

Abstract

Legal Protection of Animals, Focusing on Livestock and Furbearers

The diploma thesis titled “Legal Protection of Animals, Focusing on Livestock and Furbearers” provides a comprehensive overview of current framework of the legal protection of animals in the Czech Republic.

The thesis is divided into seven chapters and several sub-chapters. The initial chapters present information on the historical tendencies and philosophical bases of animal protection, as well as on the development of the perceiving of animals as subjects of law, which has over several centuries formed into our contemporary idea of an animal, its protection and legal standing. Crossing over from international and European legal sources, the thesis gradually shifts its focus on Czech legislature which has undergone marked changes over the last year, namely through the amendment 246/1992 Sb. aimed at eliminating animal abuse. Constituting a key aspect of the work, specific terminology is discussed in chapter 3. Terms such as animal or abuse are clarified consulting the law.

As the title makes evident, the pivotal chapters of the thesis provide a more detailed delineation of the legal regulations concerning livestock and furbearers. Individual sub-chapters then discuss the particularities of their breeding, welfare, transportation and killing. Through a comparison of the natural living conditions of these animals with the conditions they are subjected to in industrial farms, the thesis endeavours to point out certain flaws and propose how those could be remedied. The aforementioned amendment, adopted to address the insufficient legal regulation of captive furbearer breeding on large industrial farms where the animals had been deprived of even the most basic living standards, is discussed in detail in a dedicated sub-chapter.

Chapter 6 focuses on the fundamental institutional enforcement of animal protection, performed on several levels of administration, addressing tasks accrued from the law. Chapter 7 is concerned with the liability for unlawful conduct which frequently occurs in the field discussed. In dedicated sub-chapters, special attention is given to both crimes and contraventions and their respective liabilities. This work also presents a comparison of the legal protection of animals within Czech law with those of other European countries, so as to offer an objective view of the situation.