

Protection of animals against cruelty with a focus on large-scale farms, experimental animals and circuses

Abstract

This thesis examines the legal protection of animals against cruelty in general and in the field of large-scale farms, experimental animals and circuses. The purpose of the thesis is to determine whether the legal regulation of animal protection in these areas is sufficient or whether, even if the established rules are followed, psychological or physical harm can be caused to animals and, if it is found that the legal regulation is not sufficient to ensure the welfare of animals, to suggest what can be changed to prevent the infliction of suffering on animals.

The thesis contains a total of eleven chapters. The first chapter of the thesis defines several terms that are further worked with in the thesis, including the definition of cruelty according to the law on the protection of animals against cruelty. After defining the basic terms, the thesis explores the history of the legislation on the protection of animals against cruelty. The thesis examines the status of animals in the ancient, medieval, renaissance and enlightenment periods, and the thesis also examines the origins of animal protection legislation against cruelty, dating back to the second half of the 17th century. The third chapter covers the current sources of legislation on the protection of animals against cruelty at international, EU and national level. The thesis mentions some European agreements, directives, regulations and at the national level, among others, the Law on the Protection of Animals against Cruelty, which is the main source of animal protection against cruelty. The thesis also discusses in more detail some of the principles of animal protection. In the following chapter, the thesis deals with the legal regulation of the protection of animals in large-scale farms, focusing on poultry and pigs, as these two areas have seen the greatest intensification of farming. Chapters six and seven deal with the legal regulation of the protection of experimental animals and animals in circuses. This is followed by a chapter dealing with the institutions of the Czech Republic with competence in the field of animal protection, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the State Veterinary Administration, the state authorities competent to approve experiments, the municipal authority of the municipality with extended competence and the municipality with independent competence. Chapter number nine briefly introduces us to three non-profit organisations that have been established to protect animals against cruelty. At the end, the thesis examines the criminal liability of natural persons, legal entities and natural persons engaged in business when committing animal-related crimes and the liability of these persons for misdemeanours in the field of animal protection.

Key words: animal protection, cruelty to animals, animal welfare