

Report on the MA Thesis Defenses– Master in Animal Law and Society

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On Wednesday, December 11, 2013, nine former students from the First and Second Editions (2011-2012, 2012-2013) of the Master in Animal Law and Society took place in the Salon de Actas of the Faculty of Law in the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Over the course of the day, nine former students (five from the first edition and four from the second) defended their Masters Thesis. The students researched a wide range of novel topics from Animal Transport Regulations and Enforcement in the EU and Lebanon to Animal Experimentation for Cosmetics, from local regulations on Animal Law in Catalonia to the History of Animal Welfare Law in Japan, among others. The broad geographical and thematic range of the topics reflected the students' diverse interest and the broad scope and global vision promoted by the Masters Program.

In the first half of the public readings, 5 students (Cristina Bécares Mendiola, María Gordillo Torras, Nuria Murlà Ribot, Irene García Colell and Elisabet Miras Lara defended their theses, all written in Spanish before a tribunal consisting of Professors Miriam Cugat Mauri, Maria Carmen Navarro and Eliseo Sierra of the Faculty of Law of the UAB.

The first to present, Cristina Bécares Mendiola, a student from the first edition of the Master, defended her thesis entitled "*Maltrato animal: Estudio normativo y jurisprudencial*", conducted under the supervision of Prof. Dra. Teresa Giménez-Candela. The thoroughly researched work documented the different regulations and patterns of enforcement in Animal Law among the different Autonomous Communities within Spain. Full of thoroughly documented statistics and graphs, Ms. Becares clearly showed the various levels of Animal Law legislation and enforcement across the Autonomous Communities and the need for further communication, standardization and application throughout the country.

A fellow student from the first edition, Ms. Maria Gordillo Torras, was the second to present, with her Thesis entitled "*Análisis jurídico del Reglamento (CE) 1223/2009, sobre productos Cosméticos ¿Fin de la prohibición de experimentación con animales no humanos en Europa en el ámbito de los Cosméticos?*", carried out under the supervision of Prof. Dra. Teresa Giménez-Candela. As her title suggests, Ms. Gordillo focused on the regulations set out for animal experimentation for cosmetics established by the EU, researching the extent to which these regulations had affected animal welfare in the EU. After researching the topic, Ms. Gorillo notes that regulation

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on the industry has been more complicated than expected and that oversight on information is an area that needs improvement.

Next, Nuria Murlà Ribot, also from the first edition, presented an overview of the regulations of animals in public transportation in seven major cities in the United States in her thesis entitled "*Animales de compañía en el transporte público de los Estados Unidos de América*", directed by Prof. Dra. Teresa Giménez-Candela. The topic is one of great interest here in Catalonia with the recent approval allowing companion animals in public transportation that will come into effect in summer 2014. Her research showed the differing level of integration of companion animals in the different cities, as well as the inconsistencies within many cities' integrated systems. Ms. Murlà highlighted the areas where cities had well integrated systems, specifically choosing the system in San Francisco as a possible model to follow for Barcelona.

In the penultimate presentation of the first half, Ms. Irene García Collell researched the different Animal Welfare Laws among the 41 different *comarcas* (regions) within Catalonia in her thesis "*El maltrato animal en las ordenanzas de Cataluña*", directed by Prof. Dra. Teresa Giménez-Candela. Using extensive field work, Ms. Collell brought into focus the different levels of animal welfare protection legislation and enforcement at the differed throughout the Autonomous Community, an interesting parallel to Ms. Bécares' earlier presentation. Her research showed not only the differing levels, but also the difficulty in obtaining information regarding the regulations, as some civil servants were less than helpful or knowledgeable in the topic. She concluded that the more urban *comarcas* typically had higher levels of protection than their rural counterparts.

Ms. Elisabet Miras Lara closed the first half of the thesis defenses with her Thesis entitled "*Análisis legislativo estatal sobre protección de los animales utilizados en experimentación y otros fines científicos*", directed by Profa. Dra. Patrocinio Vergara Esteras and co-directed by Prof. Dra. Teresa Giménez-Candela. Her meticulous research, including numerous interviews, outlined in detail the Animal Experimentation Legislation at the National and Community Levels in Spain. Her presentation showed the specific merits and weaknesses in the terms and legislation at each, highlighting her personal belief that 'sensitivity' or 'the ability to feel' should be the guiding criteria for animal experimentation legislation, rather than species-specific legislation. Ms. Miras provided some important suggestions for improving the legislation and enforcement of the legislation, such as strengthening the abilities of the Community enforcement, the need to re-categorize some of the sanctions considered 'serious' to 'very serious', and to improve inspectors access to all sites and stages of experimentation.

Throughout the first part of the thesis tribunals, Professors Cugat, Navarro, and Sierra provided insightful comments and questions intended both to inspire the students to continue with their research, as well as provide critiques to bring to light research and

analytical areas to be strengthened and further developed for publication and future studies.

After a short break for lunch, the next four students, Ms. Julia Havenstein, Mr. Lois Laimene, Ms. Alexandra Leitold, and Ms. Patricia Trujillo Comino, presented their theses, all written in English, to a recomposed tribunal formed by Professor Eliseo Sierra, Professor Jose Antonio Jimenez Buendia, Professor of Roman Law, and Mr. Daniel Parsons, MA.

First to present among the second group, Ms. Havenstein, a student of the second edition, presented her research work on the legislation on Animal Transportation in the EU and Lebanon, entitled "*Comparative analysis of legal acts Concerning the protection of animals of Bovine and ovine species during road Transport in the European Union and in Lebanon*", directed by Dra. Marlene Wartenberg, and co-directed by Prof. Teresa Giménez-Candela. Her work highlighted the disparity in conditions between the EU and Lebanon on issues of animal transportation, with the latter reflecting the unfortunate political situation in the country. Ms. Havenstein focuses on the three main actors, the EU, Lebanon and the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and the points of incidence and difference in their regulations and recommendations. Lebanon currently effectively has minimal enforcement, though a draft law may propose some coverage in the future. Ms. Havenstein's work serves as an example of the urgent improvements needed in this area.

A fellow colleague from the second edition, Mr. Lois Laimene presented a very detailed of the integration of Factory Animal Welfare in EU legislation in his thesis "*Integration of animal welfare into the Farming systems within the European Union*", under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Olivier Le Bot and Prof. Dra. Teresa Giménez-Candela. Employing knowledge gained in part from his internship experience with the Federation of Veterinarians in Europe through the Master in Animal Law and Society, Mr. Laimene's work highlights how the recognition of animals as 'sentient beings' in the Treaty of Lisbon has affected various classes of farm animals in the European Union.

The penultimate presentation of the day, given by Ms. Alexandra Leitold of the first edition, tackled a novel topic in the field in her thesis entitled "*Quality Management in Animal Shelters*", directed by Prof. Dra. Teresa Giménez-Candela. Coming from an economics background, Based on the management and economic maxim that what cannot be measured cannot be controlled (double check this), Ms. Leitold researched Quality Management in Animal Shelters and proposed new classification schema in order to provide better overall care. Presenting a case study from her native country of Austria, Ms. Leitold noted the differences in regulations not only throughout the European Union, but often among different animal shelters within the Member States themselves. Her work brings into focus the urgent need for improvement,

implementation and standardization of Quality Management Services in order to improve Animal Welfare at shelters.

The last to present, Ms. Patricia Trujillo Comino from the second edition, gave a presentation on her research thesis entitled "*History and analysis of animal welfare related legislation in Japan*", directed by Prof. Dr. David Favre and co-directed by Prof. Dra. Teresa Giménez-Candela. Having spent many years in Japan and being fluent in Japanese, Ms. Trujillo had a unique perspective to publicize the advances in animal welfare legislation in Japan throughout its history. While many people view Japan's stances on animal welfare solely on the whale and dolphin hunting, Ms. Trujillo presents a nuanced view of the history and development in the island nation, highlighting the important influence that Buddhism had for many centuries prior to the Meiji Restoration in the 18xx, which brought about agricultural industrialization and its attendant decline in animal welfare. In spite of common perceptions, her research shows how in several areas Japan has introduced measures that are ahead of the curve compared to similar nations, but also notes areas that require improvement, such as laboratory animal protection.

After each presentation, the members of the tribunal offered their thoughts, commentaries and questions intended to congratulate students on their hard work on novel topics and help them to sharpen, broaden and deepen their research for future publication and research.

At the close of the day, the Masters in Animal Law of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona welcomed nine new masters to the growing discipline. All here in the program look forward to the next group defending their Theses, and wish our new Masters the best of luck and success with their next level of studies or professional activities.