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PECULIARITIES OF THE LEGAL REGULATION OF STATUS OF PETS IN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

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Keywords: pets, legal protection for animals, Federal law, criminal liability, administrative liability, regulations, ordinances.

Throughout its existence, man has been fairly closely associated with the animal world, but today it is increasingly common to hear and see how pets become victims of human wrongdoing.

The relevance of the study lies in the fact that the solution to this problem requires detailed elaboration of the issues associated with the enshrining at the legislative level of the mechanism of protection of animals from cruel treatment, as well as bringing perpetrators to administrative responsibility.

The aim of this study is to describe the specific features of the legal regulation of the status of pets, using the legislation of a number of European countries as an example.

Material and methods. The material of the study is the study and use of the legal framework of European countries regulating the status of pets. The formal legal method and specific legal analysis were used in writing the paper.

Findings and their discussion. Recently, the legal protection of animals has received national attention in many countries. For example, Article 20a in the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany is dedicated to the humane treatment of animals. In 2002, Germany became one of the first countries to introduce this constitutional provision (3). Currently in force in Germany is the Federal Law of 18.05.2006, the Animal Welfare Law (Tierschutzgesetz) to protect the life and physical integrity of

animals, prohibiting the infliction of pain, suffering or harm without reasonable cause (1). The Act establishes fundamental rules concerning the maintenance and protection of pets, such as the obligation of owners to care, feed and maintain animals according to their species and needs, and restrictions on certain acts that would cause pain or suffering to pets [1, Ch. 2].

A special role is given by the Federal Law to criminal and administrative liability of pet owners for inappropriate maintenance of pets. It is worth noting that the criminal punishment includes not only a monetary fine, but also a term of imprisonment of up to 3 years for killing an animal, causing pain or any suffering without cause [1, Ch. 17]. In turn, administrative liability is foreseen for negligently or intentionally causing suffering to a domestic animal without any reason, which is punishable by a fine ranging from EUR 5,000 to EUR 25,000 [1, Ch. 18].

German law also regulates other issues related to the protection and care of pets, such as a shelter system that serves as a home for stray animals and for pets while their owners are away, a free database of lost animals, education (e.g. the school curriculum contains obligatory "animal welfare" lessons), etc.

The legislation of the Swiss Confederation, considered one of Europe's leading states for the protection of animal rights, also pays a great deal of attention to the protection of pets. In 2008, the National Council, Switzerland's lower parliament, passed the Animal Rights Act [2]. It regulates the treatment of domestic animals in great detail, namely the keeping, breeding, sale and deprivation of life of different animal species under certain circumstances. For example, some kinds of animals, such as parrots, guinea pigs and hamsters, cannot be kept as singles because of psychological problems, and the owner must raise an animal of the opposite sex for each bird or rodent. Of no less importance is the fact that the annex to the Act specifies the minimum size of the living space in which the animals may be kept. Lawyers are particularly worried about dogs' health and therefore pet owners are prohibited from having their dogs' tails and ears cropped, lop ears done or importing animals that have undergone similar operations. It should be noted that since 2007 all dogs in Switzerland must be microchipped. It is compulsory for dog owners to pay an annual dog tax, which varies from CHF 40 to CHF 150 depending on the area in which they live.

The rights of pets in Switzerland are also regulated by other laws, such as the Animal Protection Act (*Loi fédérale sur la protection des animaux*, French; *Tierschutzgesetz*, German), which prohibits causing pain, panic and distress to animals. The Swiss legislator also takes the issue of administrative and criminal liability for these offences seriously. The Swiss Criminal Code in particular imposes imprisonment for up to three years for animal cruelty and the deliberate taking of a pet's life. Administrative liability is stipulated, for example, for the illegal possession, breeding or abandonment of pets, and a fine of up to CHF 20,000 is imposed. The amount of the fine is determined according to the region of residence.

Conclusion. Having considered this issue, it can be concluded that the treatment of pets has recently been the subject of specific legislation in many European countries, an important element in the humanisation of society. Increasingly, people in different countries are petitioning and protesting for positive changes in the regulation of pets. The legal framework of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Swiss Confederation regarding the definition of the status of pets is quite broad. The legislation in these

countries creates the conditions for the comfortable housing and protection of pets by stipulating various rules aimed at the protection of pets as well as penalties for the violation of these rules.

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WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AS A WAY OF SECRET COMMUNICATION IN THE CRIMINAL SUBCULTURE OF TEENAGERS

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Keywords: prisoners, secret communication of prisoners, teenagers, criminal subculture, conventional classification of inmate letters.

The relevance of studying methods of secret communication in the criminal environment is that such communication is always aimed at concealing criminal actions, plans, the need to hide information from law enforcement agencies. Accordingly, knowledge of methods of secret communication helps to conduct proper investigation of crimes, is of preventive nature, helps to uncover criminal intent.

The purpose of the study is to consider written communication as a way of latent (secret) communication in a criminal environment.

Material and methods. The features of the secret correspondence of prisoners as an element of the criminal subculture of teenagers are investigated. Secret written communication in criminal groups of minors and young people also exists in freedom. However, it is worth noting that it is especially developed in conditions of social isolation, provided that the correspondence is under the control of the administration.

The methodological basis of the study consists of a general scientific dialectical method, as well as historical, comparative legal and other private scientific methods of research of legal and social phenomena.

Findings and their discussion. Knowing that their correspondence is subject to censorship, juveniles and young offenders use legal written communication in order to: mislead the administration by emphasizing the best sides of their character, demonstrations of imaginary correction; to take pity on persons who may read the letter,