

Closing Speech

Julia Havenstein ¹

Dear Marita,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I wish to thank Professor Steven Wise for coming here to Barcelona to give us lessons and to share the ideas of the non – human rights project with us. We all enjoyed these two days very much.

During the last 9 months we shared a common goal: to learn how - in a professional way – to enhance animal welfare and to give professional answers to questions arising in discussions about animal law.

We learned how broad the field of animal law is. We dealt with philosophical and ethical questions. We learned about ethology and spoke about the status of animals in different cultures. We shared ideas, thoughts and concerns with our teachers and had many fruitful discussions.

We learned to think globally and we were offered to gain a deeper insight into the animal welfare legislation and the legal status of animals in different countries.

It was great to meet professionals such as professors, veterinarians, lawyers and judges who share our concern about the animals. We very much appreciated their openness, their accessibility, their advice and their support.

¹ Holds a Bachelor of Law from the University of Freiburg (Germany), is an activist in Animal Protection and the Director of Research of the Animal's Angels Organization
Student in Animal Law & Society, Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain)

We learned a lot and we are well prepared for helping the animals. But we have to bear in mind that we are working in a difficult field and that big parts of our society will still label us as “crazy animal welfare people”. Therefore, the animals need and deserve the best professionals and this Master is certainly an excellent basis for professional work in the field of animal law and animal protection.

For future editions of the Master, I would wish that more issues concerning “farm” animals would be dealt with, especially in relation to slaughter. We are confronted with this issue every day and as professionals in the field of animal law or animal protection we should have basis knowledge about the slaughter processes and the related operations such as transport in order to be able to give the correct answers and explications also on this issue.

Last not least, I would like to thank Professor Marita Giménez – Candela that she had the pioneering spirit to create this Master program. I also wish to thank her for warm and cordial manner and for always having an open ear for her students.

A huge thank you as well to all teachers who prepared excellent lessons for us and of course to Carlos for his work as coordinator, as well as to Daniel and Joana for their help.

Thank you