

*The Minister*

WSPA World Society on the Protection of Animals  
89 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7TP  
UK

Your ref  
DG/3008

Our ref  
200800135-/CHO

Date  
01.12.2008

Dear Peter Davies,

**Re: Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW)**

Thank you for the invitation to support, in principle, the proposed Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW). I would also like to thank WSPA, and others involved, for this initiative, which I am confident will contribute to the recognition of the need for good animal welfare worldwide. It is in my opinion very important that this issue is discussed globally, and I am pleased to state my support, in principle, for the proposed declaration.

Norway is working actively to contribute to the improvement of animal welfare, both nationally and in international forums. The Norwegian Government has 28.11.2008 forwarded to the Norwegian Parliament a proposal for a new Animal Welfare Act. A significant development concerning the knowledge about animals' abilities and needs, combined with high ethical goals for the way we want animals to be treated in our society, is the basis for this proposed Act. It is recognised that animals have an intrinsic value in addition to a useable value. The proposal is for a modern Act which protects animals based on current knowledge and respect for the animal's interests. Further information may be found under the following link:

<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/lmd/Subjects/Animal.html?id=1294>

Yours sincerely,

Lars Peder Brekk