

Integrating the welfare interests of humans and animals

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World Animal Protection is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) with offices in 15 countries, that works with national and international stakeholders including governments to improve animal protection. To achieve this, our solutions-based work takes into account the challenges and priorities that humans face globally, for many of which global agreements are in place to provide ways to address them. While the campaigns of World Animal Protection and other NGOs focus on improving animal welfare, challenges to humans inform the decision-making underlying those campaigns – for example, whether legislation to protect animals is appropriate – and global policy work must integrate the interests of humans and animals. That is more readily accomplished than might be expected, because whether working with farmed animals, animals in communities, animals in the wild or animals affected by disasters, promotion of animal health and welfare has direct benefits for humans. For example, humane handling and slaughter of farm animals improve yield of saleable meat, food safety, disease control, worker safety, and therefore profit. Such benefits particularly affect impoverished communities and developing countries, but also large scale businesses around the world. As well as animal health and welfare, NGOs such as World Animal Protection have experience and involvement in areas such as food security, public health and disaster resilience, so invite governments and intergovernmental organisations to collaborate to fulfil global commitments. World Animal Protection is committed to collaboration and partnership to develop large-scale solutions, addressing the welfare interests of both humans and animals.

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