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Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade

RECOGNIZING the increasingly wide use of coded-microchip implants for the individual identification of animals;

RECOGNIZING also the potential of this method of marking for the regulation of trade in live animals of species included in the Appendices to the Convention;

BELIEVING that any such method employed to identify live animals should be standardized in its application;

BELIEVING that there is no reason to limit the use of coded-microchip implants to only live animals of species included in Appendix I or high-value species;

NOTING that Management Authorities may permit the movement of travelling exhibitions or circuses without permits or certificates pursuant to Article VII, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

CONSIDERING that the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has adopted the standards ISO 11784 and ISO 11785;

MINDFUL that the provisions of Article VI, paragraph 7, allow a Management Authority to determine appropriate methods of marking specimens for the purposes of assisting in identification; and

AWARE that the International Union for Conservation of Nature / Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) Conservation Breeding Specialist Group has already undertaken an extensive review of the application of coded-microchip implants, and that effective implementation of Article VI, paragraph 7, will result in increasingly wider use of coded-microchip implants for the identification of animals;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

1. RECOMMENDS that:

- a) Parties, where possible and appropriate, without excluding the use of other methods, adopt the use of implantable transponders bearing permanent, non-programmable, unalterable and permanently unique codes for the identification of live animals;
- b) Parties take into account the findings of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group regarding frequency, size and sterility of transponders;
- c) microchip transponders be implanted where consistent with the well-being of the specimens concerned; and
- d) the location of implanted transponders in each animal be standardized according to the advice from the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group; and

2. DIRECTS:

- a) the Secretariat to consult regularly with the ISO Central Secretariat on this subject, and to urge it to resolve current problems with standards ISO 11784 and ISO 11785; and
- b) the Animals Committee to monitor developments in microchip-implant technology and application techniques and to advise the Secretariat about such developments, for the information of the Parties.

* Amended at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, corrected by the Secretariat following the 13th and 14th meetings, and further amended by the Secretariat in compliance with Decision 14.19 and with the decisions adopted at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee. Then corrected by the Secretariat following the 15th and 16th meetings. Further amended at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.