

STIFTUNG | FÜR DAS  
TIER IM RECHT

WE GIVE ANIMALS A VOICE!

TIR

The Center of Excellence for Animals  
in Law, Ethics and Society



# A Strong Case for the Animal in the Law



Dr. Gieri Bolliger  
Executive Director and Attorney-at-Law, LL.M.

Dear animal lovers,

Animals are sentient beings and deserve our respect. They cannot stand up for themselves and are therefore dependent on the help of dedicated humans, which is why the Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (TIR, Foundation for the Animal in the Law) has dedicated itself to animal advocacy. We have been doing our utmost to improve animal protection and relevant laws for more than twenty years.

Our work is primarily concentrated on legal aspects of animal welfare. Unfortunately, for many humans, treating animals with respect is not a matter of course – a fact that calls for strict and binding rules in the field of animal protection. TIR works to create a solid basis for animal-friendly laws and their consistent enforcement. We offer legal advice and help in individual and general cases concerning animals of all species and believe that the leverage effect of the law plays an essential role in achieving long-term animal protection.

We are also constantly working on strengthening general awareness by sensitizing the public to the needs of animals. Animals can bring much joy and pleasure, but keeping them also demands a great deal of responsibility, oftentimes for many years. Only highly motivated and well-informed animal owners are capable of this kind of dedication.

TIR offers various services aimed at providing practical and legal knowledge to the general public, especially animal owners. Ultimately, this knowledge benefits the animals by contributing to their protection.

We have already achieved a great deal with our systematic and decisive approach and have established ourselves as a center of excellence for animals in law, ethics and society. Nonetheless, there's still a lot to be done for animals in order to achieve proper handling standards in all circumstances. That is why we will continue standing up and doing our utmost for animals and their protection.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for supporting our work for all animals.



# TIR's Approach

## Strong Commitment to Animal Welfare

TIR is a non-profit, operational and fully independent foundation, which has been advocating for improvement of the human-animal relationship in a legal, ethical and social sense since 1996. We are committed to all animals, irrespective of whether the animals involved are domestic, farmed, laboratory, wild or bred for sports.

We avoid radical or militant methods in our work and are convinced that a resolute, level-headed and objective approach is the best way to help animals. We have joined forces with authorities and other organizations regarding various topics in order to achieve realistic goals and, ultimately, better animal protection.

## Solid Legislative Proposals for an Improvement of Animal Welfare

Although animals are of great importance in our society, the current laws do not provide sufficient and thorough protection for them. Furthermore, the enforcement of the applicable provisions leaves much to be desired. We confront these issues, by tirelessly working to raise the legal standards to meet high ethical requirements.

For this purpose, we analyze the weaknesses in legislation and its enforcement and develop practical suggestions for a solid legal basis for animal protection. By working together with politicians, we hope to introduce our suggestions into the legal system.

## Database of Swiss Criminal Law Practice Regarding Animal-Related Crimes

Unfortunately, animal abusers are not prosecuted thoroughly enough. In order to improve legal enforcement, the shortcomings of criminal investigation and court practice need to be exposed. For this reason, we collect all cases of animal-related crimes in Switzerland that have been reported to the Federal Office for Food Safety and Veterinary Services every year and add them to a database. By 2020 we had 22,400 anonymized cases in our database, which can all be found at [www.tierimrecht.org](http://www.tierimrecht.org).

With the help of our database we have achieved some transparency in animal-related prosecution practice and caused the authorities to take cruelty towards animals and other animal-related crimes much more seriously than in the past. The number of criminal proceedings has risen significantly and animal abusers are increasingly being called to account. Law enforcement authorities also use the database as a guideline when assessing animal-related infractions.



# TIR's Approach

## Education and Training in Animal Law

Responsible treatment of animals requires extensive knowledge of the legislation on the human-animal relationship. We offer educational and training courses, conveying basic and detailed knowledge to animal owners, authorities and organizations. In order to advance scientific work in the field of animal law, we teach regular courses at universities, professional schools and colleges and other educational institutions. We also maintain a continuing dialogue with representatives of other branches of study, such as veterinary medicine, zoology, sociology, theology, ethics and philosophy in order to promote essential interdisciplinary exchange.

## Encouraging Future Animal Welfare Experts

Dedicated young people are extremely important for the continuous development and long-term improvement of animal protection. We therefore train motivated lawyers to be experts in the field of animal law and offer them an opportunity to contribute to the well-being of animals on an academic level. We also support doctoral candidates, students and pupils during the course of their doctorates, term papers and diploma theses, by providing professional advice and valuable contacts. In order to spark and encourage enthusiasm in interested students and graduates, we offer short internships, thus providing deeper insight into our day-to-day work, as well as initial experiences in animal law. So far, more than 100 people from Switzerland and abroad have completed an internship at TIR.

## Extensive Publicity

In order to educate the public about their responsibility towards animals, we offer well-supported information on the needs of animals and the respective legal bases for their proper treatment. Apart from legal reference books and expert opinions, we regularly publish informational brochures and articles in the specialized press and daily papers. We also speak at conferences and at other events in Switzerland and abroad, referring to various aspects of the human-animal relationship. Our objective groundwork makes us a reliable information center for print and online media as well as radio and television.



# TIR's Approach

## National and International Collaboration

TIR works with like-minded organizations on a regular basis and maintains a regular exchange of information with authorities, institutions and experts. On a national level, we offer, among other things, our expertise to the Association for the Coordination of Cantonal Animal Protection (KKT) Zurich (umbrella organization for all animal welfare organizations of Zurich).

In a time of growing globalization, worldwide exchange of information has become very important for further development of animal law. For this reason, TIR works closely with various international organizations, with the aim of mutually benefiting from experiences, promoting an understanding of national perspectives and developing transnational solutions.

TIR is also a member of the German Lawyer's Association for Animal Welfare Law (DJGT), which brings lawyers interested in animal welfare together, with the aim of promoting further development of animal welfare legislation and effective implementation of the existing legal regulations. Furthermore, we belong to the European Enforcement Network of Animal Welfare Lawyers and Commissioners and are a part of the Eurogroup for Animal Law Studies (EGALS). TIR also works on implementing international animal welfare projects together with the renowned Center for Animal Law Studies (CALs) at the Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland (Oregon, USA).



If animals were the judges, punishment for animal cruelty would be more severe.

[TIER IM RECHT.ORG](http://TIER.IM.RECHT.ORG)

# What Services Does TIR Offer?

## Practical Support

In addition to our legal work, we offer a wide range of services regarding the appropriate treatment and handling of animals. Thus, we are able to raise public awareness about animal welfare issues by making the relevant basic knowledge generally accessible. Our wide range of objective and practical information is aimed at everyone interested in animal welfare. We offer our services not only to animal owners and lawyers, but also to all authorities (i.e. veterinary and administrative authorities, police, law enforcement and judicial authorities), veterinarians, politicians, media professionals, schools of all levels, animal welfare organizations and other organizations seeking reliable support in all animal-related legal matters.



## Publications on Animal Law

We publish clear and easily comprehensible reference books on the proper legal handling of animals for professionals, as well as for interested non-professionals. Our practical guidebooks «Tier im Recht transparent» (2008) and «Pferd im Recht transparent» (2015) have become quite popular. Both publications offer answers to more than 500 everyday legal questions regarding the handling of pets, and horses in particular.

In 2011, TIR launched the book series «Schriften zu Tier im Recht», which offers the general public selected monographs, expert reports and technical papers on legal and ethical aspects of the human-animal relationship. The individual volumes are meant to encourage scientific discourse, while offering academics, students, practitioners and enforcement agencies an extensive source of information regarding animal law and ethics.



# What Services Does TIR Offer?

## TIR Library

Our specialized library with over 20,000 publications including books, essays, DVDs, etc. (2020) on animals in law, ethics and society is the heart of TIR. The library also has an extensive collection of the Archive for Ethics in Animal Welfare, Nature and Environmental Conservation (AET), which was given to us by the late Prof. Dr. Gotthard M. Teutsch – one of the most influential animal ethicists of the 20th century.

With the largest literature collection in the German-speaking world on animals in law, ethics and society, our library offers practitioners, academics, students and media professionals an almost inexhaustible source of information for their work. The library is open to the public and free of charge. Anyone inte-

rested in visiting the library is welcome to do so with prior notice. Most of the publications are located in a large room with twelve workplaces. Furthermore, the bibliographical information of more than 18,000 titles can be found under the menu item «Library» at [tierimrecht.org](http://tierimrecht.org).

A large part of the TIR library consists of an extensive media archive with newspaper and magazine articles on roughly 200 animal welfare subjects and is expanding constantly. TIR regularly analyzes the most important daily newspapers as well as numerous other publications and professional magazines. The media archive is also open to the public and free of charge.



# What Services Does TIR Offer?

## Legal Advice

Animal law is a complex and oftentimes overwhelming subject for people without legal training. That is why we offer valuable assistance in legal matters concerning problems with, or because of animals, by providing information to private individuals, organizations, authorities and media professionals seeking advice. Our team of experts answers more than a thousand legal inquiries per year. Answers to the 200 most frequently asked questions can be found at [www.tierimrecht.org](http://www.tierimrecht.org).

TIR does not offer legal representations, however, we recommend specialists for legal cases and support them with advice on animal law issues.

## [tierimrecht.org](http://www.tierimrecht.org)

The TIR website offers detailed information on animal law and practice. It offers interested parties a quick overview of these topics and our animal welfare projects.

[www.tierimrecht.org](http://www.tierimrecht.org) primarily contains legal content, including a digital collection of the current Swiss and cantonal legislation regarding animal law, an encyclopedia with the most important terms of animal law, an overview of the legislation on dogs in each canton and an argumentarium of controversial animal welfare issues. The website also offers a database with all Swiss criminal cases concerning animal welfare since 1982, our virtual library with bibliographical information on more than 12,000 works (2015) of TIR's literature collection, answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding animal law, TIR's publications, ongoing news reports and a variety of useful links.

## Social Media

In order to educate the general public regarding animal welfare issues, TIR uses social media platforms, such as Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. This gives us the opportunity to globally share legal, political and practical information on animal welfare in a matter of seconds.

instagram: [instagram.com/tierimrecht](https://www.instagram.com/tierimrecht)

facebook: [facebook.com/Stiftung.TIR](https://www.facebook.com/Stiftung.TIR)

twitter: [@StiftungTIR](https://twitter.com/StiftungTIR)



# What Has TIR Achieved So Far?

Our efforts have helped us accomplish a great deal for the welfare of animals. For example, we have contributed to the following achievements:

- In 2003, Swiss law went from defining animals as objects to recognizing them as independent living beings;
- in 2008, the Swiss Animal Welfare Act explicitly established protection for the dignity of animals;
- in 2008, the Animal Welfare Act prohibited sexual activities with animals;
- in 2009, the Federal Supreme Court dealt with animal experiments for the first time and prohibited certain experiments on primates, thus profoundly influencing licensing practice in animal experimentation;
- investigative and judicial authorities today prosecute criminal offenses, such as animal cruelty and other animal-related crimes, much more regularly than in the past, and the number of convictions in Switzerland has increased significantly in the past few years;
- the import of dolphins and whales has been prohibited in Switzerland since 2013;
- attorneys and academics in Switzerland have recognized animal law as an independent subject;
- students and practitioners are becoming increasingly interested in animal law and are contributing to its development through academic work;
- the TIR library, with the largest literary collection in the German-speaking world on animals in law, ethics and society, is open to the public and free of charge;
- thanks to the various services provided by TIR, people can educate themselves thoroughly on the correct legal and practical aspects of handling animals and, in this way, prepare themselves for the requirements and responsibility of animal ownership and care.

tierschutz wird immer wichtiger

[www.tierimrecht.org](http://www.tierimrecht.org)



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hundert % für das tier

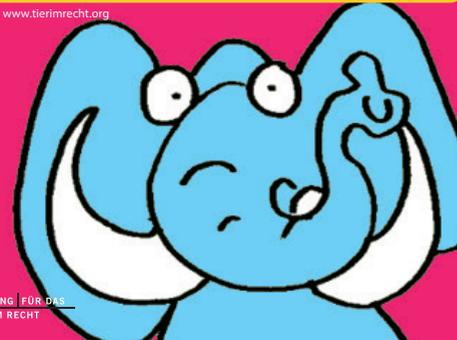
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da sitzen und heulen hilft nichts

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# How Can I Support TIR?

TIR is a non-profit organization, financed solely through private contributions. In order for us to continue fighting for better animal protection, we are dependent on the active support from benefactors. The most effective way to help us is through donations. Here are some possible ways you could support us:

- **Single donation:** support TIR with a one-time donation.
- **Regular donation:** set up a standing order and support TIR regularly with a specific amount.
- **Project contribution:** contribute to a certain project. You can find an overview of our current projects at [www.tierimrecht.org](http://www.tierimrecht.org). We would also be happy to give you a presentation of our projects in person.
- **Fund-raising events:** make a donation instead of buying a gift! Organize a fund-raising event for your birthday, wedding, anniversary, farewell party, etc. and ask for a donation to TIR, instead of presents.
- **Testamentary disposition:** support us in your will by leaving TIR an inheritance or a legacy. We would be happy to send you our testamentary brochure for further information and are available for a personal consultation.
- **Memorial fund for deceased pets:** help TIR in the name of your deceased pet and honor its memory on our virtual commemorative plaque at [www.tierimrecht.org](http://www.tierimrecht.org).

It goes without saying that we guarantee the utmost diligence and effective use of your donations.

**Donations Account: 87-700700-7**

**IBAN CH17 0900 0000 8770 0700 7**

Donations to TIR are tax-deductible. TIR is also exempt from inheritance and gift taxes.

**Thank you very much for your valuable support!**



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## Donations Account PostFinance

IBAN CH17 0900 0000 8770 0700 7  
BIC/Swift Code: POFICHBEXXX

Further information material, payment slips and our current list of projects can be ordered at our office.

[www.tierimrecht.org](http://www.tierimrecht.org)