

BETTER ENFORCEMENT

Animal cruelty cases rise in Switzerland

NOV 14, 2019 - 14:09



Most infringements (50.4%) concerned pets, mainly dogs. (© Keystone / Georgios Kefalas)

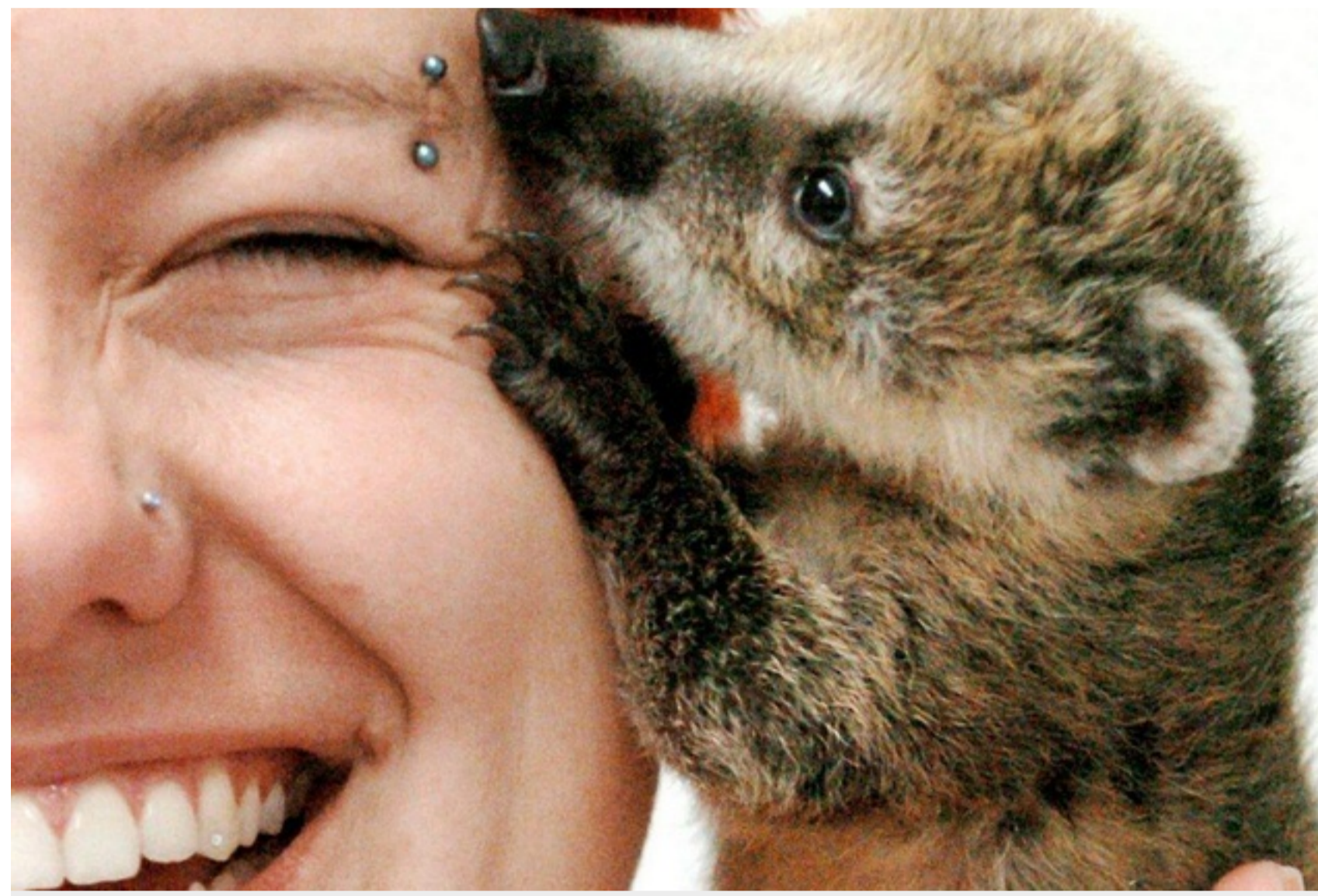
The number of criminal proceedings related to the mistreatment of animals has increased, according to a Swiss animal welfare group.

After a drop in 2017, the number of criminal cases for animal cruelty is on the rise again. In 2018, 1,760 cases were recorded by the Zurich-based [Tier im Recht organisation](#), compared to 1,704 the previous year.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the NGO said the increase in prosecutions showed that criminal law on animal protection were being implemented more effectively. Nevertheless, the foundation believes that "much remains to be done" as "offences are frequently downplayed by the authorities".

Tier im Recht deplores the fact that the punishments imposed are low compared to what the law provides. The average fine for illegal ownership or breeding of animals was CHF492 (\$497) in 2018 (CHF432 in 2017), whereas the upper limit is CHF20,000. The foundation believes the sanctions are not proportional to the suffering inflicted on the animals.

Most infringements (50.4%) concerned pets, mainly dogs. One-third (33.3%) related to farm animals and one-tenth (9.8%) to wildlife. When compared to population size, the proportion of criminal proceedings has decreased. The Swiss average is 2.02 proceedings per 10,000 inhabitants, compared to 2.18 in 2017.



FURRY FRIENDS Which animals do the Swiss love best?

Giraffes, coats, camels – the Swiss love animals of all shapes and sizes. More than one million pets were registered in 2017.

SDA-Keystone/ac



Sign up for our free newsletters and get the top stories delivered to your inbox.

Email address

- Top stories (weekly)
- Latest news (daily)
- Business (weekly)
- Politics (weekly)
- Society (weekly)
- Fintech (biweekly)
- Letter from the Alps (biweekly)
- Multinationals (biweekly)

[Click here to see more newsletters](#)

SUBSCRIBE

There are 2 comments.

WRITE A COMMENT...

Mark Goddard 14.11.2019 15:16

A 1% increase year on year gets front page coverage.

Maybe if there was 5 years of data the article would have more substance.

The strap line is technically correct, yet the proportionality is completely inappropriate.

Maybe a sanity check is needed before headlines are allocated to articles like this in future?

WRITE AN ANSWER...

Abraham ABRAHAM 15.11.2019 10:42

Better enforcement is surely a good thing but so is the kindness towards animals! This is imperative! Is it possible that kindness towards animals is going down due to reduced living means and growing frustrations of people in coping with the challenges of modern living?

WRITE AN ANSWER...

RELATED STORIES



ANIMAL RIGHTS Swiss to vote on banning factory farming

Campaigners have submitted the necessary signatures for an initiative aimed at outlawing intensive livestock production in Switzerland.

Sep 17, 2019 - 15:18

See in another language: 1

2



REPORT Radical animal rights groups step up activities

The Swiss authorities have registered a major increase in militant animal rights activities last year, according to a newspaper report.

Feb 9, 2019 - 18:26

See in other languages: 2



PROTECTED SPECIES Swiss parliament makes it easier to hunt wolves, bears and ibexes

Parliament has agreed to renounce adopting national level hunting regulations thereby allowing cantons to make it easier to hunt protected species.

Sep 19, 2019 - 15:16

2

TOP