

# **Legal protection of animals against cruelty in zoos and circuses**

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis focuses on legal protection of animals against cruelty in zoos and circuses, both at the international European and national level. The diploma thesis is divided into an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. The first introductory chapter is divided into six sub-chapters and is devoted to the cruelty of animals as such. The first sub-chapter discusses animal rights, the second sub-chapter the Universal Declaration of Animal Rights, the third sub-chapter describes the status of animals, in the fourth sub-chapter we find defined basic terms such as: "*animal*", "*breeder*", "*cruelty*" and "*welfare*". In the fifth sub-chapter is presented the categorization of animals, and in the fifth sub-chapter, the sources of legislation against animal cruelty at the international, European and national level are analysed, in particular the Act on the Protection of Animals against Cruelty and the Criminal Code. The second chapter is focused on the issue of cruelty and welfare of animals in zoos and is divided into five subsections. The first subsection focuses on the definition of terms in the field of zoos, such as: "*zoo*", "*in-site protection*", "*ex-site protection*", "*biodiversity*" and "*wild animals*". The second sub-chapter details the legal regulation of zoos at the international, European and national level, in particular the directive of the council on zoos, the law on zoos, the law on the protection of animals against cruelty, the veterinary law and the decree on the protection of selected species of animals and great apes during breeding. Other sub-chapters are focused on the organization of zoos, both national and international, as well as trade in endangered species and their transport, the last sub-chapter summarizes the entire chapter. The third chapter of this work is focused on the issue of cruelty and welfare of animals in circuses and is divided into four subsections. The first sub-chapter is focused on the definition of terms in the field of circus such as: "*circus*", "*dressage of animal*", "*public performance of animals*", "*circus animal*", "*circus operator*" and "*circus animal breeder*". The second sub-chapter is devoted to bringing closer the legal regulation of the circus at the international, European and national level, in particular the Act on the Protection of Animals against Cruelty and the Decree on the Determination of Closer Conditions for the Breeding and Breeding of Animals. The third sub-chapter is devoted to the bodies and international organization of the circus and follows a summary of the entire chapter.

**Key words: cruelty to animals, zoo, circus**