

Legal regulation of beekeeping

Abstract

This diploma thesis focuses on the western honey bee, beekeeping and its legal regulation and its history. Considering the fragmentation of Czech legal regulation of beekeeping among numerous acts, the goal of this thesis is to describe it in a logical and comprehensible manner and provide its analysis. Furthermore, the thesis aims to provide a comparison between Czech regulation and regulation abroad as well as evaluate the quality and level of our legislation, eventually suggesting possible adjustments. The thesis mostly uses descriptive and comparative methods as well as the method of analysis and synthesis. When it comes to the interpretation of legal provisions, the textual, logical and systematic methods are prevalently used with the occasional usage of historical and comparative methods.

The thesis is divided into eight chapters which are further expanded upon in subchapters and paragraphs. The first chapter focuses on the western honey bee from biological and legal standpoint, distinguishing between the point of view of public law and private law. The second chapter serves as a brief excursion into the history of beekeeping and its legal regulation, mostly in Europe, spanning from prehistoric to contemporary times. The third chapter unravels the importance and legal regulation of beekeeping as a branch of agriculture within the European Union law, paying close attention to interventions in the apiculture sector, which are co-financed by the European Union. The fourth chapter focuses on public law, especially on the issues concerning neighbourhood rights and the liability for damage, whether originating from beekeeping practice or damage done to beekeepers, and damages. The fifth chapter focuses on public law and is the largest in this thesis. Its subchapters examine the legal regulation of phytosanitary care, veterinary care, breeding of livestock and damages caused by the brown bear. A brief introduction of tax provisions, national beekeeping subsidies, and construction law provisions is also provided. The sixth chapter contains the legal regulation of bee products, the main focus being on honey and its protection from being faked. The seventh chapter concerns the institutional provision and support of beekeeping from both the state and its bodies and private associations. Major attention is given to the Czech Association of Beekeepers as it is the biggest and most influential beekeeper association. The eight and final chapter provides an analysis of legal regulation of beekeeping abroad, namely in Russia and Slovakia, and a comparison between a unified standalone beekeeping act and a dispersed legal regulation.

Keywords: Beekeeping legislation, beekeeping, western honey bee