



# The Vienna Declaration on The New York Declaration on Animal Consciousness

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## **The Vienna Declaration on The New York Declaration on Animal Consciousness**

We, the signatories of this declaration, express our disagreement with the views stated in The New York Declaration on Animal Consciousness ([NYDAC](#)).

First, there is strong philosophical support for the attribution of a confused concept of consciousness to the NYDAC Signatories (NYDACS). Their concept is a derivative of Descartes' conception of perception, based on his claim that colours, sounds, and other qualities we perceive are in the mind – this mind probably identified by many if not all NYDACS with the brain. Descartes' reasons were all flawed, and no valid reason has since been provided to support his position or any of its descendants, including the NYDACS's.

Second, once this Cartesian concept of consciousness is eliminated, the NYDACS fail to make any claim.

Third, the only coherent claim that can be saved from their confusions is that animals are sentient: have sensations, can see and hear. This is obvious and requires no declaration.

Lastly, the moral stance the NYDACS take following their confusion is thus without support. Animal sentience, of which people have always been aware, demands a humane attitude to animals, but philosophical, conceptual confusions justify nothing.

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*The individual authors and signatories of this declaration are signing in their personal capacity and not on behalf of any institution or organization.*

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