

Animal abuse prevention to foster social transformation

Dienstag, 09:00 - 09:45 Uhr, Raum 5 (TC-2.11a+2.12)

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Abstract

This study examines legislative changes regarding companion animal protection in Latvia, emphasizing the role of these measures in preventing animal abuse and promoting social changes. By analysing examples of abuse and the necessary changes outlined in manifests of several animal rights advocacy NGOs, the study assesses the impact of advocacy on legislative reform. It also examines police records from 2016 to 2024 concerning the classifications „Animal Abuse“ and „Violations of Animal Welfare Regulations“, as the local police force is the primary responder in situations of animal mistreatment. To further investigate situations of companion animal welfare violations, semi-structured interviews were performed with homeless animal help volunteers, veterinarians, and veterinary inspectors. A total of 30 semi-structured interviews shed light on various forms of mistreatment, including unlawful breeding, hoarding, and the refusal of euthanasia for suffering animals, and provide insights into underlying causes and potential preventive approaches. This study emphasizes the necessity of collaborative initiatives among legislative bodies, LEAs, and grassroots groups to prevent animal abuse. The research seeks to foster a more egalitarian and peaceful society through improved collaboration and informed policy-making, aligning with the congress's emphasis on prevention and social changes.

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