

Questionnaire

**Country:** Lithuania  
**The Country is:** EU Member State  
**Author of the Questionnaire:** Vier Pfofen, Ina Sokolska  
**Note:** Lithuania has revised its animal welfare act in 2012.

Question	Article	Note
<b>I. DATA AND DOCUMENTS</b>		
What is the number of companion animals and/or stray animals in your country? Do you have any other data (e. g. rate of companion animals per inhabitant)?	–	Numbers of stray animals (there are visually more cats than dogs among them) are unknown, none of the competent authorities has counted them and no methodologies were applied to count stray animals. It can only be said, that these numbers are very big – stray animals live almost in every backyard in every city.
Does the country have a specific animal welfare legislation?	–	Yes.
Which other laws and ordinances refer to animal welfare?	–	Not known.
Are there any specific regulations concerning dogs/cats within the law?	–	No.
<b>II. GOVERNANCE</b>		
<b><i>BASIC ETHICAL CONCEPT IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM</i></b>		
What is the basic ethical concept in your political system concerning animal welfare?	Art. 1	This Law shall lay down the competence of state and municipal authorities in ensuring the welfare and protection of animals as sensitive creatures, the responsibilities of natural and legal entities and other organisations and branches thereof (hereinafter referred to as the entity) in the area of animal protection and welfare, the welfare and protection of homeless animals, measures to reduce the population of stray animals, requirements to humane treatment of animals to protect animals from cruel behaviour, torture and other adverse impacts and to ensure human safety.
Is the animal welfare act based on animal welfare as the principle value of the legislation?	Art. 1	Yes.
Do animals have a right to life?	Art. 1	Yes.

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Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal?	–	Generally only a veterinarian can kill an animal but there are also exceptions. The law proscribes several circumstances which have been met to kill healthy animal.
<b>CONSTITUTION</b>		
Is animal welfare part of the constitution?	–	No.
<b>ANIMAL WELFARE IN PARLIAMENT</b>		
Is there an animal welfare committee in the parliament?	–	No.
<b>ANIMAL WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT</b>		
Are there any official animal welfare bodies in the government? (e. g. Ombudsman, Commissioner)	–	No.
Which ministry/ministries is/are responsible for animal welfare?	–	No ministry is competent for animal welfare.
<b>ANIMAL WELFARE IN AUTHORITIES</b>		
How is the status of competent authorities for animal welfare legislation and are they/is it linked to a ministry and which ministry is it?	Art. 3	Animal welfare and protection shall be ensured, within their remit, by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Government), the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Environment) or institutions authorised thereby, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Health) or institutions authorised thereby, the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Transport and Communications), the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Education and Science), the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of the Interior) or institutions authorised thereby, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry of Agriculture) or institutions authorised thereby, the State Food and Veterinary Service and municipal administrations.
<b>ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY, BIRTH CONTROL AND SCHOOL PROGRAMMES</b>		
Does the country have a national animal welfare strategy?	–	Yes.

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Is there an obligation for the government to do and publish an annual or biannual animal welfare report?	–	Yes.
Are there legal or administrative measures which provide birth control of animals?	Art. 13	For cats.
Are there (mandatory) school programmes on animal welfare?	–	No. But they are planning to install a school programme together with Four Paws.

**III. DOGS/CATS IN LEGISLATION**

**DEFINITIONS**

Does the law or another enactment include a definition of animals as “sentient beings”?	Art. 1	Not as sentient but as sensitive.
Are animals defined as goods (object/chattel)?	Article 4.47, para 6 and 7, Article 4.57 para. 3, Art. 4.59 of Civil Code	Yes, animals are defined as goods.
Does the law include definitions of companion animals, abandoned animals and/or stray animals?	Art. 2	Yes.

**ETHICAL CONSIDERATION IN THE LEGISLATION**

Can an animal be treated like an asset (e. g. in insolvency, confiscation, divorce, separation)? May an animal be used as an evidence in a court procedure?	Art. 4.41 of Civil Code	No direct regulation in Code on Civil Procedure. But because according to Civil Code dog is an object of ownership rights, in civil procedure it can be considered as an asset of dog-owner.
Is winning of a bet or any other gain from an action which causes pain and/or suffering of an animal punishable?	Art. 4, 19	Yes.
May an animal be obtained as a prize?	Art. 19	No.

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### **IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION**

Is identification and registration of animals mandatory and where are they registered and what is registered? What about costs?	Art. 7	Yes.
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### **BREEDING**

Are there any clauses on breeders and is there a national register for breeders?	Art. 3	Yes.
Does the law proscribe the minimum care obligations for animals at breeders?	Art. 6	Yes.
Is breeding of defects punishable?	–	Not mentioned in law, but maybe confirmed under Art. 4.
Does the law provide for limitations on animals mutilations? (e. g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalization, declawing, obligation to use anaesthesia.)	Art. 4	Yes.
Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal by a breeder?	–	Generally only a veterinarian can kill an animal but there are also exceptions. The law proscribes several circumstances which have been met to kill healthy animal.

### **TRANSPORT, TRAVEL, SELL OF CATS (TRADE)**

Is withholding of food and/or water from the animal(s) during a long transport punishable?	Art. 4	Yes.
Must a companion animal be quarantined upon arriving in your country?	–	EU-Regulations are applied.
Is it allowed to sell dogs/cats at a pet shop?	–	Not known.
Is there a ban on markets, shows, exhibitions or other events where one can buy an animal?	Art. 4	If it causes pain, yes.
Is there an age-limit for children to buy an animal?	–	No.

### **KEEPING AND LIMITS OF KEEPING**

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Does the law proscribe the minimum care obligations for animals at keepers?	Art. 6	Yes.
Is there a special regulation which rules keeping of companion animals?	Art. 6-8	Not explicitly for companion animals but in general.
May a landlord forbid a renter to keep an animal?	–	Not known.
May neighbours file complain against an owner, e. g. if he/she does not inhibit his/her animal from (ceaseless) noises?	Art. 110 of Code of Administrative Offences	Yes, neighbours may file complain against a dog-owner. Rules of keeping of animals are adopted by every municipality and those rules include requirements to observe neighbours interests by dog owners. Code of Administrative Offences imposes sanctions for violation of these municipal rules .
Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal by a private person?	–	Generally only a veterinarian can kill an animal but there are also exceptions. The law proscribes several circumstances which have been met to kill healthy animal.

**KILLING**

Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal (also to get products of animal origin, e. g. for animal testing purposes or food supply)?	–	Generally only a veterinarian can kill an animal but there are also exceptions. The law proscribes several circumstances which have been met to kill healthy animal.
Can animals be kept in shelters indefinitely? If not, is there specific time frame (for a vet) to kill an animal kept in a shelter?	Art. 13-14	Yes.

**ABUSE OF ANIMALS**

Does the law address cruelty to animals? If so, does it provide for sanctions?	Art. 4	Yes.
Is sexual abuse of animals punishable?	Art. 4	Yes.
Is maltreatment and/or suffering of animals perceived as a criminal offense? If so, what sanctions are foreseen?	Art. 4	Yes.

**UN-OWNED ANIMALS, SHELTERS, ABANDONED ANIMALS**

Are there regulations on lost/found animals?	Art. 13-14	Yes.
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Who is owner of an abandoned animal?	Art. 13-14	The municipality is responsible for stray animals.
May a private person establish an animal shelter?	Art. 15	Yes.
Can animals be kept in shelters indefinitely? If not, is there specific time frame (for a vet) to kill an animal kept in a shelter?	Art. 13-14	Yes.
Is local community financing activities of collecting of abandoned and lost animals?	Art. 13-15	Yes.
Must a finder of a stray and/or abandoned animal report the finding to a competent authority?	Art. 13-15	Yes.
Are there possibilities to adopt an abandoned animal?	Art. 14	Yes.
Are there legal or administrative measures which provide birth control of stray animals?	Art. 13	For cats.

### ***VETERINARIANS***

Is negligence (of a vet or a veterinary assistant) punishable?	Art. 4	Yes.
Does the law provide for limitations on animals mutilations? (e. g. tail docking, ear cropping, devocalization, declawing, obligation to use anaesthesia.)	Art. 4	Yes.
Which reasonable causes have to be met for an official permission to kill a healthy animal by a veterinarian?	–	Generally only a veterinarian can kill an animal but there are also exceptions. The law proscribes several circumstances which have been met to kill healthy animal.

### ***POLICY OF BIRTH CONTROL FOR OWNED AND UN-OWNED ANIMALS***

Are there legal or administrative measures which provide birth control of animals?	Art. 13	For cats.
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## **IV. ENFORCEMENT**

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List of case studies and / or relevant court decisions.	–	Not known.
<b>V. PRACTICAL INFORMATION</b>		
List of veterinary organisations in your country.	–	Lithuanian Association of Veterinary Doctors Lithuanian Association of Veterinary Doctors for Small Animals
List of animal welfare organisations in your country.	–	Lithuanian Society for the Protection of Animals (Lietuvos gyvūnų globos draugija) Website: <a href="http://www.beglobis.lt">www.beglobis.lt</a> "Lesė" (Lassy) Website: <a href="http://www.lese.lt">www.lese.lt</a> "SOS gyvūnai" (SOS-animals) Website: <a href="http://www.sos-gyvunai.lt">www.sos-gyvunai.lt</a> Visagino gyvūnų globos draugija (Visaginas Society for the Protection of Animals) Website: <a href="http://vggd.365.lt">http://vggd.365.lt</a> Utenos rajono gyvūnų mylėtojų draugija (Utena region Society of Animal Caretakers) Website: <a href="http://www.gyvunugloba.com">www.gyvunugloba.com</a> "Penkios pėdutės" (5 Paws) Website: <a href="http://www.5pedutes.com">www.5pedutes.com</a> Animal Protection Society of Panevėžys city (Panevėžio gyvūnų globos draugija) Website: <a href="http://www.pagalbagyvunams.lt">http://www.pagalbagyvunams.lt</a> „People for Animals“ E-mail: <a href="mailto:Petras.Austrevicius@lrs.lt">Petras.Austrevicius@lrs.lt</a>

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