

# **Legal regulation of pet breeding and protection of animals against cruelty**

## **Abstract**

The diploma thesis presents a summary of the legal regulation of pet breeding with an overlap into the legal regulation of protection of animals against cruelty. The thesis focuses mainly on the current and valid legislation, but in the introduction it also summarizes the historical background of the legal area concerned. The thesis is divided into an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion, which briefly summarises the legal issues and what has been found. The first chapter focuses on the relationship between man and animal in a historical context, providing insight into the thinking of great philosophers and the development of the concept of animal welfare. Furthermore, the first chapter addresses some of the basic burning issues in the human-animal relationship, namely the issue of factory farming, experiments on animals and then the question of the ethical use of animals for human entertainment. The second chapter is devoted to pet breeding, describing its international regulation and a detailed elaboration of the Czech legislation on pet breeding, focusing on the most common species kept as pets. In its conclusion, the author provides a brief discussion of the international situation in the field of pet breeding with the protection of animals against cruelty, as there have been recent events in connection with this topic that cannot be omitted in a work devoted to pet breeding. In the third chapter, the focus shifts to the protection of animals against cruelty, where the basic legislation contained in the Act on the Protection of Animals against Cruelty is summarised. The chapter then moves on to the very topical and socially resonant topic of puppy mills. Puppy mills are discussed as a legislative concept and as a defective act worthy of criminal punishment. Since this is a relatively recent innovation of the Czech legal system, the criminal punishment is also considered in this thesis with regard to the earlier, unrevised version of the Criminal Code, when the crime of keeping animals in unsuitable conditions was not yet included, which made it possible to prosecute the activities of puppy mills only for crimes that did not correspond well enough to the situation of puppy mills.

**Key words:** *animal, pet breeding, puppy mills*