

Ministry of the Environment  
Government of Japan (JCN1000012110001)  
Godochosha No. 5,  
Kasumigaseki 1-2-2,  
Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo 100-8975  
Japan

Zurich, 31 July 2020

### **International cooperation in the advancement of animal welfare regulations**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Stiftung für das Tier im Recht (TIR; Foundation for the Animal in the Law), which is based in Switzerland, has been made aware that Japan is currently planning to introduce additional regulations on dog and cat breeding to promote animal welfare.

According to the information available to us, a specialist working group is to meet this month in Japan to discuss animal welfare-related issues in connection with dog and cat breeding. On this occasion, we would like to share with you the experience gained from the in-depth discussions surrounding the legal situation in this field in Switzerland. We consider cross-border exchange of information to be a highly valuable approach everyone involved can greatly benefit from. Both the ongoing development of animal welfare law and the increasing globalization of our world reflected in numerous free trade relations underline the importance of maintaining an international discourse in this area.


Please allow us to take this opportunity to briefly introduce our foundation and our experience in the field of animal welfare law in particular. TIR has been continuously striving to improve the human-animal relationship since 1995. With its legal work and broad range of services, the foundation has established itself as a competence center for questions relating to animals in law, ethics, and society. We are often consulted on an international level in legal questions relating to animal welfare but at the same time we are naturally aware of the fact that, being a foreign institution, we have no say in the Japanese legislative process. Nevertheless, we believe that our contribution could serve as possible inspiration for the development of new regulations for the sake of a sound human-animal relationship.

In particular, we consider setting clear and ethically acceptable standards, including education and training in the field of animal breeding as well as general awareness-raising among animal

owners, breeders, and enforcement authorities to be a very useful approach. In Switzerland, this has proven to be a successful strategy, in that breeding associations do not regard the domestic regulations as restrictions, but rather as a quality hallmark for their breeding operations. This goes to show that is definitely worthwhile to seek solutions aimed at improving both animal welfare and the quality of breeding. In Switzerland, special emphasis is also placed on educating the public about the possibility of adopting animals as an alternative to buying them from breeders.

We sincerely thank you for taking note of our comments and for your efforts for the welfare of animals and are at your disposal should you have any questions or wish to exchange views.

Respectfully,



lic. iur. Vanessa Gerritsen  
Deputy executive director



Mag. iur. Bianca Körner  
Legal associate companion animals