Animal Abuse in Iran: A Case of Non Liquet Abstract

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Abstract

Background: Continuous and frequent reports published in the media presage the widespread and growing violence against animals. Disregard for ethical, religious and cultural teachings of Iranian society about respecting the rights of animals is an obvious challenge despite observing international commitments about animal rights and the duty of Iran's government to protect the environment stipulated in Article 50 of the constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran and other legal and canonical legislations. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to answer the main question of what are the juridical and legal challenges facing animal abuse in Iran?.

Methods: In this qualitative research, document analysis was used. Legally permissible and prohibited actions in animal abuse, animal abuse as a non-liquet in constitution of Iran in conjunction with the sentence for animal abuse in Islamic and ethical teachings were analyzed and discussed in this paper.

Results: Considering the repeated animal abuse among helpless animals and the non-liquet in the constitution, animals rights in Iran are not observed satisfactorily. The continuous claims of officials at Department of Environment who divest themselves of duty and legal responsibility for preserving rights of domestic orphaned animals and unwild species also need more investigation which affects the severe condition of such animals.

Conclusion: The outcomes of the legal challenges regarding animal abuse in Iran are the sign of a non liquet in constitution. Therefore, in order to prevent and overcome the problems of animal abuse in Iran and observe international commitments, it is necessary to pass a bill prohibiting animal abuse in Iran constitution.

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