

# DRAFT LAW

animals  
LEBANON

for the Protection & Welfare  
of Animals

مسودة قانون  
لحماية الحيوانات  
والرفق بها



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## Animal Welfare Legislation

Animal welfare legislation has existed in Lebanon since its independence in 1943, and at the time our country was regarded as having the highest protection for animals in the Middle East. Animal shelters were established and operated by the government, there was an active NGO presence, and records of 14 animal abuse cases tried in just one month with offenders sentenced and fined.

Nearly 70 years later, instead of building on this strong foundation and the growing international concern for animal welfare, we have sadly taken a step backwards and neglected this issue.

Unregulated private zoos continue to be established with little oversight, offering no conservation or education benefit. Roadside pet shops sell any available species, including highly endangered animals, all displayed in wholly inadequate conditions. Cats and dogs are regularly shot and poisoned as a method of population control, there are no regulations for pet guardians, and no registration of pets. Endangered species are smuggled into and through Lebanon, ending up in homes, private collections, and pet shops in Lebanon and throughout the world. We do not meet the obligations of international conventions which Lebanon has joined, and we have failed to join other important conventions which most of the world's nations adhere to.

Lebanon is a country that continuously overcomes hardships and obstacles, and together this lack of legislation and widespread abuse is a problem that we can overcome.

Animals Lebanon, in cooperation with government bodies, international organizations, and with the support of Lebanese NGOs, has now drafted comprehensive national animal protection and welfare legislation. This legislation was drafted in collaboration with international experts after reviewing the current status of animal welfare in Lebanon, existing national legislation, legislation of countries in the region, international conventions, and best practices. This law has the potential to drastically improve the current situation and return Lebanon to the position it held as being a regional leader of animal protection and welfare.

We will continue to promote this draft legislation and work to improve the welfare of all animals in Lebanon, and welcome everyone to join in the campaign to have this law enacted.

National animal protection and welfare legislation is now in your hands – and with it the chance for a more humane Lebanon.



**Lana El Khalil**

President - Animals Lebanon

## **Why is comprehensive animal protection law necessary?**

It is the belief of Animals Lebanon that every nation should have comprehensive animal protection legislation. Animals are sentient creatures, and therefore entitled to recognition, and to care and protection against avoidable suffering. The degree of cultural maturity of a society is reflected in its attitude towards its animal population. It is widely recognized that the abuse and exploitation of animals is not only detrimental to the health and welfare of the animals concerned, but also harmful to the moral and spiritual development of the human population.

There are many levels of argument favoring the introduction of comprehensive animal protection legislation.

### **Altruistic**

Animals are now scientifically recognized as 'sentient beings', and have their own intrinsic value. They should, therefore, be protected for their own sakes.

### **Moral/ethical**

Humans have a moral and ethical duty to protect the planet's animal life. As animals are sentient beings, it is unethical to subject them to suffering. Humans should act as guardians to creation, not as destructive forces and exploiters.

### **International acceptance**

In the words of Gandhi: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." The international community takes a poor view of countries that have low welfare standards, or permit suffering.

### **International obligations**

Most countries in the world now have international obligations to meet in the animal protection field (by virtue of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) international standards, conventions, treaties, trading obligations etc.) that should be embedded in enforceable animal protection legislation.

### **Democracy**

Most citizens and members of the public would support the protection of animals, and therefore countries not affording animals such protection are not upholding the wishes of their populations.

### **Protecting the country's fauna 'heritage'**

Effectively enforced animal protection legislation can help to protect the country's domestic animals/wildlife.

### **Humanistic/social**

Animal cruelty should be prevented because this can have an adverse impact upon human values and actions. Not only does animal cruelty diminish humans, but when carried out or witnessed it can lead to a violent and aggressive society.

### **Public health**

There are valid public and animal health reasons for the introduction of comprehensive animal protection legislation (for example, as regards the introduction of measures on humane stray control, identification, animal care and supervision, veterinary treatment requirements etc.).

### **Ownership/responsibility**

Encouraging responsibility (liability) of animal owners has beneficial educational and control functions.

### **Economic factors**

To meet economic obligations (e.g. to adapt to changing trading and consumer trends and competition factors).

## **Importance of Establishing High Standards**

It is important that modern, comprehensive animal protection legislation is established, with the highest standards feasible. This is because:

The status and practical treatment of animals can be raised by improvements to legislation and enforcement standards.

In practice, enforcement problems often weaken the practical effect of animal protection legislation, so high-level provisions with practical application measures are vital.

The opponents to animal protection legislation – including some vested financial interests – will seek to avoid legislation and lower standards.

International standards continue to be developed, so weak legislation is likely to require subsequent improvement (which can lead to costly changes for industry). It is preferable to bring in higher standards, even if these have to be phased in.

Countries often state that they are introducing basic standards, but will update and improve these shortly. However, in practice this rarely happens – legislative timetables are packed and animal protection law is all too often viewed as a low priority.

# Chapter I: General Provisions

## Article 1: Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this law, the following terms and expressions shall have the following meanings:

**IATA Live Animal Regulations:** The International Air Transport Association worldwide standards for transportation of live animals by commercial airlines.

**Zoo:** an institution in which living wild and domesticated animals are kept and exhibited to the public.

**Domestic Animal:** An animal of a species or breed that has been modified over a significant number of generations.

**Companion Animal:** A domesticated animal whose physical, emotional, behavioral and social needs can be readily met as companions of humans.

**Wild Animal:** Any animal which is not domesticated.

**Dolphinarium:** a permanent or temporary facility equipped mainly to keep big aquatic animals, e.g. Dolphins, whales and sharks.

**CITES:** The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

**Circus:** A public entertainment, whether permanent, seasonal or temporary, consisting typically of a variety of performances by acrobats, clowns, and trained animals.

**Veterinary Doctor:** a person holding a recognized university degree in veterinary medicine and fulfilling the requirements of the Lebanese veterinary practice Law.

**OIE:** The World Organization for Animal Health, an intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health.

**Institution:** Any institution that requires prior license or declaration under this law.

**Ministry:** Ministry of agriculture

**Minister:** Minister of agriculture

## Article 2: Purpose of the Law

An animal is a living creature, capable of feeling physically and psychologically, and entitled, regardless of its specie or kind, to live in proper vital, behavioral and psychological conditions. The provisions of this Law shall be interpreted in light of this article.

## Article 3: Declarations and Prior Licenses

The establishment of institutions that are engaged in any productive, commercial, scientific or any other activity related to animals is subject to declarations or prior licenses according to the conditions set out hereafter.

In cases requiring a declaration, the application shall be submitted to the Ministry within one month from the establishment of the institution. The declaration shall include all the statements and documents proving the fulfillment of the legal requirements. Upon verification of the fulfillment of these requirements, the institution is granted an acknowledgement of receipt.

In cases requiring a prior license, the Ministry, after consultation with the Ministry of Health, shall review the applications within two months of their submission. The Ministerial order may then be challenged before the relevant administrative court. Unless otherwise specified under this Law, the license is granted for five years, subject to renewal upon request submitted to the Ministry in accordance with the application terms specified below.

Payment of fees of declaration and licenses is made according to the table issued by the Minister.

The owner of the institution shall notify the Ministry of any amendment in the statement of declaration or license application within 15 days of the date of amendment.

Any person breaching any of the provisions of this Article is liable to imprisonment between 1 and 12 months and a fine between 6 and 10 million Lebanese Liras.

The Ministry may withdraw on its motion or upon the request of the Ministry of Health the acknowledgment of receipt or to revoke the license in case the legal requirements are no longer satisfied or the owner of the institution fails to comply with any of these requirements and to remedy the situation within 15 days of receipt of a notice. In this case, a ministerial order to withdraw the acknowledgment of receipt or to revoke the license shall include the confiscation of animals and a ban to submit a new declaration or a license application for a minimum period of 3 years. The order of confiscation shall specify the shelter of the confiscated animals in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

The owner shall display the acknowledgement of receipt or license in a visible place at the main entrance of the institution. In case the owner of the institution fails to comply with this provision, he is liable to a fine between 1 and 3 million Lebanese Liras.

## **Article 4: Requirements for Institutions Subject to this Law**

Any institution subject to this Law shall fulfill the following general conditions:

- Ensuring sufficient human resources to respond to the animals' needs, provided that the owner or one of the working staff holds a university degree in animal sciences or a minimum experience of three years in a recognized institution working on animal protection and/or care.
- Providing enclosures of such material, size and design as to be appropriate to the number and species of animals according to the requirements of this Law and the Ministerial Orders.
- Ensuring the physical and visual separation between incompatible animals.
- Allowing the animals to express as much as possible their natural behaviors, and interact with compatible animals of their own species or other species.
- Ensuring heating, lighting, ventilation and humidification systems appropriate to the needs of animals.
- Undertaking the appropriate measures to preserve the general hygiene of the premises of the institution, with due attention to the use of necessary and non-harmful detergents and disinfectants.
- Ensuring the proper equipments for the provision of food, water and a sufficient stock for at least one week of clean food and water.
- Installing where needed an escape proof fence or barriers around the institution to ensure the safety of the animals and prevent their escape. If the escape of an animal causes harm to other persons, the owner of the institution is liable according to the provisions of the Penal Code on involuntary physical harm or manslaughter. If the escape of the animal is due to an act of the owner or to his failure to abide by any of the legal obligations related to public

safety, the owner of the institution is liable according to the provisions of the Penal Code on voluntary physical harm and manslaughter.

- Providing sufficient quantities of bedding appropriate to the animals' needs (such as straw, hay, wood shavings, rice husks or any other non harmful material).
- Providing monitoring of the animals by a veterinarian on a regular basis and whenever symptoms of diseases or physical injuries appear.
- Keeping updated medical records on each animal according to the guidelines set out by the Ministerial Order.
- Providing a quarantine area for sick and injured animals in order to ensure their welfare until recovery.
- Undertaking a commitment to provide the Ministry with any required information about the status of the animals and the general condition of the institution, and to allow the representatives and inspectors delegated by the Ministry to inspect the animals and access their records upon first request.
- Preparing a plan to protect the animals during disasters.
- Undertaking all appropriate measures for regular maintenance.

## **Article 5: Requirements for Animal Transportation**

Animals may be transported by land, sea or air through a mode of transportation licensed by the Minister in accordance with the requirements of this Law.

In addition to the general requirements, the following requirements shall be fulfilled:

- Complying with IATA regulations during international animal shipments.
- Using a mode of transportation appropriate to the transported animal species, their size, weight and number, the weather condition and its capacity to ensure the comfort and safety of animals.

- Providing the veterinary procedures in accordance with the OIE regulations.
- Undertaking to comply with the mandatory transportation, animal health and welfare requirements of the importing and exporting country.
- Providing certificates of immunization against any anticipated diseases in the destination country.
- Prohibiting the use of painful procedures to move, restrain, load and unload animals.
- Keeping the amount of transportation time to the minimum. If transportation time exceeds 8 hours, the animals must be provided with rest, food and water appropriate to their needs.
- Prohibiting the routinely use of tranquilizers and other medication during transport.
- Keeping a record of any sick, injured or dead animals, medical treatments used and results during transport.
- Assessing the health status of animals at the beginning and the end of transport.
- Keeping animals in appropriate facilities designed for this purpose inside airports, ports and ground crossings according to the provisions of Article 4 above, immediately after acceptance of the consignment by the Competent Authority.

Whoever breaches any of these provisions is liable to a fine between 1 and 10 million Lebanese Liras and may be prohibited to transport animals for a minimum period of 3 years. If a CITES animal or its parts or derivatives, is illegally exported or imported, it is mandatory to confiscate the animal, its parts or derivatives.

Priority attention shall be given to the animals' welfare during loading and unloading the animals, and the unloading must take place immediately upon arrival at the destination.

## Article 6: General Requirements for Animal Handling

The most prominent requirements are the followings:

- Unless otherwise specified under this Law, it is prohibited to kill animals or to perform any act that may inflict unnecessary distress, pain or suffering to animals or subject them to danger or torture.
- It is prohibited to remove any of the animal's parts or to carry out surgical procedures without the supervision of a veterinarian and anesthetic must be used wherever possible. The Minister shall issue an order specifying the unacceptable surgical procedures.
- Food, water, temperature and treatment shall be provided according to the needs, species and age of the animal.
- It is prohibited to provide the animal with any substance, which may endanger its safety or natural growth, or may cause unnecessary suffering or injury. The animal shall not be forcibly fed. It is prohibited to provide the animal with hormones which are not licensed by a ministerial order. In case hormones are administered to the animals, the consumer must be notified.
- It is prohibited to establish a dolphinarium.
- It is prohibited to organize animal fights or fights between animals and humans
- No animals shall be used for shows, advertising or artistic purposes where this entails suffering, pain or distress.
- It is prohibited to use animals in circuses.
- Animals shall not be given as prizes or gifts at public events.
- Animals must not be worked when in poor health, when too young or too old, or if the work environment or the equipment used threatens their safety or growth, or exceeds their natural capacities or inflicts harm or pain. The Minister shall issue an order specifying the terms of implementation of this provision.

- The use of genetic engineering in animals is restricted to a Ministerial Order.
- The owner of the institution undertakes to immediately notify the Ministry of any emergency related to death of three or more animals, or the existence of symptoms of a disease or a pandemic.

Any person breaching this Article is liable to a fine between 1 and 10 million Lebanese Liras and confiscation of animals.

In case the breach is committed against an animal enlisted in the appendix I or II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the violator is liable to imprisonment between 3 months and 3 years, a fine between 10 and 20 million Lebanese Liras, the confiscation of animals and a ban from guarding animals for a minimum period of three years.

Unless otherwise stipulated in this Law, the same punishment will apply to whoever consciously guards, sells, uses in a scientific experiment or hunts an animal enlisted in the appendix I or II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

## **Article 7: Euthanasia**

The animal may be killed under the supervision of a veterinarian doctor and with the use of a euthanasia method. Killing is mandatory in certain cases stipulated in this Law. The Minister shall specify the acceptable methods of euthanasia.

## **Article 8: Disposal of Bodies**

In case of death of an animal while in custody of a natural or moral person, the carcass shall be disposed of through a means determined by the Ministry in accordance with the guidelines of the OIE. Any person who disposes of the carcass in any other way is liable to a fine between 1 and 3 million Lebanese Liras.

## **Article 9: Law Enforcement**

The Ministry is responsible for inspection to verify at least once per year the compliance of the institutions with the legal and organizational requirements and qualifications.

The Ministry may at any time review the records and statements which are retained by the institutions according to the provisions of this Law. Refraining from organizing, retaining or providing these records to the Ministry is punished by a fine between 1 and 10 million Lebanese Liras unless a stronger penalty is specified by the Law. In case of forgery of the statements, the provisions of the penal code on the forgery of official records and documents are applicable.

## Chapter II: Raising Animals in Farms and Their Use for Working Purposes

### **Article 10: Requirement to Obtain a Permit or Submit a Declaration**

Animal Farms are classified into three categories defined by a Ministerial Order.

The first and second categories are subject to license while the third category is subject to declaration.

The Minister shall issue an order specifying the animals that can be raised in farms. The Minister may prohibit raising certain animals if for any reason raising them on a farm threatens their health or existence.

### **Article 11: Specific Requirements for Farm Establishment**

Besides the requirements set out in Article 4, the establishment of a farm shall fulfill the following requirements:

- Location: the Farm shall be established away from residential areas. The Minister shall issue an order specifying the appropriate distance from residential areas. A farm in the first category shall be located at least one kilometer away from another farm in the same category.

- A Farm shall be established in a way to allow sunlight to penetrate inside, and to protect animals against wind. Wind barriers shall be installed when necessary.
- The construction of accommodation installations shall fulfill the following requirements:
  - The used material shall not be poisonous or harmful to the health of animals and shall be non-flammable. The accommodation installations shall be able to be cleaned properly. The Minister shall specify the acceptable construction materials.
  - A sewage system shall be installed and regularly maintained.
  - The floors shall be built skid proof and free of protrusions that may be harmful to the animals.
  - The housing of the staff shall be built close to the farm to assure timely response to daily and emergency needs.

## **Article 12: Statement of Declaration or Application for License**

The declaration or license application shall include the following information :

- Name and contact details of the Farm's owner.
- Number of the staff and their qualifications.
- Location and distance to the closest residential area and other farms.
- Whether the Farm is indoor or outdoor.
- Number, species and origin of animals.
- Expected products of the farm.
- Design, number and materials used in construction of the barns, aquariums, enclosures or other holding facilities.

- Techniques used in the construction of the pillars, floor, walls, ceiling, doors and windows.
- Technical equipment installed to supply food and water to animals.
- Technical equipment installed to extract the Farm's products.
- The lighting, ventilation, heating/cooling, cleaning and maintenance systems.
- Food products and their origin.
- Clean water and its origin.
- The housing of the staff.
- Measures to protect the farm against external dangers, climate and temperature fluctuations.
- Name and contact details of the Farm's veterinarian.
- Commitment to ensure regular veterinarian visits. Visits shall be monthly for first category Farms, bi-annually for second and third category Farms.
- Commitment to allow grazing of hoofstock for a minimum period of 90 days per year.
- Undertaking to comply with the requirements of this law.

### **Article 13: Submission of Periodical Medical Reports**

Owners of first category Farms shall submit to the Ministry within the first month of every calendar year a report of the veterinarian on the health conditions of the animals and the general situation of the Farm.

### **Article 14: Working Animals**

The Minister shall issue an order specifying the animals that can be used for working purposes.

## **Article 15: Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes**

In case of an infectious disease that may spread from animal to animal or from animal to human or trees or plants, the government shall, by decree, set out fair indemnities for farm owners and lay down a national plan for health in accordance with the OIE regulations, including the required measures to combat the pandemic and ensure the safety of the farms' workers, the environmental safety and animals' welfare.

In this case, the government may issue a decision to kill the animals where such measure is proportional to the damage and necessary to prevent a dangerous and contagious disease or pandemic. In this case, the following principles shall be taken into consideration:

- All acts shall be performed under the supervision of competent committees, composed of experts and headed by a veterinarian.
- Euthanasia shall be performed according to the provisions of this Law.
- Following the end of the procedures, the supervising veterinarian shall prepare a report describing the used procedures and its repercussions on the welfare of animals, safety of working staff and public safety.

Farm owners are committed to declare the presence of animals and assist in the implementation of the aforesaid measures. In case a Farm's owner hides animals that should be destroyed according to the decree, or performs any act that may hinder the implementation of the decree, he is liable to imprisonment between 2 months and 2 years and a fine between 10 and 20 million Lebanese Liras.

## Chapter III: Sale and Raising of Companion Animals

### **Article 16: Requirement to Obtain a Permit for Sale of Companion Animals**

Every institution selling companion animals and related accessories is subject to a prior license from the Ministry. The license may be limited to trade in

companion animals and related accessories (category 1) or may also include breeding procedures. In this case, the breeding species must be specified (category 2).

Without prejudice to prohibitions of Article 6 above, the Minister shall issue an order specifying the companion animals that can be sold in such institutions.

## **Article 17: Specific Requirements for the Sale of Companion Animals**

Besides the requirements of Article 4 of this Law, the institution's owner or manager undertakes to fulfill the following requirements:

- Maintain at all times the qualifications specified in the general provisions.
- Keep records about the origin of displayed animals; if animals are locally procured, the local source must be licensed. If animals are imported, the institution must retain the legal certificates of importation. A copy of the certificate must be provided to the new guardian.
- Keep medical records of every animal and deliver a copy to the new guardian.
- Keep records proving transfer of guardianship and specifying the origin of the animals, name of guardian and date of transfer of guardianship.
- Keep records of death and sickness cases.
- Not to exceed the allowed number of animals according to the qualifications and space of the institution.
- Obtain microchips that comply with the International Organization for Standardization ISO 11784 and 11785 and have them implanted by a veterinarian in every dog or cat displayed in the institution.
- Prohibit visitors to directly interact with the displayed animals without his supervision.
- Refrain from selling animals to a minor.

- Comply, whenever required, with the abovementioned requirements of euthanasia.

The Minister shall issue an order specifying the details of implementation of this Article.

## **Article 18: Requirements of Animal's Guardian**

Any person willing to guard a dog or cat shall register the transfer of guardianship at the Ministry. The registration may take place through the selling institution.

Upon registration, the guardian shall pay a fee of 50.000 Lebanese Liras. Any subsequent change of guardianship must be registered according to the same rules and for the same fee. The Minister may, at any time, decide to raise this fee.

Failure to comply with the registration requirements constitutes a breach sentenced by a fine between 1 and 3 million Lebanese Liras. The animal shall be confiscated unless settlement takes place within 10 days from the date of prosecution.

Any guardian who deliberately leaves unattended or abandons a cat or a dog without notice to the Ministry in order to find another guardian or shelter is liable to the same fine. He is also prohibited to own another cat or dog for a minimum period of three years.

The guardian of a dog or cat must pay an annual fee, as determined by a Ministerial order according to the animal species, provided that it is not less than 50.000 Lebanese Liras.

Persons with disabilities are exempted from registration and renewal fees, if the companion animal is used to alleviate the effects of their disability.

The guardian of a dog or cat is required to vaccinate the animal at a veterinarian according to the table issued by the Minister. Any guardian who fails to comply with this provision is liable to a fine between 1 and 3 million Lebanese Liras.

## **Article 19: Stray Animals**

Stray animals can be gathered in temporary shelters established for this purpose in the centers of governorates. Subject to the approval of animal welfare associations, the governor may solicit their help to host stray animals in their shelters.

If the guardian remains unknown after the lapse of 10 days from the finding of the animal, an animal welfare association or any other person may ask for the guardianship of the stray animal with due attention to the abovementioned requirements. Any person who undertakes to care for a stray animal is exempted from the registration and renewal fees for three consecutive years.

If a stray animal is considered dangerous to people or property, according to a veterinary report, it can be humanely killed by a euthanasia method under the supervision of a veterinarian.

If the stray animal is proven not to be dangerous to people or property, it can be freed from the shelter and taken back to the street after ensuring that the animal is free from diseases, has been castrated, vaccinated and visibly identified to prevent re-capture through tattoos or ear-clipping.

## **Chapter IV: Use of Animals in Scientific Studies, Research and Experiments**

### **Article 20: Requirement to Obtain a License:**

Any use of animals for scientific studies, researches and experiments is subject to prior license from the Ministry according to the conditions and procedures laid down hereafter.

The various scientific studies, researches and experiments are subject to the following considerations:

- Ensuring the necessity of the experiments and the lack of alternatives.

- Performing the experiments that inflict the least harm and suffering to the animal.
- Reducing as much as possible the number of animals in procedures.

Based on these considerations, the Minister shall issue an order prohibiting certain types of procedures if proven to be non-productive or disproportional to the damage inflicted to the animal or possibly replaced by less harmful scientific alternatives.

## **Article 21: Types of Animals Used in Scientific Studies, Research and Experiments**

All animals used in procedures must be specifically bred for that purpose within a licensed breeding establishment.

If such animals are not available, it is permitted to use farm animals or legally imported animals, provided that the legal certificates of origin are retained. If the animals are locally procured, the local source must be licensed.

It is prohibited to use stray or wild animals.

## **Article 22: Object of Scientific Studies, Research and Experiments**

Animals shall be used exclusively for medical or teaching purposes.

It is prohibited to use animals outside the framework of licensed medical establishments and universities.

## **Article 23: Qualifications of the Procedures Center**

The animal-raising and breeding institutions shall be separated from the procedures center.

Procedures shall take place in licensed venues whether inside or outside the applicant institutions.

The procedures center shall be equipped with special instruments for animal testing.

The necessary medicines for pain killing, euthanasia and treatment shall be available at all times.

The necessary equipments for the safety of the working staff against accidents that may be caused by the animals or materials used during the procedure shall be available at all times.

## **Article 24: Permit Application**

The permit applicant shall be a licensed medical or educational institution. No permit shall be granted to natural persons.

The application shall include the following information:

- Name, title and scientific qualifications of the doctor/s or professor/s supervising the procedure.
- Objectives of the procedures, to what extent they are distinct from previous ones and the difficulty to substitute them with any other procedure.
- Impact of the study on the animals, environment and biological development.
- Number, species, gender, origin, and growth degree of animals, reason for selection and unfeasibility of reducing the number of animals.
- Duration of the procedures and, if applicable, reasons for subjecting animals to more than one procedure.
- Location and qualifications of the procedures center.
- The method of administering the used substances during the procedures.
- The methods used to lessen the suffering of animals.
- Description of the final phase of the procedures and how to deal with the animals at the end of each procedure.
- Preparation for the procedures, and training of animals where necessary.

- Name of the veterinary supervising the status of animals prior to, during and following the procedures.
- Probable risks to the health and safety of animals and the plan for treatment or minimizing the effect of these risks where necessary.
- Undertaking to retain records of the objects of the procedures, the species, number and fate of the used animals, the used materials during the procedure, the used anesthesia, analgesics and the euthanasia methods.

The Minister may require further conditions or information in relation to the application permit in order to ensure the enforcement of this Law.

## **Article 25: Performance of the Procedures**

The supervisor of the procedures shall ensure the health and safety of animals in order to guarantee the welfare of the animals, the success of the procedure and avoid duplication.

For the purpose of minimizing pain or harm, the supervisor of the procedures shall use general or local anesthesia unless its use would be more traumatic to the animal than the procedure, or that its use would be wholly incompatible with the object of the procedure and would adversely affect the expected result. Analgesics must be used to minimize suffering where necessary.

Should an animal be subjected during the procedure to severe pain, harm or distress, it shall receive the appropriate treatment and it shall not be used in future procedures unless the procedure is initially composed of several phases.

An animal shall be killed using a euthanasia method as set out in Article 7 of this Law if it is likely to experience a continuous and incurable pain in the foreseeable future.

Any person breaching this Article is liable to a fine between 1 and 3 million Lebanese Liras. Both the license holder and the supervisor of the procedures will not be eligible to apply for another license or supervise a future procedure for a minimum period of three years.

## **Article 26: Archiving of the Procedures**

The License holder shall retain records of the procedures including the objectives, the used methods, the used anesthetics, the species and number of used animals and how those animals were disposed of at the end of the procedures. These records shall be retained for a minimum period of three years and made accessible to the Ministry upon first request.

Any person who breaches this Article is liable to a fine between one and three million Lebanese Liras.

## **Article 27: Documentation and Publication**

The Ministry shall compile and analyze the information in order to find alternatives for or restrict animal use in procedures or at least improve the circumstances of the procedures.

Annual statistics about use of animals in procedures and enforcement of this Law shall be published in at least two local newspapers and posted on the website of the Ministry.

# Chapter V: Organization of Zoos

## **Article 28: Requirement to Obtain a License**

The establishment of a zoo is subject to prior license.

The Minister shall issue a list specifying the animals which cannot be kept in zoos because of their ability to adapt and other welfare concerns. It is prohibited to keep all elephant and great ape species.

The admission of each new animal species to the zoo is subject to prior license with due attention to the ability to safeguard the new species according to the existing standards and regulations. The zoo owner is prohibited to sell, donate, lend or abandon the animals without a prior approval from the Ministry.

## **Article 29: License Applications**

In addition to the general requirements set out above, the granting of a license to establish a zoo shall meet the following requirements:

- That the project aims to preserve animal species and resources and to promote public awareness about biological diversity, in particular ensuring a natural environment for zoo animals and providing information about the displayed species.
- That the zoo is at least one kilometer away from residential areas.
- That the number and species of animals is specified.
- That a veterinarian is appointed.
- That a detailed study is provided with an explanation of how to raise and respond to the needs of every animal species as well as the qualifications of the enclosures and environment which shall allow the animals to express as much as possible their natural behaviors.
- That the license applicant undertakes to respect the requirements set out in Articles 3, 4 and 30 of this Law.

## **Article 30: Requirements of the Zoo's Owner**

In addition to the requirements set out in Articles 3 and 4 of this Law, the zoo's owner or the appointed manager is considered the guardian of animals and bound to meet the following requirements:

- Maintain at all times the qualifications set out above, under the penalty of license revocation and ban from requesting a new license in accordance with Article 3 of this Law,
- Report to the Ministry new coming animals with specification of the origin within one month from its arrival to the zoo. The legal certifications of origin shall be retained. Cases of birth and death and causes of death shall also be reported to the Ministry within the same period above cited.
- Take the necessary measures to prevent visitors from disturbing the animals.

- Report every animal escape to the Ministry within 24 hours.
- Ensure continuous security for the zoo's animals.

### **Article 31: Closure of a Zoo**

In case of partial or complete closure of a zoo or revocation of license, the owner of the zoo shall, upon approval of the Ministry, ensure another shelter for the animals or hand them over to the animals' welfare associations upon the latter's approval in order to relocate them to their natural environment or keep them until relocation to another shelter.

If the owner of the zoo fails to implement the provisions set out above within one month from closure, the Ministry shall substitute him in performing his obligations at his expense.

## Chapter VI: Use of Animals in Entertainment

### **Article 32: Animals used for Riding**

The use of animals for riding or carriage driving is subject to the standards set out in this Law. The details of implementation of this Article shall be determined by a Ministerial order.

### **Article 33: Involvement of Animals in Competitions**

The use of animals in competitions that test speed, strength or endurance is subject to a license from the Minister.

The Minister shall determine the details of implementation of this Article, taking into consideration the species, age and health condition of the participant animals and the rules on the construction of the tracks and barriers. The Minister may also prohibit the participation of certain animal species in competitions.

It is prohibited during competitions to:

- Impose conditions that may jeopardize the animal's health.

- Administer to the participant animal any drug or treatment that affects its temperament or performance.
- Subjugate the animal to training in a way that is detrimental to its health, especially by forcing it to exceed its natural capacities or strength by employing artificial aids which cause unnecessary pain, injury or pressures.

Any person who organizes a competition without a license or commits any of the abovementioned prohibited acts is liable to a fine between 1 and 10 million Lebanese Liras, the confiscation of the animal and a ban from guarding animals for a minimum period of three years.

### **Article 34: Protection for Animals Used in Entertainment**

If the entertainment event involves the use of animals, license is subject to the fulfillment of the requirements set out in Articles 3 and 4 of this Law.

## Chapter VII: Wild Animals

### **Article 35: Keeping of Wild Animals**

Wild animals enlisted in the appendix I or II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) shall only be kept in licensed zoos or animal welfare associations according to the abovementioned requirements.

## Chapter VIII: Sale of Live Animals and Breeding Institutions

### **Article 36: Requirement to Obtain a License**

The sale of live animals is subject to license in accordance with articles 3 and 4 of this Law.

It is prohibited to sell stray animals and wild animals. Any person breaching this provision is liable to a fine between 1 and 3 million Lebanese Liras.

## **Article 37: Breeding Institutions**

Any institution for the breeding and sale of live animals is subject to prior license from the Minister according to the requirements set out in Articles 3 and 4 of this Law.

Besides the general requirements, the breeding institutions shall meet specific requirements to be determined by a ministerial order which shall include restrictions on the minimum and maximum legal age for breeding, number of breeding procedures per animal, prohibition of breeding for certain external features to the detriment of the animal's health or welfare.

## Chapter IX: Animal Protection Organizations

### **Article 38: Right to Prosecute**

Associations having received an acknowledgement of receipt since at least three years and whose bylaws include the protection and promotion of the animals' welfare may take direct prosecution action or file a complaint with civil action regarding any misdemeanor sanctioned under this Law. They may also file administrative reviews pleading for the implementation of this Law.

### **Article 39: Right to Establish Shelters**

The said associations may, upon license, establish animal shelters, in accordance with the provisions of articles 3 and 4 of this Law.

The said associations may request from the new guardian the payment of a financial contribution, in line with the Ministerial requirements according to the specie and kind. This contribution shall be dedicated to the welfare of animals living in the shelters of these associations.

## Chapter X: Final Provisions

### **Article 40: Transitional Provisions**

Institutions subject to this Law and established prior to its promulgation shall take the necessary measures in order to fulfill the requirements set out in this Law within 6 months from its entry into force.

The Minister may decide afterwards to close down the institution if the owner fails to fulfill the requirements within 15 days of a written notice.

### **Article 41: Other Legal Texts**

The provisions in contradiction with this Law are cancelled. All provisions shall be interpreted in accordance with the purposes of the Law as above expressed.

### **Article 42: Publication and Entry into force**

This law shall be published in the Official Gazette and enters into force upon publication.