



KBC GROUP ANIMAL WELFARE STATEMENT

KBC recognises that civil society is increasingly concerned about animal welfare and that this concern is general and legitimate. KBC is committed to ensuring that its clients comply with relevant national and international legislation and best practice. To this end, we have developed an Animal Welfare Statement, which sets out our commitment and our approach to avoiding any potential adverse impact on animal welfare through our operations.

KBC is active in several sectors in which animal welfare risks harm. We are involved in activities such as animal husbandry, transport and slaughter of animals and breeding and selling pet animals.

Commitment

KBC supports the fundamental requirements proposed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The OIE states that 'Animal welfare is a complex and multifaceted issue which involves scientific, ethical, economic, cultural, social, religious and political dimensions'.¹ The organisation defines animal welfare as follows: 'animal welfare means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives'.

KBC requires its clients to meet the universally recognised 'Five Freedoms' of animals under human control. According to these, an animal's primary welfare needs can be met by providing:

- Freedom from hunger, malnutrition and thirst;
- Freedom from fear and distress;
- Freedom from physical and thermal discomfort;
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease; and
- Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour.

KBC refers to the applicable European regulation on animal rights, which is generally recognised as a global 'best practice'.

Implementation

This Animal Welfare Statement applies to all the KBC group's lending, insurance and advisory services activities.

KBC requires its clients to comply with relevant national and international animal welfare standards and best practices:

- For **counterparties within the strictly regulated European Union**: as a minimum standard, strict compliance with all EU and local legislation and regulation is required.

¹ www.oie.int/en/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-at-a-glance/

- For **counterparties situated outside the European Union**: as a minimum standard, compliance with local legislation and regulation is required. Moreover, KBC requires credible and reasonable assurance that the activity does not harm animal welfare. We therefore refer clients to the OIE's Guiding Principles on Animal Welfare and the 'Five Freedoms'.

Minimum requirements are in place for specific sectors and activities, while a number of activities are entirely excluded. Specifically, KBC rules out the following:

- All illegal animal-related activities, including all activities where animals are made to fight for entertainment and illegal trade in endangered species.
- Farming of animals raised for fur (mink), as well as the production, processing, wholesale/trading or specialised retail of fur;
- The breeding, housing, trading and exploitation of animals used for funfairs and circuses.

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