animals are malnourished, overworked or confined for most of their lives. If animals are deemed unnecessary or when they are more valuable dead, they are often subjected to inhumane, distressing deaths.

Is it right to treat living, breathing creatures this way? When humans interact with animals we have a responsibility to safeguard their welfare and treat them with compassion. This value is at the heart of why the World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) exists.

***“We have an obligation to treat animals in a proper manner. The road towards better animal welfare is through cooperation, information and a strong international commitment. Together we can create the best conditions for animals.”***

Gitte Seeberg, Member of the European Parliament

***“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”***

Mahatma Gandhi



***“Over one billion people in the world rely directly on their animals for survival, and Kenya is no different....People in my country know this. When there is a drought, we will often give water to our animals before we give it to ourselves.”***

Hon Noah Wekesa, Minister of Education,  
Science and Technology, Kenya 2006

## Why is the protection of animals important?

Humans have a moral and ethical responsibility to ensure that animals are **treated well and most people agree that animals shouldn't suffer.** Improving animal welfare has obvious benefits for animals, but there are also many benefits to humans that result from investing in animal welfare.

Investing in animal welfare improves human health

Proper animal care reduces the risk of diseases, such as rabies, avian and swine flu, and mad cow disease that are transmissible to humans and which result in tens of thousands of human deaths each year. The human-animal bond has been shown to have therapeutic effects and is sometimes used to help children with special needs. Animals are often used in hospitals and retirement homes to speed recovery and reduce stress.

Investing in animal welfare reduces poverty and hunger

**Animals are a critical element of many people's livelihoods.** Nearly half the world's population is involved in agriculture, and farm animals are important for food, for labour and for income. Working horses, donkey, mules and oxen are invaluable for cultivating land and transporting goods and people. Proper animal care ensures the health of these animals and in turn improves productivity and helps farmers to provide food for themselves, their families and their communities.

Investing in animal welfare advances social development

**People's attitudes and behavior towards animals overlap with their attitudes and behaviour towards each other.** When people have compassion for animals they are more likely to have compassion for their fellow human beings.

Investing in animal welfare affects environmental sustainability

The humane treatment of animals provides a positive impact on climate change, pollution, water supplies. The livestock sector is responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions and uses massive amounts of fresh water. The protection of animals is important to habitat conservation and biodiversity.



*Our vision: A world where  
animal welfare matters and  
cruelty ends.*

*Our mission: To build a global  
animal welfare movement.*

## Our work

WSPA is working with its partners in Canada and around the world to improve the welfare of animals, and prevent cruelty to animals wherever it occurs.

We support and develop high profile campaigns, scientifically-backed projects and innovative education initiatives to bring about change to benefit wildlife, companion and farm animals. Our work takes place at both the grassroots and government level as we mobilize communities and nations to change policies and implement practices that will improve animal welfare.

### Improving legislation

WSPA calls for the introduction of comprehensive laws to protect animals. Through our initiative for a Universal Declaration for Animal Welfare (UDAW) at the United Nations, **WSPA is urging the world's governments to** officially recognize that animal welfare is an issue of importance. With the official support of the UN General Assembly, the UDAW would be an integral part of international efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals which include tackling issues such as poverty, environmental sustainability and human health.

### Exposing cruelty

Through scientific research and investigations we expose animal cruelty and make recommendations on how to improve or change current practises in order to alleviate unnecessary suffering.



### Field work

Our hands-on field work provides practical, on-the-ground solutions to protect animals and provide them with the care they need.

### Education

We believe that one of the most effective tools for creating real and lasting **change is to change people's attitudes towards animals.** Our education initiatives use a variety of culturally appropriate methods to help children understand the value and needs of animals and our training programs teach adults who own or work with animals the best practices they can use to improve the health and well-being of their animals.



### Disaster relief and prevention

WSPA provides immediate relief in the aftermath of disasters by providing food, water, medical care and shelter, and works to provide long-term prevention and risk reduction measures through advice on animal care infrastructure and disaster preparedness. In any disaster, the fates of people and animals are often inter-twined. Many people rely on their animals to help them recover. Companion animals provide comfort in hard times and livestock or draught animals are vital for people to rebuild their lives. By helping animals, we alleviate the immediate suffering of animals and people.



## Our qualifications

WSPA is one of the oldest international animal welfare organizations working today. We have nearly 30 years experience in delivering effective programs. We have consultative status at the United Nations and observer status at the Council of Europe and other government bodies.

WSPA works with and supports locally-based animal welfare organizations providing them with access to expertise, resources and training. We believe long-term culturally sensitive change is best achieved by enabling and empowering local organizations.

WSPA has 15 offices worldwide and has a network of over 950 member societies in 155 countries. We work with local, national and international organizations to tackle global animal welfare problems that no single organization can effectively address alone.

We are a registered Canadian charity 12971 9076 RR0001 who has been operating in Canada since 1981.



## Creating a better world for all

Working in partnership, WSPA seeks to build a powerful global voice to create a world where animals matter. Recognition of animal welfare as an important global issue is growing: an investment in improving it benefits animals, people and the environment.

We have the capacity to create the world we want, serving the needs of both humans and animals. We can do it with your support. A donation to WSPA will move us one step closer to a world where animals are protected and free from pain and suffering.



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The logo for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). It features the letters "WSPA" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed and have a slight 3D effect.