

Proclamation

WHEREAS, to say that animals are sentient is to state explicitly that they can experience both positive and negative emotions, including pain and distress, and;

WHEREAS, the 2013 Cambridge Declaration on Consciousness concluded that non-human animals have the neuroanatomical, neurochemical, and neurophysiological substrates of conscious states, thus providing scientific evidence that animals are sentient and have feelings in the same way that we do, and;

WHEREAS, all major religions have principles of animal stewardship in which every creature has its own value and significance; and that people of faith understand human dominion over animals in the sense of service, not in exploitation, and;

WHEREAS, cruelty to animals leads to cruelty towards human beings, and;

WHEREAS, global expectations on animal welfare have been rapidly changing, and practices that were once commonplace for pets and farm stock are no longer acceptable or tolerated, and;

WHEREAS, the European Union governing body has officially considered animals as sentient beings under the 2009 Lisbon Treaty, and;

WHEREAS, Germany became the first country in the European Union to enshrine animal rights in its constitution, and the Government of New Zealand passed landmark legislation in which it is declared that ALL animals are sentient beings, and;

WHEREAS, Gandhi understood the sentience of animals by saying: “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”, and;

WHEREAS, In his 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, His Holiness Pope Francis talked of the importance of treating animals with kindness, writing, “Every act of cruelty towards any creature is ‘contrary to human dignity’”, and;

WHEREAS, Pittsburgh led our state in passing the first two puppy mills laws in Pennsylvania aimed at reducing animal suffering in factory breeding facilities, and;

NOW THEREFORE, I Matthew T. Shorraw, Mayor of the City of Monessen recognize that all animals, regardless of the species to which they belong, are sentient beings with biological needs and a physical and psychological sensibility to experience both positive emotions including joy and pleasure, and negative emotions such as fear and distress, and sensation of pain. All animals are deserving of stewards, owners, and persons in charge of animals to attend properly to their welfare.



Matthew T. Shorraw, Mayor
City of Monessen