

Greek Animal Welfare Protocol (law 4039/2012)

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According to the Law 4039/2012 the following actions are offences.

We are listing these actions as a WELFARE PROTOCOL, which consists of all the rules humans have to follow regarding the treatment and protection of animals, so that animals do not suffer and feel pain. In general, the protocol is about respecting the existence of animals.

a) To provide animals with appropriate food and water, depending on the kind of the animal.

- No animals should be starving and dehydrated.
- It is absolutely inappropriate to feed animals with carcasses.
- The water animals drink must be clean (not mouldy and green).
- In the summer it is prohibited to leave animals without water for days in general
- The food and water bowls have to be clean.

b) Animals should live in a dry, clean place, which is protected from weather conditions. They should not be permanently tied and should not live in improper homes (metal constructions–reservoirs–barrels).

It is prohibited to keep animals in barrels, reservoirs or other makeshift and inappropriate constructions that do not offer protection from weather conditions to all kinds of animals.

- It is prohibited to leave animals with no home at all and expose them to the weather conditions.
- It is prohibited to mercilessly leave animals in the snow, in the rain and the storms, or in the heat.
- The home of the animal must be protected from heat, cold, rain and the frost.
- The home must be comfortable, healthy, adapted to the natural way of life of the animal.
- The home must allow the animal to be in a natural standing position, without preventing it from moving, running and exercising. It is prohibited to tie animals permanently.
- It is prohibited to keep animals permanently in cages.
- The place where the animal lives has to be cleaned from excrements.
- It is necessary that the animal exercises (walk), as this is very important for the health and welfare of the animal.
- Breaking these rules can be equal to torture, abuse, and eventually intentional killing.
- If the animal is removed from the place it was when the complaint was filed, the owner is obliged to show the policemen the new place where it stays, in order to control its new living conditions, otherwise the owner will be prosecuted for abandonment (administrative and criminal prosecution).

c) Care and medical care.

- Vaccination is obligatory and the owner should have a health booklet of the animal, where the last vaccinations and disinfections are mentioned recorded, with reference to the special code of electronic marking (microchip) duly signed by the veterinarian.
- Animals should be free of skin diseases (mange, wounds, inflammations etc.) and external parasites (ticks, fleas)

d) It is prohibited to abandon and animal.

e) It is prohibited to torture, abuse and cruelly treat ANY kind of animal. Any violent action against animals is prohibited, SPECIALLY poisoning, hanging, drowning, burning, compressing and mutilation.

- Cutting off the ears and the tail is regarded as mutilation.
- Shows with animals in circuses or theatres are prohibited.
- It is prohibited to keep and use ANY KIND of animal in businesses like games, speedways, musical concerts, fairs, displays, or other artistic or entertainment events.
- The participation of animals in any kind of fight is prohibited. It is also prohibited to breed and train animals for this purpose.
- It is prohibited to consume meat of dogs and cats.
- It is prohibited to produce fur, leather and medicines or other substances from dogs and cats.

f) It is prohibited to permanently keep companion animals in balconies, terraces, open areas of flats and areas of common use in blocks of flats. By exemption, it is allowed to keep animals on the roof, in the garage or in the garden of the block of flats, provided there is a unanimous decision of the owners of the flats (decision of the General Meeting).

g) It is prohibited to kill mammals in slaughterhouses, private or municipal ones, without instant anaesthetisation prior to the blood-drainage (Law 1197/81).

h) Law 2017/92 about the ratification of the European Treaty for companion animals:

Article 3, paragraph 1 “No one should make a companion animal suffer, be in pain or in anxiety unnecessarily».

Article 4, paragraph 2, b “Any person owning a companion animal must provide it with the appropriate training opportunities