

Protecting *the Weak*

Entangled Processes of Framing, Mobilization and Institutionalization in East Asia

Keys to Understanding Animal Law in Japan

- An Analysis of the Most Protected and the Least Protected Animals

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While many countries are making eye-opening developments in animal welfare law, Japan is viewed as a backward country. This impression is true to some extent because the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals (AWMA) in Japan was enacted about 150 years after that of the UK. Additionally, Japan's only enforceable animal protection law is just for companion animals. However, it can be an oversimplification to consider Japan as "behind".

To provide a better understanding of Japanese Animal Law this lecture discusses four of its features, with a combination of examples concerning the protection of companion animals, the most protected animals in Japan, and farm animals, the least protected animals. Four features (keys) are addressed, namely, (1) short history and external pressure, (2) animal law \equiv pet law, (3) close relation between law and traditional way of thinking towards animals, and (4) improvements. Through an analysis of these four key features, this lecture seeks to indicate the current status and complexity of Japanese animal law.

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