

Draft Convention on Animal Protection for Public Health, Animal Welfare, and the Environment

Version 1: October 20, 2021

Drafted by the Lawyers for the Convention on Animal Protection

Nigel Blackaby, Daina Bray, Nicolas Cordoba, David Favre, Rosario Galardi, Laurie Morgan, Rajesh Reddy, and Joan Schaffner

Open for Comments

First Draft Comment Period: through February 25, 2022

Please send all comments to contact@conventiononanimalprotection.org

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ACKNOWLEDGING that inappropriate contact with and treatment of animals by humans is a risk factor for the emergence and transmission of zoonotic viruses and other pathogens such as COVID-19, which can be mitigated through coordinated international action integrating human health, animal health, and environmental health using the One Health concept,

RECOGNIZING that humans derive many diverse benefits from their associations with and utilization of animals,

DECLARING that animals, as sentient beings, have intrinsic value and welfare interests that must be conceived of broadly and whose well-being must be protected,

ADMITTING that human interactions with and uses of animals often fail to account for and protect the well-being of animals,

RECOGNIZING that the proper treatment of animals and their habitat has positive impacts on human health, the environment, and cultural and economic development,

CONSIDERING that animals cross borders, both with and without human assistance,

UNDERSTANDING that other treaties do not address the question of animal well-being in the context of public health and the environment,

RECOGNIZING that the limited powers of the World Organisation for Animal Health to enforce animal health standards are inadequate to ensure control of viruses and other pathogens, and that additional international obligations are required within a treaty context to ensure the effective protection of the lives, health, and well-being of animals globally with minimum standards,

BELIEVING that the codification and progressive development of the matters addressed in this Convention will contribute to the strengthening of public health, environmental protection, peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations in conformity with the principles of coexistence of species and in line with the One Health approach,

ACKNOWLEDGING that animal well-being is a complex issue that has cultural, social, religious, political, economic, and scientific components, and

SEEKING to provide leadership for the better protection of animals with the consequent benefits to the natural environment and public health including minimizing the risk of future zoonotic viruses and other pathogens and related epidemics and pandemics, these Contracting Parties do hereby enter into this Convention.

Part I: Introduction

ARTICLE 1

Fundamental Principles

1. Humans and animals co-exist within an interdependent ecosystem. Humans and animals share an evolutionary heritage. Humans have an ethical obligation to act responsibly toward animals.
2. As sentient beings, animals have intrinsic value. No animal should be killed unnecessarily or be subjected to cruel acts or to unnecessary suffering.
3. When humans have control over specific animals, they have a positive obligation to ensure their well-being by providing them with a suitable environment and care appropriate for their species.
4. The global health of humankind requires careful regulation of the taking, control, transportation, and keeping of wild animal species that are natural primary reservoirs of novel viruses and other pathogens and those animals who can act as intermediate hosts of such pathogens that may spill over to humans.
5. Subjecting animals to physical, mental, and environmental stress increases their susceptibility to contracting and thus transmitting disease.
6. Animals are an integral part of the natural environment, and the protection of animals and their habitat is an integral component of the broader concepts of environmental protection and conservation.

ARTICLE 2

Definitions

1. Animals shall be categorized by both their species and by the specific environment in which they are found. For the purposes of this Convention and its Protocols, unless the context requires otherwise or the term in question is otherwise defined within a specific Protocol, then the term:
 - a. “animal” shall mean any non-human mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, or fish and any other organism that may be included specifically within a particular Protocol.
 - b. “animal used in entertainment” shall mean an animal whose presence and actions are meant to generate entertainment for humans but is not consumed or worked for the production of agricultural products.
 - c. “captive wildlife” shall mean any wildlife that comes under the control of humans and any animals from subsequent generations who are born from such animals.

- d. “commercial animal” shall mean any animal under the control of humans for the primary purpose of economic gain or production of goods or services. This includes, but is not limited to, farm and ranch animals, working animals, laboratory animals, and animals used in sport or entertainment.
- e. “companion animal” shall mean any animal that humans have possession and control of for a primary use other than economic benefit.
- f. “domestic animal” shall mean any animal of a species that, within the context of the local culture, has traditionally been under the physical control of, bred by, and used by humans.
- g. “take” shall mean to pursue, hunt, shoot, kill, trap, capture, or collect wildlife or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.
- h. “wildlife” shall mean any animal of a species that has evolved as a part of the local ecosystem that it is found in, or of a species that has escaped human control and has established a self-sustaining reproducing population within a particular habitat, or of a species that coexists with humans within an urban environment.

Part II: Operational Provisions

ARTICLE 3

Animals as Reservoirs or Hosts of Viruses and Other Pathogens

The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to identify species susceptible to being reservoirs or hosts of viruses and other pathogens that may spill over to humankind, and regulate interaction amongst those species, humans, and other animals.

ARTICLE 4

Restricted Species

1. At the second Conference of the Contracting Parties, which will be an extraordinary Conference held within twelve months of the end of the first Conference of the Parties, the Risk Assessment and Remedy Committee (described in Article 6) shall present a preliminary list of wildlife species, subspecies, or any other taxons that scientific opinion has concluded may host viruses or other pathogens that pose a material risk to public or animal health through spillover either to other animal species or directly or indirectly to humans. The Contracting Parties shall consider listed species, subspecies, or other taxons and other species, subspecies, or other taxons for inclusion in Annex I, which will list the species, subspecies, or other taxons, their location, the nature of the risk, and whether the species should be listed locally or globally. Those approved by a

majority vote shall be included in Annex I, which may be amended at subsequent Conferences of the Parties.

2. Contracting Parties whose territories provide a habitat to wildlife species identified in Annex I, or where captive wildlife of species identified in Annex I are kept, shall submit an annual report to the Secretariat identifying the specific location of each species, its proximity to other animals and human settlements, the nature of the risks the species presents, and the strategies that are presently employed or could be employed to mitigate such risks, including through the effective preservation of the species and its habitat and sufficient isolation from other species and humans to reduce the risk of transmission of viruses and other pathogens to other animals and humans.
3. Contracting Parties shall:
 - a. Prohibit the capture of wildlife listed in Annex I, and the keeping, sale, purchase, farming, consumption, import and export of wild-caught animals of species, subspecies, or other taxons listed in Annex I.
 - b. Regulate any live animal market where wildlife are present to ensure the well-being of all animals present, proper isolation amongst species, and appropriate health and sanitation provisions, as well as to minimize the risk of transmission of viruses and other pathogens between animals or between humans and animals.
 - c. Adopt plans to reduce or prevent the inappropriate interaction of humans and other animals within the habitat of the listed species in Annex I through the conservation of animal habitats, preservation of buffer zones between commercial animals and the listed species in Annex I where possible, and other, non-lethal means to minimize the risk of transmission of viruses and other pathogens between animals or between humans and animals.
 - d. Adopt preparation and mitigation plans to reduce or prevent the risk of transmission of zoonotic viruses and other pathogens from commercial animals to humans.

ARTICLE 5

Science and Health Authority

Each Contracting Party shall appoint or create a Science and Health Authority which shall have primary responsibility for drafting the annual report required in Article 4 of this Convention and for educating the public about the risks of transmission of viruses and other pathogens and strategies necessary to mitigate them.

ARTICLE 6

Risk Assessment and Remedy Committee

1. There shall be established a Risk Assessment and Remedy Committee (hereafter referred to as the Risk Committee). It shall consist of fifteen members and shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.
2. The Risk Committee shall be composed of nationals of the Contracting Parties who shall be persons of recognized competence in the fields relevant to Part II of this Convention, including, without limitation, (i) public health, (ii) animal well-being, and (iii) environmental science, with consideration given to geographic representation and diversity of experience and expertise. Contracting Parties may propose up to two members each to be included on a master list from which the Standing Committee (as defined in Article 19) shall select fifteen members for consideration as the proposed Committee.
3. The proposed Risk Committee shall require confirmation by simple majority of the Contracting Parties and shall serve in their personal capacity for a term of four years, renewable for one additional term of four years.
4. In the event that the Contracting Parties do not confirm a proposed Risk Committee, then the Standing Committee shall propose an additional list for consideration.
5. It shall be the responsibility of the Risk Committee to:
 - a. Prepare proposals for listing of species in Annex I to this Convention and updates and amendments thereto;
 - b. Identify strategies to reduce the risk of zoonotic disease transmission in coordination with the Science and Health Authorities.

ARTICLE 7

Wildlife Management and Habitat

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to use those scientific management practices that result in the least suffering and killing of wildlife and maximize the conservation of wildlife habitat. In particular, in relation to species listed in Annex I, Contracting Parties shall ensure that such habitats are appropriately isolated from residential and commercial facilities where other animals are present.
2. The Contracting Parties shall adopt provisions to require that the live taking of wildlife shall occur only when resources are available for assuring the well-being of the animal after the taking.

3. When a taking of wildlife is justified pursuant to Paragraphs 1 and 2, a Contracting Party shall only authorize the use of the method of taking that shall best satisfy the following criteria:
 - a. the method that will inflict the least level of pain, suffering, and stress in target and non-target animals;
 - b. the method that is as specific as possible for target wildlife, so as to cause the least possible harm to non-target wildlife and the natural environment;
 - c. when the objective is to kill an animal but an animal becomes injured, that the animal be killed as soon as is possible; and
 - d. the killing of dependent young or their mothers in the presence of each other be avoided whenever possible.
4. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to regulate or prohibit the farming of wildlife and shall prohibit farming of wild animals for fur.

ARTICLE 8

Captive Wildlife Care

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure that captive wildlife are provided an appropriate species-specific environment and the necessary care for their well-being, mitigate risks of spillover of zoonotic viruses and other pathogens, and prevent cruelty to or unnecessary suffering of captive wildlife, including by evaluating whether a species' well-being can be provided for in captivity.
2. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to require the keeper of captive wildlife to provide the care and attention required by the species and breed of the animal, and in particular to:
 - a. provide the animal suitable and sufficient food and water;
 - b. provide the animal with adequate shelter from adverse environmental conditions;
 - c. provide the animal with adequate opportunities for exercise;
 - d. provide the animal with appropriate socialization and mental stimulation;
 - e. provide the animal with adequate and species-specific veterinary care; and
 - f. take all reasonable measures to prevent escape.

ARTICLE 9

Transportation of Animals

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure that animals are provided with responsible care for their well-being during transport, to prevent cruelty and unnecessary suffering in the transportation of animals, and to ensure the non-mixing of species in transport and isolation of wildlife species listed on Annex I from other animals at all times during transport to mitigate the risk of transmission of viruses and other pathogens.
2. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure that, during the process of commercial transportation, no animal will be subjected to the following conditions:
 - a. inadequately constructed containers or insecurely fitted vehicles, vessels or aircraft in which they are transported, or exposure to potentially harmful substances carried as cargo, or unhygienic or contaminated containers or cargo spaces;
 - b. undue exposure to the weather, including extremes of temperature, humidity, or air pressure;
 - c. inadequate fresh air while stationary or in movement, or exposure to undue noise and vibration;
 - d. overcrowding or confinement with non-compatible species; and
 - e. inadequate supplies of water and food.

ARTICLE 10

Companion Animals

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to require the keeper of a companion animal to be responsible for the animal's health and well-being and thereby reduce their susceptibility to contracting and transmitting viruses and other pathogens.
2. The Contracting Parties shall adopt provisions to require the keeper of a companion animal to provide the care and attention required by the species and breed of the animal, and in particular to:
 - a. provide the animal suitable and sufficient food and water;
 - b. provide the animal with adequate shelter from adverse environmental conditions;
 - c. provide the animal with adequate opportunities for exercise;
 - d. provide the animal with appropriate socialization and mental stimulation; and
 - e. take all reasonable measures to prevent escape.

3. The Contracting Parties shall prohibit the keeper of a companion animal from:
 - a. subjecting the animal to cruel acts or conditions;
 - b. restraining the animal in a way that prevents access to adequate food, water, and shelter;
 - c. training the animal in a way that is detrimental to the animal's health or causes unnecessary pain or suffering; or
 - d. forcing the animal to exceed the animal's natural capacities or strengths.
4. The Contracting Parties shall promote:
 - a. vaccination campaigns in order to prevent the transmission of virus and vector-borne diseases; and
 - b. sterilization campaigns to control the overpopulation of stray companion animals.

ARTICLE 11

Commercial Animals

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure that commercial animals are provided an appropriate species-specific environment and the necessary care for their well-being, and to prevent cruelty to or unnecessary suffering of commercial animals.
2. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to avoid the emergence and transmission of zoonotic disease in commercial animals and to isolate wild commercial animals from other animals to mitigate risks of spillover of zoonotic viruses and other pathogens.

ARTICLE 12

Animals Used in Scientific Research and Testing

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure that animals used in scientific research and testing are provided an appropriate species-specific environment and the necessary care for their well-being, mitigate risks of spillover of zoonotic viruses and other pathogens, and prevent cruelty to or unnecessary suffering of such animals.
2. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to:
 - a. minimize the use of animals in scientific research and testing;
 - b. require scientific research and testing facilities to publish publicly the number and species of animals used in research and testing practices;

- c. evaluate whether a species' well-being can be provided for in the research or testing environment or whether they should be excluded from scientific research or testing;
 - d. prohibit the use of species listed in Annex I in research and testing in order to prevent the spillover of zoonotic viruses and other pathogens;
 - e. move toward the elimination of live animal testing of commercial products through standards setting and by providing the resources necessary for using alternative methods of testing; and
 - f. prohibit the import, export, purchase, sale, or advertisement of any cosmetic product if the cosmetic product or any component was developed using animal testing.
3. The Contracting Parties shall adopt provisions to require the keeper of an animal used in scientific research and testing to provide the care and attention required by the species and breed of the animal to the greatest extent possible, and in particular to:
 - a. provide the animal suitable and sufficient food and water;
 - b. provide the animal with adequate shelter from adverse environmental conditions;
 - c. provide the animal with adequate opportunities for exercise;
 - d. provide the animal with appropriate socialization and mental stimulation;
 - e. provide the animal with adequate and species-specific veterinary care; and
 - f. take all reasonable measures to prevent escape

ARTICLE 13

Animals Used in Entertainment

1. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary steps to ensure that all animals used in entertainment are provided an appropriate species-specific environment and the necessary care for their well-being and thereby reduce their susceptibility to contracting and transmitting viruses and other pathogens, and prevent cruelty to or unnecessary suffering of such animals.
2. The Contracting Parties shall adopt provisions to:
 - a. ensure that animals used in entertainment are not harmed, injured, or killed;
 - b. prohibit the use of performance-enhancing or modifying drugs; and
 - c. evaluate whether a species' well-being can be provided for when used in entertainment or whether they should be excluded for use in entertainment.

3. The Contracting Parties shall take all necessary measures to require the keeper of an animal used in entertainment to provide the care and attention required by the species and breed of the animal, and in particular to:
 - a. provide the animal suitable and sufficient food and water;
 - b. provide the animal with adequate shelter from adverse environmental conditions;
 - c. provide the animal with adequate opportunities for exercise;
 - d. provide the animal with appropriate socialization and mental stimulation;
 - e. provide the animal with adequate and species-specific veterinary care; and
 - f. take all reasonable measures to prevent escape.

ARTICLE 14

General Undertakings

1. The Contracting Parties shall adopt measures, especially those of an economic and technical nature, both internally and through international cooperation with a view to achieving, by legislation or other appropriate means, the realization of the principles and standards set forth in this Convention and its Protocols.
2. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the formulation and adoption of Protocols. Protocols may seek to expand upon the principles in Parts I and II of this Convention. Protocols are not limited by the provisions above and may cover any topic concerning the protection of animals.
3. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate directly or, when appropriate, through competent regional or international organizations, in all appropriate fields including but not restricted to science, education, law, and technology to exchange data as well as other information to further the purposes of this Convention and its Protocols.
4. The Contracting Parties shall cooperate in the enforcement of this Convention and its Protocols.
5. The official working languages of this Convention shall be English and [•]. The Contracting Parties shall make every effort in communications with the Secretariat and other Contracting Parties to use one of these languages.

Part III: Functioning of the Treaty

ARTICLE 15

Relationship Between this Convention and Protocols

1. No State may become a Contracting Party to a Protocol unless it is a Contracting Party to this Convention or becomes a Contracting Party to this Convention at the same time.
2. Any Protocol to this Convention shall be binding only on the Contracting Parties to the Protocol in question.

ARTICLE 16

Adoption of Protocols

At the request of at least ten Contracting Parties, interested Contracting Parties may convene a Plenipotentiary Conference to consider and adopt Protocols to this Convention.

ARTICLE 17

Designation of Competent Authority

1. Each Contracting Party shall designate an individual, office, or organization as the Competent Authority to be responsible in matters concerning this Convention. This individual, office, or organization shall be the responsible agency for all official communication between the Secretariat and the Contracting Party.
2. It shall be permissible for any Contracting Party to further designate different individuals, offices, or organizations as the Competent Authority for each Protocol that is in force for the Contracting Party in question.

ARTICLE 18

The Secretariat

1. Upon entry into force of this Convention, an interim Secretariat shall be provided by [•]. To the extent and in the manner the interim Secretariat considers appropriate, the Interim Secretariat may be assisted by suitable governmental, intergovernmental, or nongovernmental international or national agencies and organizations qualified in the care of animals. The interim Secretariat shall call a meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties no later than one year after the entry into force of this Convention.
2. At the first Conference of the Contracting Parties to this Convention, the Contracting Parties shall appoint a permanent Secretariat and first Secretary General to administer the day-to-day functioning of this Convention and to perform any special duties entrusted to it. The composition of the Secretariat, its

headquarters, the appointment of the Secretary General, and other matters that relate to this functioning shall be determined by the Conference of the Parties.

3. The permanent Secretariat shall have the following duties and authority:
 - a. to convene and prepare the meetings and Conferences of Contracting Parties;
 - b. to transmit to the Contracting Parties notifications, reports, and other information received in accordance with subsequent Articles;
 - c. to respond to inquiries by and to information from the Contracting Parties and to consult with them on questions relating to this Convention, the Protocols and Annexes thereto;
 - d. to ensure the necessary coordination with other international organizations that the Contracting Parties consider competent and, in particular, to enter into such administrative arrangements as may be required for the effective discharge of the Secretariat functions;
 - e. to make recommendations to the Contracting Parties for the implementation of this Convention and adopted Protocols;
 - f. to consider problems of implementation of this Convention or a Protocol, to make recommendations to a Contracting Party for the correction of any outstanding problems, and, when appropriate, to make a report along with recommendations to the Contracting Parties at the next Convention of the Contracting Parties;
 - g. to undertake studies that will contribute to the implementation of this Convention;
 - h. to seek funding, as required, from governmental and non-governmental sources;
 - i. to receive reports from non-government entities concerning issues that arise under this Convention;
 - j. to work with the Standing Committee and the Science and Health Authority as appropriate;
 - k. to report to the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
 - l. to perform the functions assigned to it by the Protocols to this Convention; and
 - m. to perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 19

Standing Committee

1. At the first Conference of the Contracting Parties, a Standing Committee consisting of nine Contracting Parties shall be elected. Subsequent elections shall be held at each regular Conference of the Contracting Parties.
2. Membership on the Standing Committee shall rotate amongst the Contracting Parties and shall take into account the needs of geographic representation.
3. The Standing Committee shall adopt its own rules of operation.
4. In order to discharge its functions, the Standing Committee may, on its own initiative, arrange for meetings of groups of experts.
5. The Standing Committee shall meet at least once between the Conferences of the Parties.
6. The Standing Committee may investigate problems with the implementation of this Convention and Protocols. The results of any such investigation shall be forwarded to all Contracting Parties along with recommendations.
7. The Standing Committee may draft new Protocols or amendments to this Convention, existing Protocols, or Annexes of this Convention or of a Protocol. Any such proposal shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties for consideration in accordance with Articles 18 and 25.
8. The Standing Committee shall provide administrative and financial oversight of the operation of the Secretariat as directed by the Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties.

ARTICLE 20

Periodic Reports

1. Upon joining this Convention, each Contracting Party shall provide the Secretariat with copies of all domestic laws, translated into an official languages of this Convention, that pertain to its obligations under this Convention or any of the Protocols to which it is a Contracting Party. If a Contracting Party subsequently becomes party to a Protocol, then copies of relevant domestic law shall be forwarded to the Secretariat. Any subsequent changes or additions in relevant domestic law shall be forwarded to the Secretariat when adopted.
2. Contracting Parties shall provide biennial reports to the Secretariat that explain its efforts to implement the obligations of this Convention. These reports shall be submitted upon entry into force of this Convention for the Contracting Party in question and thereafter six months prior to each regular Conference meeting. Additional reporting responsibility may arise under specific Protocols.

3. Biennial reports shall be compiled by the Secretariat and made available to all Contracting Parties and other interested individuals and organizations, and on the web-accessible database provided for in Article 21.

ARTICLE 21

Collection, Evaluation, and Publication of Domestic Legislation

1. As described in Article 20, the Secretariat shall receive from each Contracting Party the domestic legislation relevant to carrying out the obligations of the treaty and make it available via a web database. Upon the request of a Contracting Party, the Secretariat shall provide resources and support for the drafting of its domestic legislation.
2. The Secretariat shall evaluate the legislation provided and place it into one or more of the following categories. This information shall be provided to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties.
 - a. Non-complying legislation;
 - b. Legislation without an appointed Competent Authority;
 - c. Legislation without adequate enforcement provisions; or
 - d. Complying legislation
3. Two years after a Contracting Party has its legislation placed on List (d), at the request of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat shall assess the Contracting Party's enforcement and report back to the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE 22

Conferences of the Contracting Parties

1. After the initial Conference of the Contracting Parties, convened in accordance with Article 18, regular meetings of the Conference shall be called every two years.
2. Extraordinary meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties may thereafter be called by the Secretariat on receipt of a written request of at least one-third of all Contracting Parties to this Convention.
3. Only Contracting Parties may vote at a Conference. Any Contracting Party may be represented by one or more delegates. Each delegation shall have one vote. Within the areas of its competence, the European Union, if a Contracting Party, may exercise its right to vote with a number of votes equal to the number of its member States that are Contracting Parties to this Convention; the European Union shall not exercise its right to vote in cases where the member States concerned exercise theirs, and conversely.

4. A majority of the Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum for purposes of holding a Conference. Except as provided in Article 25, and Paragraph 6 of this Article, all votes shall be decided on the basis of a simple majority of those present and voting. When an issue is solely within the provisions of one Protocol, only Contracting Parties to that Protocol may vote.
5. The Conference shall review the effectiveness of this Convention and of existing Protocols, review and adopt budgets for the Secretariat, consider the recommendations of the Secretariat or Standing Committee, and transact such other business as it considers necessary to implement the provisions of this Convention and its Protocols.
6. Upon motion and a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any Conference of the Contracting Parties, a Contracting Party may be sanctioned when it is deemed to have violated an obligation under this Convention or a Protocol to which it is a Contracting Party.

ARTICLE 23

Participation by non-Contracting Parties

1. Upon a vote of the Contracting Parties, any State, international agency, body, or organization may be invited as an observer to a Conference of the Parties or meeting of the Standing Committee.
2. Any duly registered agency, body, or organization working in animal or environmental protection or conservation, the prevention of zoonotic viruses and other pathogens, or otherwise interested in animal issues that has informed the Secretariat at least 30 days in advance of its desire to be represented at meetings of the Conference by observers shall be admitted unless a majority of the Contracting Parties present object. Once admitted, these observers shall have the right to participate, but shall not have the right to vote.
3. In the case of any Committee meetings held between Conferences, any organization that was represented at the immediately preceding Conference shall be allowed observer status, except when the Committee excludes all observers by majority vote.

ARTICLE 24

Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules

1. The Contracting Parties shall adopt rules of procedure for their meetings and conferences provided for in Article 22.
2. The Contracting Parties shall adopt financial provisions, prepared in consultation with the Secretariat, to determine the level of each Contracting Party's financial participation.

ARTICLE 25

Amendment of this Convention

1. Any Contracting Party to this Convention may propose amendments to this Convention by written communication addressed to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall promptly circulate such communication to all Contracting Parties. If, within 12 months of the date of the circulation of the communication, at least two-thirds of the Contracting Parties reply favorably to the request, the Secretariat shall convene an extraordinary conference or include the amendment on the agenda for the next Conference of the Contracting Parties.
2. Amendments to this Convention shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Contracting Parties to this Convention that are present and voting either affirmative or negative at the extraordinary conference and shall be submitted by the Depositary for acceptance by all Contracting Parties to this Convention.
3. Acceptance of amendments shall be notified to the Depositary in writing. Amendments adopted in accordance with Paragraph 2 of this Article shall enter into force among Contracting Parties having accepted such amendments on the thirtieth day following the receipt by the Depositary of notification of their acceptance by at least two-thirds of the Contracting Parties to this Convention. For Contracting Parties subsequently accepting the amendment, the amendment shall be effective 30 days after receipt of the notification of acceptance.
4. After the entry into force of an amendment to this Convention, any new Contracting Party to this Convention shall become a Contracting Party to the instrument as amended.
5. If a technical mistake of translation is discovered in any text after the adoption of this Convention or amendment to this Convention, the Secretariat shall so report to the Contracting Parties in writing. The necessary change will be made by the Secretary 60 days after notification unless controversy exists, in such case the problem will be reported at the next Conference of the Parties.

ARTICLE 26

Resolution of Disputes

Any dispute arising between two or more Contracting Parties as to the interpretation, application, performance, or implementation of this Convention, including its existence, validity, or termination, shall be subject to negotiation between the Contracting Parties involved in the dispute. If negotiation fails, the Contracting Parties may, by mutual consent, submit the dispute to final and binding arbitration in accordance with the Permanent Court of Arbitration Optional Rules for Arbitrating Disputes between Two States, as in effect on the effective date of this Convention.

ARTICLE 27

Trade

In order to encourage the full implementation of this Convention, Contracting Parties are encouraged to restrict the trade of any animal or animal parts, products, or derivatives with other Contracting Parties or with any State that treats or interacts with animals in a manner inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Convention.

ARTICLE 28

Reservation

1. The provisions of this Convention shall not be subject to general reservations. Specific reservations may be entered in accordance with the provisions of this Article.
2. Any Contracting Party may, on depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession, or within 60 days after the adoption of a new Annex or an amendment to Annex I, enter a specific reservation with regard to:
3. a specific species, subspecies, or any other taxons specifically listed;
4. any specific technique or device prohibited or controlled; and
5. any species-specific conditions of handling, housing, transportation, or use of animals.
6. Until a Contracting Party withdraws its reservation entered under the provisions of this Article, it shall be treated as a non-Contracting Party to this Convention with respect to such reservation.

ARTICLE 29

Signature

This Convention shall be available and open for signature by all States and the European Union.

ARTICLE 30

Ratification, Acceptance, and Approval

This Convention shall be subject to ratification, acceptance, or approval. Instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval shall be deposited with [•], which shall be the Depositary.

ARTICLE 31

Accession

This Convention shall be open indefinitely for accession. Instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Depositary.

ARTICLE 32

Entry into Force

1. This Convention shall enter into force 90 days after the date of deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession with the Depositary.
2. For each State that ratifies, accepts, or approves this Convention or accedes thereto after the deposit of the tenth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession, this Convention shall enter into force 90 days after the deposit by such State of its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession.

ARTICLE 33

Withdrawal

1. At any time after two years from the date on which this Convention has entered into force for a Contracting Party, that Contracting Party may withdraw from this Convention by giving written notification to the Depositary.
2. Any Contracting Party may withdraw this Convention by written notification to the Depositary at any time. The withdrawal shall take effect one year after the Depositary has received the notification.

ARTICLE 34

Depositary

1. The original of this Convention, in the English and [•] languages, each version being equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Depositary, which shall transmit certified copies thereof to all signatory or acceding States.
2. The Depositary shall inform all signatory and acceding States and the Secretariat of signatures, deposits of instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, entries into force of this Convention, Protocols thereto, amendments thereto, entry and withdrawal of reservations and notifications of withdrawal.
3. As soon as this Convention enters into force, a certified copy thereof shall be transmitted by the Depositary to the Secretariat of the United Nations for registration and publication in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

In witness whereof the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized to that effect, have signed this Convention.