

Abstract

The issue of cruelty and other inappropriate treatment of animals and their protection through criminal law

This thesis is focused on the protection of animals against cruelty and other inappropriate treatment, and its securing through criminal law within the legal order of the Czech Republic. The aim of this work was to evaluate the current level of legislation concerning animal cruelty in the sense that it is possible, especially in criminal law, but also in administrative law, to effectively detect, sanction and prevent its recurrence in the future. The aim of this thesis was also to evaluate the changes in the protection of animals against cruelty, which occurred with the adoption of Act no. 114/2020 Coll., amending Act no. 40/2009 Coll., Penal Code, as amended, and some other laws. The content of this thesis consists of a total of 10 chapters, which are further divided into subchapters. Defining the basic terms, outlining the development of legislation on animal protection and animal Welfare in the world and in the Czech Republic, and insight into supranational legislation in the field of animal protection, both at the international level and at the level of the Council of Europe and the European Union, is the content of the first four chapters, which are not crucial for the purposes of this work. The following chapters analyse the valid legislation in the field of combating animal cruelty, especially Act no. 246/1992 Coll., On the protection of animals against cruelty, as amended, and the applicable legislation at the level of criminal law, especially individual criminal offenses in Act no. 40/2009 Coll., The Penal Code, as amended, related to cruelty and other inappropriate treatment of animals. This is followed by an evaluation of the most significant changes in the field of animal protection against cruelty at the level of criminal law, which occurred with the adoption of Act no. 114/2020 Coll., Amending Act No. 40/2009 Coll., The Penal Code, as amended, and some other laws. In the following chapters, the penalties that can be imposed for committing crimes on animals are analysed, *de lege ferenda* considerations are given, and in the final chapter the Czech legislation in the field of animal protection is compared with some foreign legislation, namely the legislation of Italy, Great Britain and Austria.