

UNIVERSAL ANIMAL RIGHTS DECLARATION

(Rights of All Sentient Beings)

PURPOSE & SCOPE:

- ✓ The purpose of this declaration is to educate all readers about all rights of all sentient beings, including themselves.
- ✓ These rights protect the core interests of all sentient animals (also termed individuals/ persons/ people or sentient living beings), whether human or non-human, regardless of species, intelligence, physical form, gender, ethnicity, or abilities.
- ✓ These rights are not negotiable and are universal.
- ✓ They are not limited by any religious belief, government, or belief system.
- ✓ Any denial of these rights can be counted as an abuse or injustice and must be considered a crime to be abolished.
- ✓ These rights of any individual do not include anyone having the right to unjustly take away any of these universal rights of any other individual.
- ✓ Some people believe that Humans should have these rights but Non-Human animals should have fewer rights. This is Speciesism and a type of discrimination similar to racism.
- ✓ As these rights are based on the science of Sentience, this framework may help us replace the speciesism based system of separation of human rights and non-human animal rights.

I. BASIC FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

(Basic, fundamental, universal and inherent rights of all individual sentient animals)

1. Right to Life

Every sentient animal, human or non-human, has the right to live for their entire natural lifespan, and not be intentionally killed, except in unavoidable circumstances such as genuine self-defence or accidents.

2. Right to Bodily Integrity

Protection from mutilation, forced impregnation, modification, forced contact, handling, restraint, unwanted touch, molestation, or any physical violation except for genuine medical necessity in the individual's welfare.

3. Right to Freedom from Objectified Use

No sentient animal may be treated as a property, object, tool, resource, commodity, slave, or product to be kept, owned, or used by someone.

4. Right to Freedom from Exploitation

No individual may be exploited for labour, entertainment, breeding, domestication, farming, harvesting, production, experimentation, reproduction, milking, ovulation, trade, stealing from, or extraction, for someone else's gain.

5. Right to Freedom from Being Kept or Confined

No individual may be held, kept, restrained, caged, imprisoned, or transported against their natural needs, choices, or free will, except when essential, such as for rescue, safety, or urgent medical needs, no matter how big or enriched the space is where they are held, or how well they are treated.

6. Right to Freedom from Oppression or Wilful Harm

All individuals deserve peace and protection from violence, control, coercion, domination, torture, bullying, stalking, harassment, degradation, wilful neglect, punishment, rape, undue stress, trauma, intimidation, pain, suffering, distress, starvation, physical or psychological torment and all forms of abuse, suppression, or oppression.

7. Right to Equality and Freedom from Discrimination

No individual may be denied respect, consideration, fair treatment, or rights based on species, appearance, intelligence, productivity, behaviour, place of origin, gender, race, sexual orientation, beliefs, or human preferences.

II. AUTONOMY AND PERSONAL FREEDOMS

(Individual Rights of All Sentient Animals, whether Human or Non Human)

8. Right to Autonomy, Mind, Free Will, and Preference

The right to independent thought, intention, instinct, desire, identity, and will—free from coercion, manipulation, or forced conditioning.

9. Right to Natural Expression and Behaviour

The right to communicate, vocalize, move, explore, and behave in species-appropriate and personally chosen ways that don't infringe over rights of others.

10. Right to Privacy and Personal Space

The right to solitude, boundaries, safety, residence, security, and protected personal zones.

11. Right to Social Relationships and Association

The right to, as per mutual consent, interact, form bonds, families, friendships, groups, communities, or herds, pods, flocks on their own; and for mutual respect, social support, and symbiotic harmony, and the right not to be isolated without necessity.

12. Right to Movement, Migration, and Habitat

The right to roam freely, travel, migrate, choose shelter, choose their path, claim territory, and live in a suitable natural or chosen environment, without abusing rights of others.

III. QUALITY OF LIFE RIGHTS

(Rights pertaining to the well-being, flourishing and personal fulfilment of every individual sentient living being)

13. Right to Access Basic Needs

The right to access one's food, water, air, light, shelter, warmth, all necessary resources for survival, growth, activity or work, and essential self-care, safety, freedom from extreme environments, safety from pollution and other harmful conditions.

14. Right to Health, Healing, Rescue, and Care

The right to access basic care, medical treatment, rescue, rehabilitation, sanctuary, rehabilitation, stewardship, fair conditions, and protection from illness, injury, fear, threats, insecurity or danger.

15. Right to Rest, Sleep, Comfort, and Recuperation

The right to rest without stress, harm, or disturbance in your own space.

16. Right to Play, Enrichment, and Pleasure

The right to joy, stimulation, comfort, interaction, exploration, and species-appropriate or personally desired activities that don't take away anyone else's rights.

17. Right of Learning and Cognitive Development

The right to curiosity, exploration, mental growth, learning or education, self-development, and meaningful experience in ways that benefit self and don't abuse the rights of others.

18. Right to a Safe Environment

The right to an environment free from unnecessary toxins, excessive pollution, habitat destruction, and avoidable threats.

IV. GROUP RIGHTS AND ECOLOGICAL RIGHTS

(Collective rights necessary for species and social well-being of sentient living beings)

19. Right of Families and Social Units

Parents, offspring, herds, packs, colonies, pods, flocks, and bonded groups have a right to remain together, safeguard each other, and to look after each other, especially the best interests of children and vulnerable individuals. Individuals also have the right to break free from any group or family should they so choose or if it is in their best interests.

20. Right to Cultural and Species-Specific Behaviours

Species may maintain natural lifestyles, migration routes, communication, and social structures in ways that don't infringe upon the rights of other individuals.

21. Right to Habitat and Ecosystem Protection

All sentient living beings have the right to live in stable ecosystems protected from needless or senseless destruction, pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, risk of extinction and ecological collapse.

22. Right to Exist as a Species

No species may be intentionally eradicated, genetically manipulated for exploitation, or driven to extinction by the deliberate actions of another.

V. LEGAL AND MORAL RIGHTS

(Sentient living beings as a protected legal category)

23. Right to Non-Property Legal Status

All sentient living beings must be legally recognised as individuals or persons — not property.

24. Right to Legal Protection and Enforcement of Rights

Courts and laws must safeguard the rights of sentient living beings equally and universally.

25. Right to Moral Agency and Participation

Right to participate, directly or indirectly, in decisions affecting one's life, interests, welfare, and rights.

26. Right to Representation

Where an individual cannot advocate for themselves, guardians, activists, or institutions may represent their interests, legally, ethically and morally.

27. Right to Protest

The right to challenge rights violations, protest against injustice in a reasonable way, educate and raise awareness, request justice, appeal to laws, and seek remedies when rights are denied.

You may sign and share this declaration as an individual or a group or organisation of any size, or type, such as a grassroots group, charity, NGO, corporate, firm, team, council, board, coalition, panel, city, town, nation, local, national or international organisation so that we can send it across to the United Nations or other agencies.

I/ WE UNDERSTAND AND ENDORSE THE ABOVE DECLARATION OF UNIVERSAL RIGHTS OF SENTIENT ANIMALS

Full Name:

Email :

Place and Country: