

In Search of the Common Principles of the European Animal Law

The reconstruction of basic principles of any domain of the law may have a double value. First, it helps to organize and better understand the relevant legal material. Second, it is instrumental in expounding gaps, inconsistencies and deficiencies in the existing body of regulation. Thus, using the concept of a legal principle based on the contemporary legal theory the paper attempts to survey the laws on animal protection in Europe (on the level of national as well as international or supranational level) in order to find the common basic values recognized and pursued by the rules laid down in the respective legislative instruments. As a consequence, several principles are revealed as the core of the axionormative structure of the present animal law in Europe. It is also explained how the existing rules of animal laws demonstrate the underlying principles that define the basic values to be realized by the relevant legal rules as well as justify and explain the content of the latter.



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