

# Introduction

The present publication is the result of research on the state of animal protection legislation, which was presented at the International Scientific Conference “Domestic, European Union and International Standards in Legal Protection of Animals”, which took place on 17 October 2019 at the Faculty of Law and Administration of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (MCSU) in Lublin.

The aim of the conference was to draw attention to the contradiction of some regulations introduced into the national legal framework, including those providing “enhanced” standards of animal protection, with higher-level standards; as well as to their conformity with social conditions, and to the fact that in many cases they are not enforced, therefore, they are of a superficial nature. Moreover, regulations state a different level of protection for domestic animals, homeless animals, livestock, laboratory animals, animals used for specific purposes and, finally, free-living animals. An invitation to participate in the discussion concerning this issue met with great interest of the scientific community, which resulted in various considerations on the current state of regulation setting legal standards for the protection of animals. The scope of these considerations reflects the complexity of issues related to animal protection. They refer to humanitarian protection, species protection as well as animal protection. Some research papers are devoted to the general status of the animal, others focus on detailed solutions and differences in the protection of individual species of animals, or on the differentiation of the principles of animal protection depending on the purpose given to them by humans.

These considerations resulted in a number of conclusions and observations, in particular in the field of the effectiveness of the current model of animal protection, its adaptation to the current state of veterinary knowledge, social and economic conditions, as well as compliance of the adopted solutions with the requirements of international and European Union law. We would like these conclusions to be at least the starting point for further discussion on optimizing the animal protection system. In this regard, it is significant that some of the considerations refer to the solutions which have already been adopted in the legal system of Ukraine. These considerations may become a valuable material for all kinds of comparative legal analyzes.

Presenting the publication to the reader, we would like to thank all those who have helped in the making of this book, in particular the contributors. We would like to

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Editors