

# MANIFESTO: Positive List

Five reasons why I support a Positive List for pets in my country

## 1) Animal health and welfare

Non-domesticated, exotic animals have complex needs tied to their diet, environment and behavior in the wild that are not always known and generally hard to meet. When kept as pets, they often suffer and die prematurely. An increasing number of nations, including the European Union in Article 13 of the Treaty of Lisbon, are modifying their laws in order to **acknowledge animals as sentient beings and pay full regard to animal welfare requirements.**

## 2) Human health and safety

Exotic pets can be dangerous for human health either by being predatory or poisonous species or by carrying diseases. Around **75% of emerging human diseases are zoonotic, transmitted from animals to humans,** and these are significantly associated with the keeping of exotic animals kept as pets.

## 3) Environmental conservation

The lack of legislation on exotic pets has negative consequences **both on the species' natural ecosystems,** as the harvesting of species can endanger the original populations, **and on the ecosystems where the species are relocated. 10 to 15% of species transported out of their natural range** become **invasive** alien species and may have a significant negative impact on biodiversity.

## 4) Agriculture

Introducing an uncontrolled amount of exotic species in Europe not only threatens human health and the environment but also animal health. Diseases carried by exotic animals **can be transmitted to farm animals,** which can lead to a dramatic loss of livestock, effects on food safety and devastating socioeconomic consequences for the sector.

## 5) Economic Costs

Controlling and eradicating invasive alien species, treating people because of zoonotic diseases, **fighting against illegal trade** and slaughtering thousands of farm animals in order to prevent the spreading of diseases costs hundreds of billions of euros globally. The European Commission estimates the costs of controlling and restoring the damage of invasive alien species in the EU alone at **13,5 billion euros annually.**

Because the **species in trade are ever-changing** based on new trends, **negative lists do not fulfil the precautionary approach** and need regular updates that require extensive resources and entail a considerable time lag due to bureaucratic burden.

In contrast, **a Positive List is a clear, concise list of exotic species that can be kept as pets, on the basis of scientific risk assessments, which remains open for review under specific and strict conditions and establishes unambiguous exceptions.**

For these and other reasons,  
**I support the implementation of a Positive List in my country.**

Date: .....

Country: .....

Name: .....

Organization: .....

Signature: .....

Personal comment: .....

You can scan and send the signed Manifesto to Margot Décory: [margot.decory@aap.nl](mailto:margot.decory@aap.nl). Thank you!