

## On the Opportunity and Importance of Legitimate Identity for Sentient Animals

*“... and it is true that ... a dog with a name has a better chance to survive than a stray dog who is just a dog in general.”*

from “The Origins of Totalitarianism”, H Arendt, 1978 [1951], p 287, Houghton Mifflin.

Identity, exemplified by assignment of proper names to humans and other entities, strongly influences our perception of any being’s intrinsic worth. It is embedded in the human condition that a named individual is innately more valued than a similar anonymous individual. Furthermore, provision of identity credentials which are verifiable and issued from a credible agency legitimizes an entity’s identity, as well as its claim to status and benefits in human society.

During the 2020’s, ID credentials will transition from paper and plastic documents, to low cost, cryptographically secure and verifiable digital credentials that can be issued for any entity, and safely reside on our smart phones for convenient use. At the same time, on a global basis, pets are increasingly recognized as highly important and loved members of human families. Convergence of these developments creates opportunity for providing low cost, highly functional digital credentials for animals.

### **Enter digital identity for animals.**

The advent of low cost, cryptographically verifiable digital credentials enables any animal with a human or organizational guardian to conveniently hold, via its guardian, a variety of important credentials (e.g. individual ID, health records, ownership, etc.). Furthermore, animal and human digital credentials will exist on the same technology platforms, making them equivalent in form and function. With animal and human digital credentials having functional equivalence and working seamlessly together, animals with digital ID will be increasingly viewed as integral participants in our digital world. This outcome definitively transitions these animals from being perceived as mere anonymous things, to being named individuals with cryptographically verifiable status in human society.

A world where millions of animals have legitimate credentials identifying them as individuals with verifiable social status is a paradigm shift in human society. The DignifID™ Animals Foundation is established to deliver this result, and support elevation of animal and human wellbeing globally.

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Release date: 10 February, 2020

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