

ANIMAL PROTECTION

The German Animal Protection Act dated 24 July 1972 protects all animals, including wild animals, against cruelty. The Animal Protection Act includes the provisions of keeping animals and it states: the one who keeps animals, takes care of animals, or has to take care of animals, must provide species-appropriate fodder and behavior-appropriate abodes for animals, take proper care of animals and must not limit the animals need to move, permanently or in a way that avoidable pain and suffering is inflicted on animals. It is prohibited to train or test the animal's sharpness using other live animals and set animals on other animals unless principles of proper hunting require such action. Tails of pups that are less than 8 days old may not be cut without the animal being anesthetized, The tails of older pups may be cut only after animals have been anesthetized by a veterinarian.

Since 1 January 1975, the new Ordinance on keeping Dogs Outside, dated 6 June 1974 (Federal Law Gazette I, dated 12 June 1974, page 1265), states that dogs may be kept outside or tied up only if dog houses are available. Dogs may be tied up using only wide collars that do not cut their flesh and that are attached to leashes (ropes, wires, rods) that are no less than 6 meters long. Dogs may furthermore be tied up only in such a way that they can get to their shelter without hindrance. Leashes must have two pivoted elements and be of light weight. When keeping dogs in kennels, an average-size dog weighing about 20 kilograms must have a minimum area of 6 square meters available. For every additional dog kept in the same kennel, the area must be enlarged by 3 square meters (Exception: pups being kept in the same kennel as their mother). Excrement must be removed on a regular basis.

Game protection measures such as attaching acoustical, mechanical or optical devices to mowers can be ordered to protect.

Disturbing Game. It is unlawful to disturb game,- especially those game stocks which are endangered or threatened- at their shelters, nesting places, breeding places, and abodes by tracking game down, taking pictures of game, filming game, or similar actions without having the authorization to do so. Federal States may allow exceptions for certain types of game.

It is prohibited to kill game from aircraft, vehicles, or motorized-water vehicles. This prohibition does not include game being killed out of vehicles by handicapped persons with the approval of the responsible authority. It is also prohibited to gather gull eggs, use nets to hunt seals, or hounds to hunt game, hunt woodcocks during search-and drive hunts in spring, poison game or use drugged baits. It is also illegal to use hunting dogs when hunting areas of less than 1,000 hectares, or gather antlers without written approval of the hunting-rights holder. It is illegal to release previously caught or raised game less than 4 weeks before it will be hunted.

To protect game against unnecessary pain and suffering, wounded animals must be killed immediately. The same protection will apply to obviously seriously diseased game, unless the animal can be humanly captured and the disease treated.

Wounded or seriously diseased game that escapes into a neighboring hunting area may be pursued only if a written game pursuit agreement exists between the two hunting rights holders. Federal States will issue more detailed provisions. specifically on the obligation neighboring hunting rights holders to have game pursuit agreements. Federal States may also extend or supplement provisions on game pursuit.