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The Animals in the Law

A Global Perspective – update 2010 –

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18 Questions

1. **T** The national constitution: Does it include animal welfare?
2. **H** Has the country an uniform animal welfare act?
3. **E** Existence of sanctions for cruelty to animals on a national level? And if yes, what are the highest penalties?
4. **A** Are animals treated as an own category by civil law? (Legal standing)
5. **N** Norm for compensation: Does the country pay out adequate reparation in case of injury or death of an animal?
6. **I** In case of death of an animal: Are reasonable costs for the veterinary care paid?
7. **M** May I, as a tenant, at any rate keep an animal, or if no, under which conditions?
8. **A** Are judges legally entitled to assign the ownership from one person to another, if the other person is a better pet keeper, even if he/she is not the owner (e.g., in divorce cases)?
9. **L** Lost and found pets: Must a specific period of time pass before the finder of an animal can become its owner?
10. **S** Search for lost pets: Is there a central office to coordinate the owner and the finder to get in touch?

11. **I** Is the intrinsic value or the dignity of the animal (as opposed to the mere protection of the animal from cruelty and neglect) protected by the law in anyway?
12. **N** No bill paid: Are pets or other animals protected from being seized by creditors if the owner is in debt?
13. **T** The Animal Rights Debate: Do rights or legally protected interests exist?
14. **H** Hospitals and job – is there legislation permitting one to bring animals to these places?
15. **E** Education of pet owners, pet breeders and lawyers in animal welfare aspects; are they compulsory by law?
16. **L** Lawyers for animals: Are the animal's interests in punishing the perpetrator protected during an investigation and at court by special lawyers?
17. **A** Animals as heirs? Is there an animal's claim for inheritance under an owner's will or otherwise?
18. **W** What should the future bring for a better legal perspective in human-animal interaction?

Answers


yes / existing no / not existing cannot be / no answer found (yet)

Please note that despite trying to reflect the legal positions in matters of animal welfare in the different countries 100 % truthfully, the Foundation for the Animal in the Law can not take responsibility for the correctness of this information legally. If you find any incorrect answers, please let us know!

Overview Europe (Part 1)

								
	Switzerland	Austria	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Denmark	Finland	France	Germany
1	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green
2	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green
3	Green	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green
4	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	White	Green	Green
5	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
6	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	White	Green
7	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red
8	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
9	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red
10	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
11	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
12	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green
13	Green	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
14	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
15	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green
16	(only Zurich)	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green
17	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
18	Green	White	White	White	White	White	White	White

Overview Europe (Part 2)

							
	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Liechten - stein	Netherlands	Poland	Portugal
1	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
2	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green
3	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red
5	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
6	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
7	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green
8	White	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
9	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	Red
10	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	White
11	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red
12	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
13	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red
14	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
15	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
16	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green
17	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
18	White	White	White	White	White	White	White

Overview Europe (Part 3)

							
	Romania	Serbia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	U.K.	EU
1	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green		Green
2	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
3	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	
4	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
5	White	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
6	Red	White	Red	Red	Red	Red	
7	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
8	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
9	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	
10	White	White	Red	White	Red	Green	
11	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
12	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
13	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Green	
14	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
15	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	
16	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	
17	Red	Red	White	Red	Red	Red	
18	White	White	White	White	White	White	

Overview USA, Canada, Mexico & Ozeania

					
	Australia	Canada	Mexico	New Zealand	USA
1	Red	Red	Green	White	Red
2	Red	Red	Green	Green	Red
3	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red
4	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
5	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
6	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red
7	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
8	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
9	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green
10	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
11	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
12	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
13	Green	Red	White	Green	Red
14	White	Red	Red	Red	White
15	Red	Red	Red	White	Red
16	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red
17	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
18	White	White	White	White	White

Overview South America

						
	Argentina	Brazil	Chile	Colombia	Peru	Venezuela
1	Red	Green	Red	Red	Green	Green
2	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green	Red
3	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4	White	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
5	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
6	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
7	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
8	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
9	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green
10	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
11	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
12	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
13	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
14	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
15	Red	White	Red	Red	Green	Red
16	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
17	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
18	White	White	White	White	White	White

Overview Asia & Africa

					
	China	Israel	Japan	South Africa	South Korea
1	Red	White	Red	Green	Red
2	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green
3	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green
4	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
5	Red	Red	White	Red	Red
6	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red
7	Red	White	Red	Red	Red
8	Red	Red	White	Red	Red
9	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green
10	Red	Red	Red	Green	White
11	Red	Red	White	Red	Green
12	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
13	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red
14	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
15	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red
16	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
17	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
18	White	White	White	White	White