

# Animal Welfare Statement

Sustainable Banking  
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## Executive Summary

At ABN AMRO, we recognise that as a financial service provider we can be connected to potential adverse impacts on animal welfare through our business relations. We have therefore written this Animal Welfare Statement explaining our overarching approach to animal welfare, with particular attention to the following themes: wildlife and endangered species, animal testing and biotechnology, animals and entertainment, fur and wool, livestock farming and transportation, and fisheries.

## Animal Welfare Statement

### 1. Why does ABN AMRO have an Animal Welfare Statement?

At ABN AMRO, we recognise that as a financial service provider we can be connected to potential adverse impacts on animal welfare through our business relations. Animal welfare could potentially be adversely impacted in several of the sectors in which ABN AMRO is active. We have therefore written this statement (“the Statement”) explaining our overarching approach to animal welfare.

### 2. Purpose and scope of the Statement

The purpose of the Statement is to set out our approach to preventing adverse impacts on animal welfare as a result of our own activities or those of our business relation (any party with whom we have a business relation in any capacity, including clients and suppliers). The Statement discusses general expectations of our own activities and those of our business relations, minimum requirements for specific sectors and activities, and a number of excluded activities.

The Statement applies to ABN AMRO Bank N.V. and all its subsidiaries, branches, representative offices and legal entities that are under its control, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Activities that fall within the scope of the Statement are:

- Client engagement: client acceptance and assessments of clients in all forms of commercial business engagement, such as project finance, credit facilities, cash management, investments and advisory services for retail and corporate clients.
- Supplier engagement: screening and selection of product and service suppliers.
- Participations: investment (purchasing of shares) in companies or property by ABN AMRO itself.

### 3. What ABN AMRO expects from its business relations

ABN AMRO expects its business relations to acknowledge the right of animals to be free from hunger and thirst, free from discomfort, free from pain, injury or disease, free to express their normal behaviour and free from fear and distress (also known as the Five Animal Freedoms).

ABN AMRO expects its business relations to adhere to local applicable laws and regulations related to animal welfare, such as the Dutch Animals’ Act (*Wet Dieren*) and the UK Animal Welfare Act. We also encourage our business relations to comply with voluntary standards of animal welfare, such as the *Beter Leven* quality mark. Where local law conflicts with animal welfare protection, we expect our business relations to comply with local law without compromising animal welfare.

ABN AMRO adheres to a strict Exclusion List of practices that contravene conservation efforts, sub-standard practices and practices considered unethical, harmful, exploitative or abusive. Many of these excluded practices are directly or indirectly linked to the protection of animal welfare as described in the Statement.

### 3.1 Wildlife and endangered species

- Trade in wildlife or wildlife products regulated under CITES<sup>1</sup> (focus on endangered categories) is unacceptable, as is animal trade involving endangered species<sup>2</sup> for commercial purposes.

### 3.2 Animal testing and biotechnology

- ABN AMRO considers the following practices unacceptable:
  - commercial, non-healthcare related animal testing (including but not limited to cosmetics testing);
  - the use of endangered species or great apes<sup>3</sup> for testing or experimental purposes;
  - health care related animal testing that is non-compliant with EU, US or equivalent legislation.
- The use of laboratory animals for manufacturing medical products is acceptable, but ABN AMRO expects its business relations to minimise the use of laboratory animals, the animal suffering and the number of animals used (the so-called 3R strategy: Replace, Reduce, Refine) for this purpose.
- ABN AMRO expects its business relations to refrain from genetic modification and cloning of animals (or humans) for commercial purposes. If genetically modified organisms are used, transport should be in line with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

### 3.3 Animals and entertainment

- ABN AMRO considers the following practices unacceptable:
  - support of any type of animal fights for entertainment;
  - entertainment events with animals where the Five Animal Freedoms are not respected.
- If entertainment with animals doesn't involve animal fights and if the Five Animal Freedoms are respected, ABN AMRO encourages entertainment with animals to be combined with other objectives as well, such as conservation, research, shelter and education.

<sup>1</sup> Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)).

<sup>2</sup> As defined by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species or as defined in any national legislation.

<sup>3</sup> Gorillas, orangutans, bonobos, chimpanzees.

### 3.4 Fur and wool

- ABN AMRO will not take on new clients involved in fur activities (including capturing or keeping animals for fur, manufacturing, trading or selling fur products), nor will it expand existing relationships with clients involved in fur activities.
- ABN AMRO considers trade and manufacturing of angora wool unacceptable.

### 3.5 Livestock farming and transportation

- ABN AMRO expects its business relations to adhere to applicable laws and regulations related to livestock farming, which in the Netherlands prohibits the most restrictive housing methods such as calves in crates, hens in battery cages and sows in permanent feeding cubicles.
- We encourage our business relations to become a frontrunner in both reducing environmental impact (i.e. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions) and promoting animal welfare (animal health in particular), to shift to more animal friendly production methods for livestock farming and to comply with voluntary standards on animal welfare, such as the *Beter Leven* quality mark.
- ABN AMRO supports reducing the time limit of animal transport to a maximum of eight hours.

### 3.6 Fisheries

- ABN AMRO encourages its business relations active in fisheries to obtain or use the MSC certificate for wild-caught fish and seafood, and the ASC certificate for farmed fish and seafood (aquaculture) or equivalent standards. In accordance with these standards, ABN AMRO explicitly excludes the use of dynamite or poison related to the catching of fish or shellfish.
- ABN AMRO considers commercial whaling and shark finning unacceptable.