

CONFERÊNCIAS

SYMPOSIUMS

THE RECIFE DECLARATION ON ANIMAL RIGHTS

Aiming to reflect about the ethical development in the context of animal rights, teachers, students, scientists and activists gathered at the Third World Congress of Bioethics and Animal Rights, which was held at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, on August 22th to 25th of 2012. As a result of the meeting, lawmakers declare, by majority vote, the following

Nº. 1. The fight to eradicate the hunger of human beings should take into account an ethical and sustainable development of the environment based on respect for the right of both, animals and nature, as having inherent value.

Nº. 2. Recent scientific evidences, such as the Cambridge Declaration of Conscience, indicate that a wide range of animals (at least all birds and mammals) have neuroanatomical substrates, neurochemical and neurophysiological states of consciousness similar to human beings. Thus, the absence of the neocortex do not prevent that a body experiences affective states and show intentional conduct.

Nº. 3. Animals should have the right of the Government to protect their dignity in regard to life, veterinary care, adequate food and housing, based on the principles of bioethics and equal consideration of similar interests. These interests are: maintaining the physical and psychological integrity, not be subject to any form of neglect, abandonment, discrimination, suffering abuse or cruel treatment, violence or oppression.

Nº. 4. Animals should have the right to a healthy environment, conditions of freedom and dignity, maintaining the boundaries of coexistence of each species and their specific needs.

Nº. 5. The responsible guard is a duty of human being to the animal in order to guarantee dignified life, rest, freedom, love, family and community, leisure, environment, food and adequate care, health care, and , not abandonment.

Nº. 6. Animals should have, before the state and individuals, the right not to be exploited, which implies the rejection of the use at experimentation for scientific, educational or commercial ends, food, entertainment, as clothing items and any other forms of exploitation and oppression.

Nº. 7. Animals have the right of access to the courts and to the due process of law, either through ordinary or extraordinary legitimacy.

Nº 8. It is the Government's duty to create agencies in all entities of the Federation, whose purpose is the establishment of public policies aimed at protection of animals.

N.º 9. It is the Government's duty, through the implementation of public policies, to combat the abandonment of pets through effective punishment, the building of partnerships and direct assistance to non-governmental entities, by creating permanent incentive programs to encourage responsible adoption and deployment of free veterinary care, controlling the growth of populations of animals, with sterilization programs through surgical castration.

N.º 10. It is the Government's duty to prohibit animals' trade, stimulating responsible adoption, in order to combat the abandonment, cluttered population growth, ill-treatment and trafficking of wild animals.

N.º 11. It is the Government's duty to implement Public Policies for Environmental Education of respect for life in all its forms, public awareness for the protection of the animals, at all levels of education, formal and non-formal.

N.º 12. The necessity of maintaining the criminal protection of animals in order to criminalize the practices that violate its rights, repudiating any setback, to support the increase of the penalty currently scheduled.

N.º 13. Veganism is the main pillar supporting animal rights and contributes to a more ethical, healthier and more harmonious life regarding the animals and nature.

N.º 14. Animal Rights must be recognized as an independent and autonomous branch of Law.