

# **Legal Aspects of Protection of Animals against Cruelty**

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis provides a comprehensive overview of the current legislation on the protection of animals against cruelty at the international, European and national level. The treatise is divided into an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion summarizing the findings. The first introductory chapter is divided into three sub-chapters and is devoted to the concept of animal rights itself, including the definition of the elementary terms "animal protection against cruelty" and "animal welfare", then ethical, especially religious and philosophical starting points for legislative protection of animals against cruelty, and finally briefly summarizes the historical relationship between humans and animals. The second chapter discusses the transnational regulation of the legal protection of animals against cruelty. Its first sub-chapter is devoted to international agreements, and primarily to European agreements adopted under the authority of the Council of Europe. The second sub-chapter summarizes the legislation of the European Union adopted in the field of animal protection, including historical excursus and current regulation. The most extensive chapter is the third chapter dealing with the national regulation of the protection of animals against cruelty. The first of a total of four subsections defines the basic characteristics of the national regulation. The second subsection then deals with the history of the legal protection of animals in our territory. The third sub-chapter discusses the Act on the Protection of Animals Against Cruelty, while attention is paid to its amendments, the definition of the basic principles of animal protection and the definition of terms related to animal protection. The core part of this sub-chapter deals with the individual areas of animal protection against cruelty according to the system of the act, from the very prohibition of animal cruelty to the regulation of the conditions of breeding pet, farm or experimental animals. Last but not least, the third chapter contains an interpretation of the aspects of the institutional provision of animal protection. The fourth chapter is devoted to the protection of animals against cruelty in criminal law. In addition to the basic criminal law institutes, the chapter also includes a short discussion of the history of the development of the criminal law protection of animals, including the current amendment to the criminal code related to the protection of animals against cruelty. The last, fourth chapter briefly discusses the issue of animal protection in the food and fashion industry, and at the same time pays attention to activist movements that fight for animal rights.