

Appeal for the Inclusion of Aquatic Animal Welfare in the Animal Welfare Bill and Live Animal Transportation Standards of Nepal

To
The Government of Nepal
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
Department of Livestock Services

Subject: Inclusion of Aquatic Animal Welfare in National Legislation

Respected Sir/Madam,

We, the undersigned members of the [Aquatic Animal Alliance \(AAA\)](#), extend our appreciation to the Government of Nepal for taking progressive steps by drafting the Animal Welfare Bill and revising the Live Animal Transportation Standards. These initiatives represent important milestones in advancing animal welfare in the country.

Nepal has witnessed rapid growth in aquaculture, with fish farming increasingly promoted as a source of food security and livelihoods. However, despite this expansion, there are currently no policies in Nepal that specifically address the welfare of aquatic animals. Fish are sentient beings capable of experiencing pain, stress, and suffering, yet their welfare remains neglected.

At present, fish are commonly transported from farms to markets in small buckets or boxes, often without sufficient water quality management, oxygen supply, or stocking density control. These practices cause significant distress and compromise both animal welfare and the sustainability of aquaculture systems.

It is also important to note that poor aquatic animal welfare can create wider risks for society. Inadequate welfare standards increase the likelihood of disease outbreaks, which not only threaten fish health but can also lead to serious public health risks and undermine food safety. Furthermore, harmful farming and transport practices contribute to negative environmental impacts, such as water pollution and ecosystem degradation. By adopting stronger welfare standards, Nepal can mitigate these risks and promote healthier, more sustainable aquaculture practices.

The **Aquatic Animal Alliance**, a global coalition of advocacy organizations dedicated to improving the welfare of aquatic animals worldwide through industry engagement, policy advocacy, public education, and scientific research, therefore respectfully urges the Government of Nepal to:

1. **Include aquatic animal welfare in the forthcoming Animal Welfare Bill**, ensuring that fish and other aquatic species are explicitly recognized as sentient animals deserving protection.
2. **Incorporate specific standards for fish welfare in the amended Live Animal Transportation Standards**, addressing humane handling, stocking density, water quality, and transport conditions to reduce unnecessary suffering, protect public health, and limit environmental damage.

By including aquatic animals in these legislative frameworks, Nepal can take a leadership role in the region, align with emerging global welfare standards, and support the growth of a more ethical, sustainable, and health-conscious aquaculture sector.

We sincerely hope that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development and the Department of Livestock Services will consider this appeal and take the necessary steps to ensure that fish and other aquatic animals are not overlooked in this important reform process.

Respectfully,

On behalf of the members of the Aquatic Animal Alliance (AAA):

Signatories:

Acción Océanos

Action for Protection of Animals Africa

Action For Dolphins

ADER-COV

AEL Advocacy

African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization

Alexandria Turtle And Wildlife Rescue

Alianima

Alliance for Human Animal Coexistence

Angolan Vegetarian Association

Anima International

Anima Naturalis

ANIMAL

Animal Action Greece

Animal Advocacy Africa

Animal Advocates International

Animal Empathy Philippines

Animal Equality

Animal Friends Croatia

Animal Justice Canada

Animal Interfaith Alliance

Animal Kingdom Foundation

Animal Law Focus

Animal Law Italia

Animal Libre

Animal Nepal

Animal Rights Center Japan

Animal Rights Initiative

Animal Society e.V.

Animals Aotearoa

Animals Don't Speak Human

Animal Welfare Advocates Association the Gambia

Animal Welfare and Environment Network for Tanzania

Animal Welfare Concern

Animal Welfare Institute

Animal Welfare Observatory

Animals Australia

Animals Now

Apon Welfare

Aquatic Life Institute

ARBA

Arusha Society for the Protection of Animals

Aware

Better Food Foundation

BC SPCA

Catholic Concern for Animals

Congo Basin Conservation Society CBCS-Network

Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations

Compassion in World Farming

Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation

Crustacean compassion

The Dark Hobby

Depana

Deutscher Tierschutzbund

Dharma Voices for Animals

Dieren Bescherming

Djurens Rätt

Dyrenes Alliance

Environmental and Animal Society of Taiwan (EAST)

Education for African Animals Welfare

Environmental and Animal Rights Consultants Pakistan

Essere Animali

Estonian Union for the Protection of Animals (MTÜ Eestimaa Loomakaitse Liit)

Eurogroup for Animals

The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy

Ethical Farming Ireland

EZRA Foundation

FAADA

fair-fish international

Farmállatvédelem

Feedback Global

Fish Welfare Initiative

La Fondation Droit Animal, Éthique et Sciences (LFDA)

Fórum Animal

F.R.E.E

Frente Animal

Friends of Phillip

Fundación Abogados Por Los Animales APLA

Fundacion defensa y derecho animal

Fundación Veg

Future For Fish

Ghana Animal Welfare Society

Green REV Institute

Humane Africa Trust

The Humane Global Network

The Humane League

Heal and Feed Life Care Foundation

Humánnny pokrok

iCareFish

In Defense of Animals

Institute of Animal Law Asia

International Centre for Animal Rights and Ethics (ICARE)

Invisible Animals (Nevidimi Zhivotni)

Kitwe Animal Welfare Society

Kurdistan Organization for Animal Rights Protection

KYMA sea conservation & research

L214

Lady Freethinker

The Last Cage

Lever

Life of Pachamama

Lilongwe Society for Protection and Care of Animals

Luv 4 all: Uganda

Meru Animal Welfare Organization

National Council of SPCAs

Nepal Animal Welfare and Environment Society (NAWES)

Nepal Animal Welfare and Research Center (NAWRC)

New Roots Institute

Nurture Imvelo Trust

Nuru Animal Welfare Organization

Oikeutta eläimille

OIPA - International Organization for Animal Protection

One Health and Development Initiative

ONG Sante Animale Afrique (SAA)

Podrska foundation

PlantBased Treaty

Plataforma ALTO

Planet For All

Protección Animal Ecuador (PAE)

Proyecto ALA

PAZ

RENECTAS

Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO)

SAFCEI

SAFE (Save Animals from Exploitation)

Samayu

Scale Welfare

Seastemik

Sentience

Sentient Media

SHARED

Shellfish Network

Shrimp Welfare Project

Sibanye Animal Welfare and Conservancy Trust

Sinergia Animal

Somali Animal Welfare Society (SAWS)

Sống Thuần Chay

SPCA Montreal

SPCA New Zealand

SPCA Selangor

Tanzania Animals Protection Organization

Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO)

Te Protejo

Terranimal Ecuador

Teuloo Sustainability Foundation

Tikobane Trust

Todos Somos Animales

Tourists Against Trophy Hunting

University of Guilan

Uganda vegan society

Utunzi Animal Welfare Organization

Vegan Planet Africa

Vege zajednica

Vissenbescherming

Vivamar Society

Voices for Animals

Voters for animals rights

We Animals

Welfare Footprint Project (Center for Welfare Metrics)

West Africa Centre for the Protection of Animal Welfare (WACPAW)

World Animal Justice

WTS