



Helen Woodward Animal Center

animalcenter.org

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Chapeau

Since 1972, Helen Woodward Animal Center, based in San Diego County in the United States, has been committed to the philosophy of people helping animals and animals helping people. With the Summit of the Future rapidly approaching, it is our duty to return our focus to the major issues that impact us all, those issues related to sustainability and maintaining biodiversity.

It is our greatest wish that The Summit of the Future can keep NGOs informed of the calendar of events and opportunities for written input with due time for ample research as this will help our communities feel advocated for and heard in these deliberations.

As an organization with special consultative status, Helen Woodward Animal Center can provide multiple perspectives on issues related to “Life on Land”, “Climate Action” and supporting “Good Health and Well Being”. On another hand, our organization has experience supporting Good Health and Well Being through pet encounter therapy programs that have transformed lives of those needing health care or are dealing with medical needs related to age.

Our organization continues to seek out opportunities to educate, advise and inspire communities around the world to think critically about their relationship to animals and the world around them. Only then will we be able to move forward in attaining these Sustainable Development Goals when we consider the imperative role that all animals play in our ecosystem.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

It is crucial that animals are recognized as integral for ecosystems and for overall human well-being. We advocate for sustainable practices that consider animal welfare, promotes conservation of biodiversity, and ensures humane treatment towards species of all kinds. There is a clear connection between how humans treat the environment, societal development, and animal welfare which shows the importance of adopting a holistic approach to sustainable development.

Chapter II. International peace and security

There is a clear interconnectedness of human well-being, environmental stability and animal welfare. The potential impact of conflict on ecosystems and wildlife emphasizes the need for regulations surrounding sustainable practices that ensure peace and security for all living beings, especially that of companion animals that are often at the forefront of conflict amongst their human companions.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Digital Transformation has revolutionized how we approach biodiversity in the world and ways that we can create a more sustainable future. It is also increasing the ways that we can spread awareness about companion animals needing homes and pets in crisis.

With this, we welcome further digital advances that can continue to prop up the nonprofit animal rescue space while the industry suffers a recent dearth of new pet parents. The nonprofit animal rescue space could greatly benefit from tools such as virtual meeting software, social media communications, data analytics, artificial intelligence, advancements in veterinary software and technology, and more.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

When it comes to the Chapter 4 Youth and future generations, it is imperative that the committee clarify the ways that children can be represented at these meetings as their voices can glean insight into what we could be doing to better prepare them for the future ahead. Additionally, we urge member states to incorporate humane education elements into their teaching practices so as to encourage more compassionate treatment towards animals and thus, a more sustainably conscious society.

The Center also hopes to break the cycle of human abuse which correlates with animal abuse. It is imperative that our children learn at a young age how to interact humanely with animals so that we can all continue to enjoy a diverse biosphere. The Center strongly believes that when we inspire our youth to lead with a more kind and human nature, we will all benefit in the end.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

On the point of Chapter 5 Transform Global Governance, it is critical to address the disparity of access to opportunities for those less fortunate, who may be able to make more of an impact on sustainability with the right background, knowledge and skills to address the depletion of environmental resources. It is up to member states to provide opportunities for citizens to access sustainable jobs, climate conscious products, and to set up regulation bodies that can govern these areas.