

Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention

Hybrids

REGULATION OF TRADE IN ANIMAL HYBRIDS

1. This document has been prepared and submitted by Australia.

Background

2. Questions concerning the status of animal hybrids arose in 1995 in relation to the import (into Australia) of a breed of cat, the Bengal cat, and exports (from Australia) of venison derived from hybrid fallow deer.
3. In the case of the Bengal cat, the breed is derived from hybridization of the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) with the Asian leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), which is included (depending on its range State) on either Appendix I or Appendix II. Specimens of this breed were first produced in the United States of America in the 1960s. Specimens imported into Australia have been at least four generations removed from the ancestral stock of *Prionailurus bengalensis*.
4. In the case of venison, hybrids have been produced between the European fallow deer (*Dama dama dama*), which is not included in the appendices, and the Persian fallow deer (*Dama mesopotamica*), which is in Appendix I. These hybrids were produced following the importation of male genetic material from New Zealand many years ago. The Persian fallow deer semen was imported to produce larger carcass sizes for the export

venison trade. Deer herds throughout Australia now include many specimens with some genetic material from Persian fallow deer.

5. In accordance with Resolution Conf. 2.13, adopted at the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (San José, 1979), hybrids may be included in the appendices of the Convention. Further, hybrids may be subject to the provisions of the Convention "even though not specifically included in the appendices if one or both of their parents are of taxa included in the appendices" and "if the parents of a hybrid specimen are included in different appendices, the provisions of the more restrictive appendix shall apply" (Resolution Conf. 2.13, paragraphs b and c).
6. The attached draft resolution seeks to clarify the position of animal hybrids. It proposes that hybrids of second generation (F2) or a later generation be considered as exempt from the provisions of the Convention.
7. This draft resolution further seeks to ensure that the criteria for assessing whether a hybrid should be listed in Appendix I or II are the same for both animal and plant specimens (see Resolution Conf. 9.18 – "Regulation of Trade in Plants" – "Regarding artificially propagated hybrids").

Doc. 10.71 Annex

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Regulation of Trade in Animal Hybrids

RECALLING that Resolutions Conf. 2.13 and Conf. 9.18, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second and ninth meetings (San José, 1979 and Fort Lauderdale, 1994), relate to the problems with hybrid plants and trade in artificially propagated hybrids;

OBSERVING that Resolution Conf. 2.13 primarily addresses plant hybrids and Resolution Conf. 9.18 specifically addresses plant hybrids;

OBSERVING that many Parties export hybrid animals and products of hybrid animals that are derived in part from species included in Appendix I;

RECALLING that Article VII, paragraph 4, of the Convention provides that specimens of Appendix-I animal species bred in captivity for commercial purposes shall be deemed to be specimens of species included in Appendix II;

RECALLING that Resolution Conf. 2.12, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting (San José, 1979) and revised at its ninth meeting (Fort Lauderdale, 1994), establishes the definition of "bred in captivity";

AWARE that animal hybrids are in international trade and that in many cases these hybrids are of second or subsequent generations;

CONSIDERING that there are numerous operations throughout the world breeding hybrids in captivity;

CONSIDERING the unnecessary burden that is placed on Parties and the Secretariat to register operations in accordance with Resolution Conf. 8.15 (Guidelines for a Procedure to Register and Monitor Operations Breeding Appendix-I Animal Species for Commercial Purposes) where they are breeding hybrids in captivity; and

CONSIDERING that Resolution Conf. 9.18 determines that artificially propagated hybrids derived from one or more unannotated Appendix-I species or other taxa shall be regarded as being included in Appendix II;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

DETERMINES that, with regard to animal hybrids of Appendix-I species, the application of Resolution Conf. 2.13, decision c), shall be restricted in such a way that:

- a) a hybrid will be considered to be of an Appendix-I species only if it is the first-generation progeny from the mating or artificial insemination of one or more wild-taken specimens of Appendix-I species;
- b) a hybrid bred in captivity in accordance with Resolution Conf. 2.12 (Rev.) and being the first-generation progeny of one or more specimens of Appendix-I species shall be regarded as being included in Appendix II and entitled therefore to all exemptions applicable to captive-bred specimens of species listed in Appendix II; and
- c) a hybrid being the progeny from the mating or artificial insemination of hybrid parents, as referred to in a) and b) above, shall be regarded as not being included in Appendix I, II or III unless specifically listed in the relevant appendix; and

RECOMMENDS that, in issuing permits or certificates that relate to hybrid animals bred in captivity or a part or derivative thereof, Parties clearly indicate on the permit or certificate that the animal is a hybrid or is derived from a hybrid, and in accordance with Resolution Conf. 9.3, paragraph j), use the source code **D**, **C** or **F**, whichever is applicable.