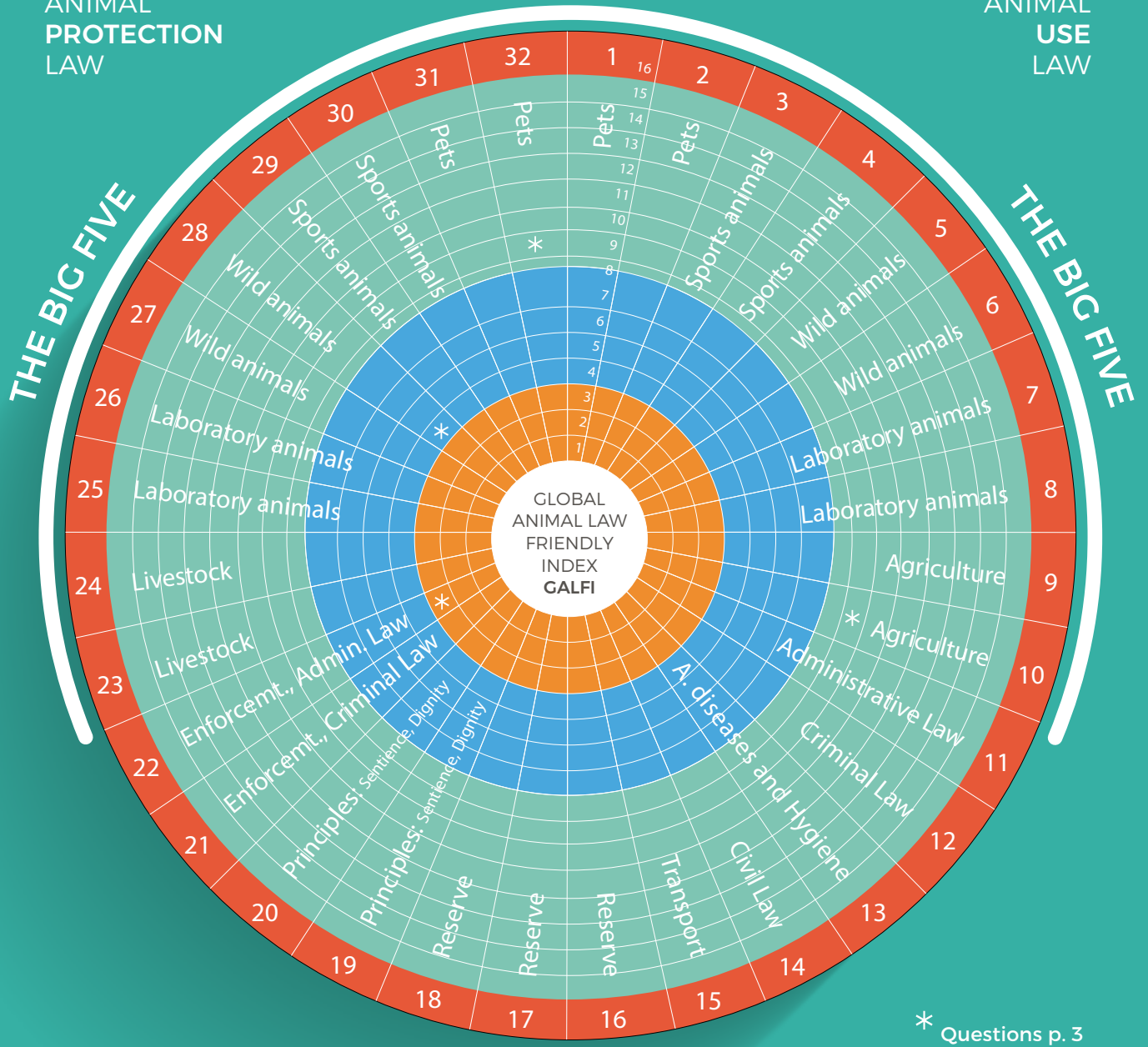


GLOBAL ANIMAL LAW FRIENDLY INDEX GALFI: A GLOBAL, COMPARATIVE SYSTEM TO RATE ANIMAL FRIENDLY POLICIES

ANIMAL
PROTECTION
LAW

ANIMAL
USE
LAW



■ CONSTITUTIONAL LAW (1)
 ■ LEGISLATION (8)
 ■ ENFORCEMENT (4)
 ■ EDUCATION (3)

WE ARE THE BIG FIVE



LIVESTOCK



PETS



LABORATORY ANIMALS



WILD ANIMALS



SPORTS ANIMALS

A GLOBAL RATINGS SYSTEM IS LACKING

The Global Animal Law Friendly Index (GALFI) is a challenging project of the Global Animal Law GAL Association intended to evaluate the status quo of the animal in national legislation. To date, objective criteria on how an animal is treated in one nation compared to another nation are missing. **The existing databases** on animal welfare legislation worldwide, including www.globalanimallaw.org/database, are insufficient, because they do not take law enforcement and education into regard. They also focus exclusively on animal welfare law without considering “animal use” law e.g., laws regulating animal experiments or slaughtering methods.

GALFI'S GOAL IS TO CLOSE THESE GAPS

GAL plans to develop a **GALFI database** that contains **the answers to 512 standardized questions** on the animal in the national law, based on three pillars: legislation, law enforcement and education.

By creating a competitive system, nations will be motivated to improve in the rankings by changing their animal-related legislation, enforcement and education measures to achieve a higher level of animal friendliness. In this, they will be supported by the GAL expert team. **The questions** will be proposed by GAL itself, based on over 30 years of knowledge and experience with the Swiss Animal Welfare law, which is considered one of the world's leading laws on animal welfare. The GAL president's experience as “animal welfare attorney of the Canton of Zurich” (2007–2010), a position so far unique in the world, will also play a role, as will his experience having written several legal scientific comments on Swiss, German, and international animal welfare acts. The questions will be refined with some of **the GAL expert teams**, consisting of over **70 professors and attorneys worldwide specializing in animal law**, together with representatives of **veterinary offices**. The main GALFI goal consists in asking **animal-relevant questions**, free from prejudice and ideology, in an objective way.

GALFI's goal is to objectively measure the status of a nation's animal welfare policy. For this purpose, a complete, objective and comparable framework as a status quo must be established on the animal in national legislations. In this way, GALFI intends to improve animal conditions worldwide through national law. By allowing nations to be compared in terms of their animal friendliness, the index makes “best in class” nations visible and allows other countries to learn from them. The end result will be improved conditions for animals worldwide.

An objective, comprehensive and fine-tuned database regarding the legal status of animals on the national level **facilitates progress** in animal-friendly policymaking. It also allows easy and transparent insight into which nation solves which animal-related problem successfully. We all need to know the exact and detailed status quo of the animal in the law on the national level (legislation, enforcement, education) on a comparable basis.

Once comparison is possible, precise and coordinated **proposals** for national lawmakers as **next steps** will be elaborated, taking the ethical, cultural, social, religious, political, economic and scientific dimensions of specific nations into regard. The proposals will balance the interests and needs of the **animals** with those of animal **users**, official bodies, and animal protectors. Possible conclusions on next steps are already contained in the **GAL Matrix** on the national level (see <https://www.globalanimallaw.org/matrix/index.html> including “quick wins”, and more “utopian” proposals for the animal in the law). They will be applied to the concrete proposals on a nation-by-nation basis.

This Index can also be used as a sustainable development index as part of financial instruments, to help money flow into animal-friendly nations and projects.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

These 512 answers will be **comparable** and form the basis for national improvement and can be rated in terms of animal friendliness by an independent expert team with up to 24 points per question. “Animal Friendliness” could then be measured by counting the scientifically evaluated, weighted answers question by question, from 1 to 24, with 12,280 as a potential maximum number of points.

SOME QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE GLOBAL ANIMAL LAW FRIENDLY INDEX GALFI INCLUDE:

- Is it punishable to abandon a dog? * Q 32/9
- Is the ban on boiling lobsters alive enforced? * Q 28/4
- Is the maximum animal population of hens in cages provided and what are the details? * Q 10/9
- Is the education and training of the animal protection administration law enforcement bodies planned for? * Q 22/3

Taking the last question as an example, “Enforcement, Administrative Law” can be found in the GALFI section on animal protection law. Countries can earn between 1 and 24 points per category. In this instance, the number of points awarded would depend on the intensity of the education, the frequency and the quality of the documentation. If, for example, Austria earns 19 points compared to Argentina with 3 points, it will increase Argentina’s motivation to improve and to contact GAL and the Austrian animal welfare authorities for advice or assistance.

WHO IS GAL

The Global Animal Law GAL Association, established in 2016 by Antoine F. Goetschel, the former animal lawyer of the Canton of Zurich (2007–2010), is dedicated to improving the legal position of animals and thus animal welfare in accordance with its statutes. In particular, the association wants to create the foundations for and promote more animal-friendly legislation worldwide, from the local and national to the global level, divided into the areas of legislation, enforcement and education. Together, GAL's leadership has more than thirty years of experience in analysing the animal in the law, which is why GAL dares to ask the animal law-related questions they considered relevant.

“It is normal for the animal to be anchored in the law” is one of GAL's ideals. And as part of its mission, GAL also views legislative, social and economic solutions through the lens of the animal's interest in a life in complete health, and actively supports the implementation of such solutions. The Global Animal Law GAL Association relies on a comprehensive analysis of animals in legislation, law enforcement and training.

GAL considers itself to be independent of any organization, party or ideology. It considers the interests and needs of animal users, society, economy, authorities, animal welfare organisations and science appropriately. It pursues its goals with a visionary, solution-oriented approach and in realistic steps.

Against this background, the design of the Global Animal Law Friendly Index (GALFI) is only logical: Only a comprehensive analysis of the animal in legislation, law enforcement and education can form the basis for majority proposals at the respective national level. It is intended to objectively and comprehensively explain the status quo of animals in the respective country to a broad public interested in animal health and protection. It wants to open their eyes and contribute to developing solutions in other animal-friendly countries, and to motivate them to analyze and implement their own measures.

The Global Animal Law GAL Association was guided by the statement of the Swiss author Friedrich Durrenmatt: „As far as everyone is concerned, only everyone together can solve [problems]. Every attempt by an individual to solve for himself what concerns everyone must fail.“

Animals concern everyone: animal users, animal owners such as animal welfare activists, consumers of animal products, veterinarians and even the state as a possible guarantor of animal welfare. More than 70 specialists in animal law worldwide are part of the GAL Expert Group as well as several patrons of high renown in the animal law world.



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