



Animal Law in Europe

Progress and Challenges



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TREATY OF LISBON (TFEU), Art. 13

In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall, since **animals are sentient beings**, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and national heritage.





TREATY OF LISBON (TFEU), Art. 13

- a. The recognition of the French Civil Code about Animals as Sentient Beings: domestic animals are recognized as **“living, sentient beings”** rather than “furniture”.
- b. Research and experimentation: ban of animal testing for cosmetic purposes



ANIMALS IN SHOWS

European countries that have banned wild animals in circuses

2005: Austria

2012: Greece (bans all animals in circuses), Croatia

2013: Cyprus (bans all animals in circuses) Belgium, Slovenia

2015: Catalonia, Holland

Portugal, Denmark, Estonia and the UK have measures to ban wild animals in circuses.

September 2015: Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) calls for **complete ban on wild animals on circuses around Europe.**



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THE ROLE OF THE COURTS

October 2013: Spanish Court of Toledo sentences a man to seven and a half months in prison for hanging his two own greyhounds once they were not useful for hunting. The sentence was suspended so the man didn't go to prison.





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THE ROLE OF THE COURTS

September 2013 to January 2015: closure by the Italian Environment Minister of the Rimini Dolphinarium after inspectors reported disturbing conditions at the aquarium





THE ROLE OF THE COURTS

January 2015: after the discovery of more than 6000 beagle dogs dead into the facilities of Green Hill (kennel that bred beagles to be used in research) the Italian Court of Bescia sentenced three men to 1 and 1.5 years in prison for committing animal abuse. Green Hill facilities are temporary closed since 2012.





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THE ROLE OF THE COURTS

September 2015: European Court of Justice dismisses final Sealing Industry appeal in case seeking to annul the EU ban on trade in Seal Products





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THE ROLE OF THE COURTS

September 2015: Spanish Court of Palma de Mallorca sentences a man to eight months in prison for beating to death his own horse after a bad competition. No suspension or replacement of the sentence.

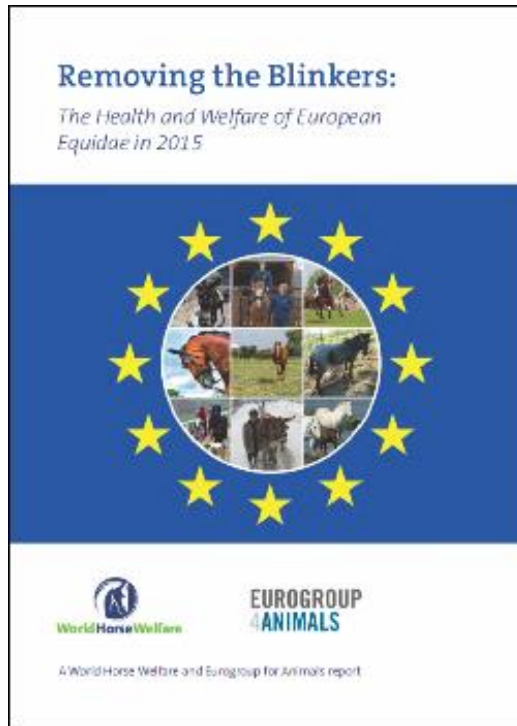




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CHALLENGES



EQUINES: Are equines companion animals or livestock? Eurogroup 4 Animals and World Horse Protection are working together to obtain the same consideration for equines in the 28 Member States of the EU so they can be protected according their needs all across the Union.



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CHALLENGES

COMPANION ANIMALS: Companion animals protection depends, at this moment, of Member States. Some improvements have been done lately.

Catalonia and Italy banned sacrifice as a legal method to control overpopulation of companion animals.

2015: Spain bans tail docking and ears cropping for aesthetic purposes. Tail docking and ear cropping is already banned in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France (only ears cropping), Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal (only ears cropping), Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden. In Denmark, Germany and the UK it is restricted.



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CHALLENGES

COMPANION ANIMALS: European movements to improve companion animals protection.

EU works on:

- Mandatory microchipping for companion animals
- Breeding and transportation of companion animals for trade





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CHALLENGES

BULLFIGHTING: TFEU, ART. 13: since **animals are sentient beings**, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals, while respecting the legislative or administrative provisions and customs of the Member States relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and national heritage.





CHALLENGES

BULLFIGHTING: Animal welfare policies in Spain is subjected to Autonomous Communities Law.

1991: Canary Islands ban bullfighting

2010: Catalonia bans bullfighting

According to the population negative perception of bullfighting, many cities and towns have recently approved to end sending public subsidies to bullfighting and bullfighting related activities. Some of the most important cities are Alicante (Valencian Community), Palma (Balearic Islands) or A Coruña (Galizia).

September 2015: Madrid Local Council stops sending public subsidies to the “Escuela Taurina” (Bullfighting School) where children were trained to be “toreros”.



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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!

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