

Legal Approach to Cruel Animal Festivals in Spain

Are Spanish people particularly violent or bloody? Official Crime Indicators provide evidence supporting the opposite conclusion. However, if we consider that in Europe brutal public spectacles were once held with people, such as the burning of heretics or public executions, as well as with animals, such as bull baiting or bear baiting—spectacles that have long been eradicated—then why do hundreds of cruel and violent festivals with all kinds of animals persist in Spain today? Questions like this one and others that can be asked regarding the response which the Animal Law in force today in Spain gives to these spectacles, or whether contemporary Spanish society wants to change this reality, raise a complex subject of study that, surely, will not present simple answers. If we expect to seriously face this issue and to move forward, looking for some possible solutions, we must include in the analysis of the causes of the festivals the petrification of diverse fields of knowledge such as the sociological, ethical, political and, of course, legal.



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