

## MANIFEST

For a Constitution which recognizes animals as sentient beings and, therefore, as rights-bearing subjects.

In the current Chilean Civil Code, which is the systematic set of rules of private law governing relations among individuals, animals are defined as "movable property", thus, as things subject to being acquired, over which a person exercises domain right, such as the one it has over a car or a book, and therefore with absolute sovereignty over it.

It's foreseeable that it will not be easy to change this reality, whether for practical issues such as the enactment of a bill to amend the Civil Code; for cultural issues, because it is customary to decide over animals arbitrarily, certainly protected by law; for economic issues, because to stop using animals as objects often means failing to perceive a certain gain, and for ethical issues, as many believe that only human and legal persons may be subjects of rights.

However, even with all the adversity ahead, we know that it is scientifically proven that animals can feel, in the broad sense of the word, and have indisputable attributes such as the ability to experience pleasure and pain, fear and happiness, among many others, not only because all scientific studies prove and endorse this statement, but also because it is obvious to anyone who has ever been close to an animal. That is why we find it essential to fight to change this reality.

For animals to have a legal regime in accordance with their own nature, as living and sentient beings, we hope that the new Constitution recognizes them as such, and as a result, our legislation, particularly the Civil Code be amended in accordance to the new constitutional regulation, so they can enjoy worthy and efficient protection.

Jane Goodall.