

Strasbourg, 10 March 1995

**MULTILATERAL CONSULTATION OF PARTIES TO THE EUROPEAN
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF PET ANIMALS (ETS 125)**

Strasbourg, 7 - 10 March 1995

**RESOLUTION ON THE KEEPING OF WILD ANIMALS
AS PET ANIMALS**

adopted by the Multilateral Consultation on 10 March 1995

The Parties to the European Convention for the protection of pet animals, by virtue of the terms of reference laid down in its Article 15;

Recognising that these provisions imply the monitoring of the implementation of the Convention and the development of common and co-ordinated programmes in the field of pet animal welfare;

Aware of the developments in the keeping of animals of wild species as pet animals;

Recalling the Preamble of the Convention which states that "the keeping of specimens of wild fauna as pet animals should not be encouraged";

Recalling that certain species are protected under international legal instruments such as the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (Washington, 1973), the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Berne, 1979) and the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (Bonn, 1979);

Recalling that Article 4 of the Convention requires that pet animals shall be provided with accommodation, care and attention taking into account the ethological needs of the animal in accordance with its species and breed, and that an animal which cannot adapt itself to captivity in spite of these conditions being met, shall not be kept as a pet animal;

Anxious to encourage full respect for these provisions of the Convention;

Considering therefore that efforts shall be made to prevent the keeping of these animals in conditions which do not meet their physiological and behavioural needs;

Convinced that this can only be achieved by taking measures to regulate the keeping of these animals as pet animals;

Recognising that certain countries have already set up minimum requirements, with or without a licensing system, for the keeping of animals of wild species or a system limiting the species which can be kept as pets;

Convinced that an agreement on the general criteria related to the keeping of animals of wild species will contribute to the harmonised implementation of the Convention;

Agreed to set up a system enabling the control of the keeping of animals of wild species as pet animals taking into account the following criteria:

1. An animal must be housed and cared according to its physiological and behavioural needs;
2. In particular, the following conditions must be met:
 - i. space allocation sufficient for the specific needs of the animal in particular for movements and exercise;
 - ii. appropriate enclosure enrichment with climbing material, digging possibilities, rest and hiding places, as well as bathing, swimming or diving facilities;
 - iii. possibilities to fulfil the needs for social behaviour;
 - iv. appropriate climatic conditions.
3. The keeper must have appropriate knowledge to be able to satisfy the physiological and behavioural needs of the animal during its entire keeping;
4. The necessary conditions must be met to prevent the animal from escaping;
5. The aspects related to aggressiveness of the animal and to possible risk for human safety and health should be taken into account.