

## **ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY**

As Sri Lanka's leading Destination Management Company, we prioritize animal welfare by supporting experiences that enable animals to live freely and express natural behaviors in their habitats. We oppose any practices that harm or exploit animals and promote conservation efforts involving local communities. This policy guides all staff, partners, and suppliers to uphold ethical wildlife tourism aligned with the Five Domains of Animal Welfare, ensuring the protection of Sri Lanka's biodiversity for future generations.

### **OUR COMMITMENTS**

1. We never intentionally disturb wildlife or their habitats, and we actively educate our guests to behave respectfully in nature.
2. We do not support or promote any direct interaction with captive wildlife, such as riding, walking, cuddling, or feeding.
3. We do not offer or support wild animal rides under any circumstances.
4. We oppose all forms of animal entertainment, including performances, fights, sport, displays, and shows, due to their negative impact on animal behavior and mental well-being.
5. We collaborate only with partners and suppliers who fully comply with local, national, and international wildlife protection and welfare laws.
6. We do not support facilities involved in breeding, trading, or hunting wildlife for commercial purposes, and prohibit the consumption or sale of products from endangered species and we follow the CITES convention.
7. We allow interactions with domesticated animals only when they meet health and welfare standards. Animals must not be overloaded, must be kept in safe environments, and cared for according to the Five Domains of Animal Welfare.
8. We support only sanctuaries and rehabilitation centers that operate for animal rescue and care, not profit or entertainment.
9. We train our staff and guides to ensure responsible wildlife experiences and actively support conservation, education, and the development of local guidelines for ethical wildlife interaction.

This policy is reviewed annually or as necessary to reflect evolving standards, stakeholder expectations, and organizational goals. It is approved by senior management and endorsed at the highest level of the ASTL.

Approved by: *Suresh Reges*