

# Legislation on the protection of farm animals

## Abstract

The thesis deals with the legal regulation of the protection of livestock with an emphasis on their breeding, transport, and slaughter. This thesis aims to find out what legal protection is provided to farm animals by the current legislation, what living conditions farm animals are entitled to under the law and whether this protection is sufficient.

The thesis is divided into five chapters, the most detailed of which is the second one, which analyses the legal regulation of livestock farming, including the special rules that apply to pregnant females and their young, livestock production, castration and sterilisation. The thesis also examines the legal regulation of the transport of livestock, both between EU Member States and to third countries outside the EU. Last but not least, the thesis examines the legislation laying down rules for the slaughter and killing of livestock. A separate chapter is also devoted to the institutions responsible for enforcing legislation on the protection of farm animals.

The thesis reaches three main conclusions. Animal protection legislation is found in too many different legal texts, which makes the legal protection of animals highly fragmented and incomplete. Closely related to this conclusion is the fact that the legislative terminology of some key terms is not entirely uniform or it is completely absent. The first conclusion can be summarised by stating that the extremely broad legislation on the protection of farm animals, which is contained in a considerable amount of narrowly focused legislation, has the effect of reduced clarity in this area.

Furthermore, it has been found that even the very detailed legislation on the transport of livestock within the EU cannot prevent the transport of livestock from being accompanied by the considerable amount of physical discomfort and psychological strain that travelling for many hours inevitably entails. From the point of view of protecting the welfare of these animals, it would be preferable either not to transport live animals at all or to adopt legislation that significantly reduces the maximum transport time.

The third conclusion is based on an analysis of legislation on the slaughter and killing of livestock, with an emphasis on reducing suffering. To achieve consistency between theory and practice, it is proposed to focus on the non-compliance by professionals involved in the slaughter process, which often occurs behind the walls of the slaughterhouse. The solution could be to install CCTV cameras directly in slaughterhouses, as proposed in the new draft

veterinary law, which would allow virtual access not only for operators but also for inspection authorities.

**Key words:** livestock, animal protection, livestock breeding