

Abstract

The aim of this thesis is to summarize legal regulation of animal welfare in relation to the Czech Republic and to highlight its potential shortcomings and possible amendments *de lege ferenda*.

Today, humans wield almost unlimited power over living conditions in which animals around the world live in, and so more and more attention is paid to the legal regulation of this area of law. This thesis, which is divided into three main parts, also pays attention to it. The first part contains the analysis of the concept of “animal welfare” and compares it to the concept of “animal protection”. It also deals with a brief history of animal welfare and various ways of determination of its level. The second part describes and summarizes legal regulation of welfare, whereas the author proceeds from the international law through European law to national law. With the international law, the biggest emphasis is on the conventions signed under the Council of Europe, while with the European law, the thesis deals first with the primary law and then with the specific acts of secondary law. The most of this part is devoted to the national legal regulation of welfare along with a brief summary of its history. The emphasis is primarily on the Protection of animals against cruelty Act no. 246/1992, which is the main source of legal regulation of animal protection in the Czech law. However, other Czech legal acts, including civil law and criminal law acts, are also mentioned, and the thesis also describes the institutions that have a role in animal protection. The final part of the thesis deals in detail with the legal regulation of welfare of the three categories of animals that live with humans in great numbers – farm animals, animals used for scientific purposes and pets. The thesis defines which animals belong into each of the categories and then again analyses the legal regulation from the international, through European to the national level. In the end, the recent amendments, lasting shortcomings and suggestions *de lege ferenda* are mentioned.