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ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW LAW OF UKRAINE "ON VETERINARY MEDICINE"

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Today the field of veterinary medicine of Ukraine needs to be implemented a number of measures aimed at approximating our legislation to the acts European Union, and the implementation of international standards, including those that regulate animal health and welfare. However, the current law Ukraine's "On Veterinary Medicine" was adopted in 1992 and since then need to form and update approaches and principles on which modern animal health systems are based. In addition, animal welfare was considered in domestic legislation fragmentary, in particular, in the context of protecting animals from cruelty handling.

That is why the adoption was an important step in this direction The Verkhovna Rada of the Law of Ukraine "On Veterinary Medicine" on February 4 2021 № 1206-IX [1], signed by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky on March 12 of the same year. The law defines legal and organizational principles of implementation of activities in the field of health protection and animal welfare, veterinary practice, production, circulation and the use of veterinary drugs, as well as the circulation of by-products of animal origin.

The law defines the terms and legislation on veterinary medicine and animal welfare, the scope of the Law, the main directions of the state veterinary policy, public administration in the field of veterinary medicine, principles of development, approval, review and application of veterinary and sanitary measures, etc. [2]. In addition, this law implements 14 acts of the European Union, significantly reduces the number and terms of issuance of veterinary documents, provides for an indefinite period registration of veterinary drugs, provides digitalization of the relevant sphere of relations, strengthens the protection of intellectual property rights in Ukraine new veterinary drugs and liability for violations in the areas veterinary medicine and animal welfare [3]. Importantly, this Law provides a definition of the concept "Animal welfare", according to which it is a state of security physiological and ethological needs of animals by creating appropriate conditions for their breeding, maintenance and transportation, in particular systematic care, proper feeding, watering and humane treatment of animals that eliminates fear, pain and suffering, including during slaughter, and provides freedom of expression of animal behavior typical of it. So, taken into account Basic Principles of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on animal welfare based on the Five Freedoms concept: freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injuries and illnesses; freedom of natural behavior; freedom from fear and stress [4].

It should be noted that the new Law of Ukraine "On Veterinary Medicine» comprehensively regulates three blocks of questions:

- 1) animal health;
- 2) animal welfare;
- 3) registration, production and circulation of veterinary drugs.

It is worth noting that ensuring animal welfare in the new The law is devoted to Chapter VI ANIMAL WELFARE, which contains the following articles:

Article 36. Basic principles of ensuring animal welfare during maintenance.

Article 37. Requirements for keeping farm animals in facilities.

Article 38. Requirements for the capacity at which they are kept farm animals.

Article 39. Requirements for feeding, watering and use of others substances.

Article 40. Requirements for ensuring well-being farm animals during their breeding.

Article 41. Requirements for ensuring the welfare of animals during them transportation.

Article 42. Requirements for ensuring the welfare of animals during slaughter. The final provisions establish that the Law enters into force from the day following the day of its publication, and put it into effect in two years from the date of its entry into force.

In addition to the implementation of the provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On Veterinary medicine ", comes into force on the day of its official publication and is introduced effective January 1, 2026. Order of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and of Agriculture of Ukraine of February 8, 2021 № 224 "On approval of requirements for the welfare of farm animals during their detention ", which was registered with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on February 18 2021 for № 206/35828 [5]. Thus, the legislation of Ukraine gradually adapt the requirements of regulatory documents of the European Union, in particular, establish special (additional) requirements for pigs and calves and different types of chickens: guaranteed minimum area on which they have contain, and requirements for levels of lighting, noise, gassiness, safety materials of premises in which animals are kept, etc.; periodicity of inspection, as well as veterinary care; compulsory provision of animals access to drinking water and food.

Thus, the new Law of Ukraine "On Veterinary Medicine" covers best practices of European countries and the requirements of international standards and will allow state control over compliance with requirements in the field animal welfare, and bylaws set out detailed requirements for ensuring the welfare of domestic animals during their keeping, transportation and slaughter.

References:

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