# PREAMBLE

The person appearing, acting as stated, declared in connection with the aforementioned resolution and the implementation thereof, which is hereby confirmed, that the charter of the association has the following chapters:

Chapter 1 – General

Article 1: Name, registered office and term

Article 2: Object

Article 3: Organization

Chapter 2 – Members

Article 4: Members

Article 5: General rights and obligations

Article 6: End of membership

Chapter 3 – The party executive committee

Article 7: The party executive committee

Article 8: The managing committee

Article 9: The party executive committee’s powers and duties

Article 10: Committee meetings

Article 11: Representation

Article 12: The advisory board

Chapter 4 – The party congress

Article 13 : The party congress

Article 14 : The party congress’ powers and duties

Article 15: Convening the party congress

Article 16 : Access and right to vote

Chapter 5 – Sections, committees, the party bureau

Article 17: Sections – organization

Article 18: Sections – formation Article 19: Committees

Article 20: The party bureau

Chapter 6 – Decision-making and regulations Article 21: Passing of resolutions

Article 22: Regulations

Chapter 7 – Finances and accounts

Article 23: Accounting and finances

Article 24: Accounts

Chapter 8 – Amendment to the charter and dissolution

Article 25: Amendment to the charter

Article 26: Dissolution and liquidation.

The person appearing, acting as stated, declared in relation to the aforementioned resolution and to the implementation thereof, which is hereby confirmed, that the charter of the association will be as follows:

**CHARTER:**

Chapter 1 – General

# Article 1 – Name, registered office and term

1. The association's name is: ‘**Party for the Animals (Partij voor de Dieren)**’. Hereinafter, it will be referred to in the charter and regulations as: ‘the party’. The association has full legal capacity.
2. The party has its registered office in the municipality of Amsterdam.
3. The party has been formed for an indefinite period.

# Article 2 – Object

1. The aim of the party is to protect the interests of animals as living creatures with feelings and a consciousness. Consequently, the party strives for the conservation and protection of nature and the environment.

For this, the following terms serve as a guideline: compassion, sustainability, individual freedom, and individual responsibility.

1. The ways in which the party tries to achieve these objects include:
	1. giving publicity to its political objects through the media;
	2. propagating its political assumptions as set out in its mission statement, party program and additional memoranda;
	3. organizing national and international meetings;
	4. participating in local, regional, provincial, national and European elections;
	5. maintaining contact with like-minded national and international political parties and organizations;
	6. all other statutory means that might serve the party’s object.

# Article 3 - Organization

1. The party has at least the following bodies:
	* party congress,
	* party executive committee,
	* managing committee,
	* advisory board,
	* sectional meeting,
	* sectional board,
	* appeals committee.

Additionally, the party executive committee and the party congress may establish other committees. Any committee that will have national power of decision vested in it, will be in any event a body of the party.

1. The party is managed by the party executive committee; the president, secretary and treasurer constitute the management committee. The party executive committee is accountable to the party congress for its conduct.
2. The party congress is the general meeting of the party and it consists of its voting members. It is set out in more detail in article 13 and the following.
3. The advisory board is the party executive committee’s advisory body. The advisory board’s consistency and powers are set out further in article 12.
4. The party has sections and each one of which is managed by a sectional board. Article 17 and the following contain further rules regarding sections and their management.

Chapter 2 – Members

# Article 4 - Members

1. Those who are over the age of sixteen and who subscribe the association’s objects can be admitted as a member.
2. Upon the receipt of a written application, the party executive committee decides on the admittance of a member. Membership is entered into for at least twelve months. The manner of admittance may be regulated further in the regulations.
3. Members come under the section of the area in which they reside. Members residing abroad come under the section closest to their residence or under a section appointed to them by the party executive committee.

# Article 5 – General rights and obligations

1. Party membership gives entitlement to carry out membership rights both in a section and in the party congress.
2. Party members are obliged to:
	1. observe the charter, regulations and resolutions of the party’s bodies;
	2. not to harm the interests of the party and/or a section: to be assessed by the party executive committee;
	3. refrain from all sorts of dealings with animals that conflict with the spirit of the party as set out in the mission statement and in the election programs.
3. A member is not eligible for appointment to any party position nor can he be a candidate for the party at an election as long as he has not met his financial obligations towards the party.
4. Only members are entitled to participate as a candidate on behalf of the party in any election or in any national or international administrative authority.

# Article 6 – End of membership

1. Party membership ends on the death of a member, on notice of termination by the member, on notice of termination by the party executive committee, or on disqualification by the party executive committee.
2. Termination by a member takes effect from the end of the current year of membership unless he explicitly indicates that the termination should take effect at an earlier time. The party executive committee has to receive a written termination notice before the end of a current year of membership. The membership fee for the current year of membership remains due at all times.
3. The party executive committee will terminate when:
	1. a member no longer meets the criteria for membership set out in article 4, paragraph 1;
	2. a member has fallen into more than twelve months’ arrears of his subscription fee payment.
4. Disqualification by the party executive committee will only happen when a member acts in violation of the charter, regulations or resolutions of the party, or when he prejudices the party: such at the discretion of by the party executive committee. A disqualified member will have the right to lodge an appeal with the appeals committee.

CHAPTER 3 - The party executive committee

# Article 7 – The party executive committee

1. The party executive committee consists of a minimum of five and a maximum of nine members. The number of members is decided by the party congress on a motion by the party executive committee. The party congress can deviate from said motion by an increased majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. Should the number of members of the party executive committee decrease to less than five, the party executive committee remains competent.
2. Members of the party executive committee are appointed by the party congress from among the members. The party executive committee draws up a non-binding list of candidates. Members who have not been nominated by the party executive committee may also put themselves forward as a candidate according to the procedure set out in the regulations. The president, secretary and treasurer are appointed to a position. The members of the party executive committee allocate other positions among themselves.
3. A member of the party executive committee cannot combine said position with one on a sectional board or on the appeals committee. Furthermore, a member of the party executive committee cannot combine this position with the membership of any other national political party.
4. Members of the party executive committee are appointed for a three-year term and can be reappointed upon the expiry of their term of office.
5. Membership of the party executive committee ends on death, dismissal, written resignation, expiration of the term of (re)appointment, and on termination of party membership. Furthermore, membership of the party executive committee ends when the member concerned is appointed to a position that cannot be combined with being a member of the party executive committee.
6. Members of the party executive committee usually retire at the end of the day of the party congress meeting at which their term of appointment ends or during which they retire from office. New members take up their position at the end of said day.
7. If possible, interim party executive committee vacancies are filled at the first meeting of the party congress. Prior thereto, the party executive committee has the authority to temporarily fill vacancies from among the members.
8. The party congress may at all times dismiss or suspend a member of the party executive committee even if he has been appointed for a definite time only. Such a resolution by the party congress requires a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. A suspension may only be imposed for a period not exceeding three months. The suspension expires by the lapse of time or at an earlier time due to a resolution that terminates the suspension unless it ends because of a resolution to dismiss or to resign. The party congress will not adopt a resolution before the party executive committee member concerned has been consulted by the party congress or at least has been allowed the opportunity to this end.

# Article 8 – The managing committee

1. The managing committee consists of the president, secretary and treasurer of the party executive committee.
2. The managing committee is entrusted with the day-to-day affairs of the party and the preparation and execution of resolutions of the party executive committee.
3. All other powers and duties of the managing committee are determined by the party executive committee.
4. The managing committee gives an account of its activities in the meetings of the party executive committee.

# Article 9 - The party executive committee’s powers and duties

1. The party executive committee is charged with the management of the party.
2. The party executive committee gives direction to the political policy at all levels of the party. It promotes member participation in the political debate and in decision-making processes. If necessary, the party executive committee works out plans for the modification and improvement of the party’s organization as well as the allocation of tasks within the party. It maintains contact with the sections and with branch organizations linked to the party. It enquires after the expenditure of subsidies granted through the party.
3. The party executive committee is charged with the preparation and organization of the party’s participation in the election of members to the Senate and House of Representatives, the European Parliament, the Provincial Council, Municipal Councils and Water Authorities.
4. Without loss of its responsibility, the party executive committee can leave the execution of certain parts of its tasks to people or committees. Furthermore, the party executive committee has the power to assign activities to third parties, whether or not for payment.
5. The party executive committee is authorized to decide to conclude agreements on the acquisition, disposal and encumbrance of properties subject to registration.
6. The party executive committee ensures the compliance with the charter, regulations and adopted resolutions.
7. The party executive committee has the power to postpone the execution of resolutions taken by sectional boards, people or committees who have been charged with a further specified task and who have been granted power of decision, within three weeks after they came to its attention, if it considers these to be contrary to the party’s interests.

In such an event, the party executive committee is obliged to call a combined meeting with the body concerned, committee or person within six weeks at which the suspended resolution is discussed, failing which the suspension ceases to have effect.

In the event such a meeting does not result in the lifting of the suspension or the revocation of the decision, the party executive committee is obliged to submit the decision, due to its conflict with the party’s interests, to the first following meeting of the party congress. The party congress then decides on the enforcement or final revocation of the resolution. The resolution remains suspended until the party congress has come to a decision on the matter.

1. The party executive committee has the power to decide for the party in every unforeseen urgent case without prejudice to its responsibility towards the party congress.

# Article 10 – Committee meetings

1. The party executive committee meets as often as the president so desires or two other members of the party executive committee so desire. The managing committee meets as often as a member of the managing committee so desires.
2. The president determines the manner of meeting. The party executive committee and the managing committee may also hold a meeting outside a meeting provided all committee members participate in such a meeting or, in the event of absence, have declared to agree with such a way of meeting.
3. The party executive committee can pass legally valid resolutions if at least half of the number of committee members participate in such a meeting. The managing committee can pass legally valid resolutions if at least two committee members participate in such a meeting.
4. In the event of a tie of votes at a committee meeting, the motion is rejected.

# Article 11 – Representation

1. The party executive committee represents the party at law and otherwise.
2. Furthermore, the party is represented by the president and secretary, by the president and treasurer, or by the secretary and treasurer provided they act jointly.
3. The party executive committee or the in paragraph 2 mentioned jointly-acting members of the party executive committee, may authorize in writing another member of the party executive committee or a third party, in such cases and subject to such conditions as stated in the written power of attorney provided.
4. The power of representation of the party executive committee and of the jointly-acting members of the party executive committee cannot be restricted or made subject to conditions. The power of representation of those who have been given power of attorney may be restricted and/or made subject to conditions in said power of attorney.
5. People who have power of representation either under this charter or according to a written power of attorney will not execute said power before a resolution to this end has been adopted by the party executive committee deciding to perform a legal act to that effect.

# Article 12 – The advisory board

1. There is an advisory board, which provides advice to the party executive committee on request or otherwise.
2. The advisory board consists of at least ten and no more than twenty party members who fit a profile that has been drawn up by the party executive committee and that has been approved of by the party congress. Members of the party executive committee cannot be a member of the advisory board.
3. Members of the advisory board are elected for three years by the party congress on the basis of a nomination by the party executive committee. At such time, the president is also nominated. The nomination by the party executive committee is non-binding. Members who have not been nominated by the party executive committee may also put themselves forward as a candidate according to the procedure set out in the regulations. After the expiry of their term of office, members of the advisory board may be reappointed immediately.
4. The party executive committee has the authority to fill provisionally an interim vacancy on the advisory board, which has to be confirmed by the party congress at the first following meeting.
5. If the number of members of the advisory board falls below ten, the party executive committee is obliged to fill the arisen vacancies.
6. The advisory board holds a meeting at least twice a year and, in addition, as often as the party executive committee and/or half of the members of the board deem necessary.

Chapter 4 – The party congress

# Article 13 – The party congress

1. The party congress is the highest authority within the party. It consists of all party members with voting rights who are present at a meeting.
2. The party congress meets at least once a year. It is convened by the party executive committee. The party executive committee sets the subject or subjects of the party congress. The party congress cannot pass resolutions on subjects that have not been placed on the agenda. The regulations provide the way in which members can bring about the placement of a subject on the agenda.
3. The party executive committee sets the date and venue of the party congress.

# Article 14 - The party congress’ powers and duties

1. With the exception of mandatory powers pursuant to the law and powers set out elsewhere in this charter, the party congress has the following powers and duties:
	1. The party congress adopts the party’s mission statement on a motion by the party executive committee.
	2. The party congress adopts the main features of the programs for the election of members to the House of Representatives, European Parliament, Provincial Council, Water Authority boards and Municipal Councils on a motion by the party executive committee.
	3. The party congress adopts the lists of candidates for the election of members to the House of Representatives, Senate, European Parliament, Provincial Council, Water Authority boards and Municipal Councils on a motion by the party executive committee.
	4. The party executive committee is accountable to the party congress. The party congress has the power to judge the policy of the parliamentary parties in the States General, Provincial Council, Water Authorities and Municipal Councils as well as the Dutch members of the party in the relevant parliamentary party in the European Parliament.
	5. The party congress decides on motions for the dissolution of the party and for an amendment to the charter.
2. Meetings of the party congress are held in the Netherlands and the working language will be Dutch.

# Article 15 - Convening the party congress

1. The party executive committee calls the party congress as often as it considers desirable or when it has to under the law or the charter.
2. Members are called to the party congress by means of a calling notice which is sent by mail or, provided the member has agreed herewith by providing his email address to the party, by email. The agenda and other meeting documents are sent together with the calling notice. The meeting is convened with due observance of a period of at least two weeks.
3. The party executive committee has to call an extraordinary party congress at the request of at least one-tenth of the party members with voting rights. Said party congress is to be held within four weeks of receiving a written request.

# Article 16 - Access and right to vote

1. Members have access to and a right to vote at a party congress three months from the receipt of the confirmation from the party executive committee that they have been registered as a member.
2. Members who have not registered within the time set in the notice of a congress do not have the right to attend the party congress.

Chapter 5 - Sections, committees, the party bureau

# Article 17 – Sections - organization

1. The party has sections. A section constitutes an organizational unit within the party but it does not have legal personality.
2. Each section has a sectional board and a sectional meeting.
3. A sectional meeting consists of all party members with voting rights who come under a section and who are present at a meeting. A sectional meeting meets at least once a year.
4. A sectional board consists of at least three members including a president, a secretary and a treasurer: all of whom are elected. A sectional board is responsible for the management of a section and for the execution at a sectional level of resolutions by the party executive committee and the party congress. For this, it is accountable to the party executive committee.
5. Furthermore, a sectional board is authorized to organize its own activities within its section. It is accountable to its sectional meeting for such activities, which shall not be in conflict with party policy.
6. Sections follow and support the parliamentary parties in the Provincial Council, Municipal Councils and Water Authority boards.
7. Sections have sectional regulations that provide for the appointment of a sectional board, access to sectional meetings, the powers and duties of both bodies and all other matters regarding a section. Sectional regulations comply with the model that is attached to the party’s regulations.
8. Sectional boards are under an obligation to consult the board of another section with regard to resolutions that may possibly also affect the interests of such other section in the opinion of another section or the party executive committee. The party executive committee decides in the event that the sectional boards do not come to an agreement.
9. Members of the party executive committee always have access to sectional meetings and to meetings of a sectional board. Lists of resolutions passed at a meeting of a sectional board or a sectional meeting are brought to the attention of the party executive committee within fourteen days of each meeting.

# Article 18 Sections - Formation

1. The party executive committee ensures the establishment of a maximum of twelve sections according to the provincial layout.
2. The party executive committee may decide to allow several provinces to establish one section.
3. The party executive committee invites members who belong to a section to the first sectional meeting while also making a recommendation for the first sectional board. Said recommendation is non-binding. Members who have not been nominated by the party executive committee may also put themselves forward as a candidate according to the procedure set out in the regulations.

# Article 19 – Committees

1. The party executive committee, the party congress, a sectional board and a sectional meeting are authorized to establish permanent and temporary committees and to appoint, suspend or dismiss the members of such committees. Any committee that has national power of decision vested in it, is a body of the party.
2. The composition, powers and duties of a committee are determined by a resolution of the body that established said committee unless they have been provided for in the charter or regulations.
3. A committee is accountable to the body it was established by.
4. A committee consists of at least three members unless otherwise provided or decided. Members of a permanent committee are each time elected for the duration of three years. Members of a temporary committee are elected for the duration of the mandate issued to the committee.
5. Each committee consists of a president, a secretary and of one or more members with the president and secretary being elected, unless otherwise provided or decided. The members of a committee determine the allocation of other positions among themselves.
6. There is an appeals committee consisting of at least three members who are appointed by the party congress. The appeals committee judges on a disqualification from membership at the request of the member concerned. The procedure of the appeals committee is regulated further in the appeal regulations.

# Article 20 – The party bureau

1. The party bureau is the central office of the party and it is also the location of the party’s administrative office.
2. The party bureau is charged not only with the preparation and execution of resolutions of the party executive committee, of the managing committee, and of the party congress but also with the (financial) administration of the party.
3. At the head of the party bureau is a general manager who is charged with the daily management, the execution of resolutions of the party congress, of the party executive committee, and of the managing committee. He is also charged with the party’s financial management, the management of the party bureau as well as with the performance of activities that are assigned to him under the general manager’s employment agreement or by the party bureau or the managing committee. The general manager’s powers are further regulated in the Management rules. The general manager is only accountable to the party executive committee. The party executive committee is accountable for the party bureau’s activities to the party congress.
4. The general manager is appointed, suspended and dismissed by the party executive committee which also determines the employment conditions in writing. A resolution to appoint, suspend or dismiss is adopted by at least a two-thirds majority of the number of committee members holding office.
5. The general manager appoints, suspends and dismisses employees in consultation with the managing committee. The employees are only accountable to the general manager. The general manager determines the remuneration and other employment conditions of the employees within the framework set by the party executive committee.
6. The party executive committee may appoint a deputy general manager who stands in for the general manager in his absence and who, in that case, will have the general manager’s powers.

Chapter 6 – Decision-making and Regulations

# Article 21 – Passing of resolutions

1. The provisions in this article apply to all resolutions that are passed by the party. Paragraph 8 only applies to the passing of resolutions at party congress meetings and at sectional meetings.
2. De president of any body or committee will chair a meeting. The party congress is presided by a chair appointed by the party executive committee. The chair decides the order of the meeting notwithstanding the meeting’s right to change it.
3. Resolutions are passed at a meeting by a simple majority of the votes cast unless it is decided differently in the charter or regulations. Majority means more than half of the number of votes cast by those entitled to vote. In the event of a parity of votes, no majority is secured.
4. The following votes are invalid: blank votes, votes that contain other marks than the election concerned requires, and votes cast by suspended members.
5. Every one of those who is entitled to vote at the meeting concerned will cast one vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
6. Voting with regard to matters concerning persons will be by means of sealed ballots. Voting on business matters will be by roll call, either by show of hands or by acclamation. In both cases, the meeting may decide to vote in another way than the prescribed voting method. Voting will be by ballot if the chair so decides.
7. If no candidate obtains a majority in a vote for persons during the first vote, a second vote will be taken between the two candidates who have received the highest and the second highest number of votes respectively. In the event of a parity of votes at the second vote, a third vote will be taken. The candidate who secures a simple majority during the second or third vote or who is selected by lot is elected.
8. The chair appoints an election committee consisting of three members, none of whom is a member of the party executive committee or the sectional board concerned, at a ballot at a party congress or at a sectional meeting. The electoral committee examines the validity of the votes cast, determines the outcome, and gives notice thereof.
9. The chair’s pronounced decision on the outcome of a vote will be decisive. The same applies to the contents of a resolution which has been passed in so far as voting was on a motion which had not been set out in writing. In the event that immediately after the pronunciation of a decision of the chair its correctness is challenged, the motion for the intended resolution is put in writing and a new vote will be taken should the majority of the meeting so requires or, if the original voting did not take place by roll call or by ballot, when one of those entitled to vote so requires. This new vote will nullify the original vote.
10. All motions and motions to amend will be voted on according to the order of submission unless a motion that was submitted at a later date is, in the opinion of the chair, wider in scope than an earlier submitted motion. In that event, its wider scope merits the earlier handling of a motion that was submitted later.
11. If a motion to amend is submitted, this is put to the vote first. A motion to amend a matter which is placed on the agenda may not intend to alter or affect the purpose of the motion, subject to the chair’s discretion.
12. In the event the adoption of a motion requires a qualified majority, the same majority applies to the adoption of a motion to amend the motion.

# Article 22 - Regulations

1. There are regulations and appeal regulations.
2. Other regulations may be prepared by the party executive committee or by a committee and may be approved by the party congress.
3. Regulations may not be in conflict with the charter. Chapter 7 - Finances and accountability

# Article 23 - Accounting and finances

1. The financial year of the party shall coincide with the calendar year.
2. The financial resources of the party comprise the membership fee as determined by the party congress and contributions, grants and subsidies under the Political Parties (Grants) Act (*Wet subsidiëring politieke partijen*) and, furthermore, other types of income.

An inheritance, legacy or devise may only be accepted under the benefit of inventory.

1. Members are obliged to pay the membership fee and other contributions that are set by the party congress. The membership fee and other contributions that are set by the party congress may vary for various member groups.

# Article 24 - Accounts

1. The party executive committee is obliged to keep records of the party's financial position and of everything concerning the party's activities, in accordance with the requirements arising from these activities, and to keep the books, documents and other data carriers in such a way that the party's rights and obligations can be known from them at any time.
2. Annually within six months of the end of the financial year, the party executive committee is obliged to draw up and put down in writing the party’s balance sheet, and its statement of income and expenditure.
3. Within six months of the end of the financial year, the party executive committee issues an annual report on the day-to-day affairs of the party and on the policy pursued at a meeting of the party congress. It presents the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenditure with explanatory notes for approval to the party congress. These documents are signed by the members of the party executive committee and furnished with an audit certificate. In the event a member of the party executive committee has not signed the documents, the reason for this omission should be stated.
4. The party congress may extend the term set out in paragraph 3 for a maximum of five months. After the expiry of the original or the extended term, every member can claim at law the compliance of the joint members of the party executive committee with their obligations.
5. The party congress approves the balance sheet and the statement of income and expenditure with explanatory notes after a registered accountant has issued an unqualified audit certificate. The party congress’ approval will be deemed to discharge the party executive committee members from liability for all acts evidenced by those documents.
6. The party executive committee is obliged to keep the books, records and other data carriers referred to in this article for the term prescribed by law.

Chapter 8 – Amendment to the charter and dissolution

# Article 25 - Amendment to the charter and mission statement

1. The charter of the party may only be amended after a resolution is passed at a party congress for which the calling notice notified that at said meeting the amendment to the charter will be proposed. The notice period for calling such a meeting is at least three weeks.
2. Those who have sent out the notice convening the party congress meeting at which the motion to amend the charter will be dealt with, must make this motion to amend the charter which sets out the verbatim text of the proposed amendment together with explanatory notes available to the members at a suitable place at least a week before the party congress until the end of the day on which the party congress is held.
3. The party congress may only adopt a resolution to amend the charter by (a majority of) at least two-thirds of the votes cast.
4. The resolution to amend the charter will be announced to all members stating the date at which the amendment to the charter came into effect.
5. The provisions of paragraph 1 up to and including 4 of this article apply equally to the changing of the party’s mission statement.
6. An amendment to the charter does not enter into force before a notarial deed effecting it has been drawn up. Every member of the managing committee is authorized to execute the deed.
7. The members of the party executive committee are obliged to deposit an officially certified copy of the amendment and the amended charter at the office of the trade register.

# Article 26 - Dissolution and liquidation

1. A resolution to dissolve the party may only be adopted at a party congress especially convened for this purpose. The provisions of the previous article apply equally on the understanding that the resolution has to be adopted at a meeting where at least one-fourth of the members is present. If this quorum is not met, the party executive committee will call a second meeting at least four weeks in advance. The quorum requirement does not apply to said second meeting.
2. If the party congress adopts the resolution to dissolve the party, the members of the managing committee will act as liquidators unless the party congress assigns the liquidation to a third party.
3. The association will continue to exist after dissolution to the extent necessary for the liquidation of its assets. During the liquidation, the provisions of the charter will remain in force as far as possible. In documents and notices issued by the party, ‘in liquidation’ will be added to its name.
4. The party congress appoints a custodian who will keep the party’s books and records for the term prescribed by law. The party congress can grant a custody fee to the custodian. If no custodian is appointed and the last liquidator is not prepared to keep the books and records, the competent subdistrict court (*kantonrechter*) will appoint a custodian from among the members at the request of a party concerned.
5. The credit balance after liquidation will be used for a purpose to be determined by the managing committee. This purpose needs to be in keeping with the objects of the party.