

Animal protection by law

S u m m a r y

Looking back in to history, the attitude of the human beings towards animals has been changing. Also nowadays animals are treated by people in various ways. The Polish legislation offers a number of legal acts concerning animal protection which cover three areas: humanitarian treatment of animals, conservation of farm animal genetic resources as well as wild life animal species protection. The issues of humanitarian animal treatment are regulated by Animal Protection Act of August 21, 1997. Pursuant to that Act, an animal is not a thing but. It is a living creature, capable of suffering. The man must respect it, protect it and look after it. The provisions of that Act as well as enforcement regulations, which follow that Act, regulate in detail the issues connected with e.g. conditions of keeping respective farm animal species and their welfare, humanitarian slaughter, and animal transport. In June 2005, the Animal Experiments Act came into force; it harmonizes the applicable Polish legal provisions to the EU law (Directive of the Council EEC 86/609 of November 24, 1986). The obligation to conserve farm animal genetic resources comes from the fact of ratifying by Poland the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in Rio de Janeiro on June 5, 1992 and from Farm Animal Breeding Organization and Reproduction Act of August 20, 1997 with further amendments, as well as enforcement acts, issued in a form of decrees of the Council of Ministers and the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. The animal species protection in Poland is regulated by the Nature Protection Act and an relevant regulations of the Minister of the Environment of September 28, 2004.