

INSPECTION FACTSHEET



Animal welfare as a legal concept is largely misunderstood in BiH, and not taken very seriously. Although **BiH adopted** the animal welfare legislation in 2009 – **the state law and a series of bylaws** – and thus **harmonized** the national legislation **with the EU Acquis**, the legislation was never put into practice. Animal welfare law should be **regulated by six different administrative channels**: the state Veterinary Office, with the entity Ministries of Agriculture being responsible for implementation, while state, entity, cantonal and municipal inspectorates are in charge of monitoring. But, there is **no system in place** to produce chains of command and communication between all the administrative units. This results in a **lack of routine reporting** essential for inspectorates' works, i.e. monitoring of animal welfare.

Problem? The adopted state Law does not regulate responsibilities well enough. The **responsibilities** are **divided** between a number of stakeholders which in turn causes that none of them is responsible waiting for other to perform the job. The other problem stemming from the unclear competences, coupled with **the lack of communication and coordination**, is the fact that the same job is done twice in the same establishments – by

Zenica–Doboj Canton stretches over 3,343 km² and consists of 12 municipalities accommodating some 400,000 citizens. The Canton is home for over 230 producers in total, including three major meat/food processing companies in BiH: Brovis, Perutnina, and Jami.

Zenica–Doboj Cantonal Veterinary Inspection is responsible for monitoring of the production process as well as all the provisions stipulated by the Law.

But with only 8 veterinary inspectors employed in the Inspectorate, it is no surprise that animal welfare is not a priority for inspectors, especially because none of these eight is specialized in animal welfare.

inspections at different administrative levels. Equally important issue is the **inappropriate relationship between inspectors and the companies** that are supposed **to be monitored**. Due to the **lack of human resources**, especially inspectors specialized in animal welfare, the inspections in this area are not performed regularly and all sanctions are so far limited to “warnings.” The overarching problem is the lack of specialized animal welfare inspectors due to the **lack of regular structured trainings** and thus misunderstanding prevails and the lack of adequate knowledge related to not only pets, but also all the animals covered by legislation.

Solutions? In order to perform their job properly the inspections at all levels need to exert pressure on the BiH and entity policy makers to create a legislation environment

that will enable inspectors to clearly recognize what exactly their responsibilities are in the chain of command. It is also necessary to

- 1) **Inspectors** at all levels **need to send regular reports** without constantly being reminded to do so. It is the obligation under the existing legislation, and the only way to ensure coordination and communication and in turn control the veterinary sector.
- 2) **Implement surprise visits** with clear repercussions for violating animal welfare law rather than constantly warning violators of legislation in force.
- 3) **Employ and train more inspectors**, especially those **specialized in animal welfare**, and **divide** them **into regions with constant rotations** to prevent them getting too friendly with companies in their area.