

Protecting Animal and Human Rights: Legal Frameworks, Ethical Principles, and Shared Values? Challenges for Public Administration

Suwaj Joanna

The Jacob of Paradies University, Faculty of Law and Security, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland

Wenclik Małgorzata

Białystok University, Białystok, Poland

Abstract: The protection of both human and animal rights has become a central issue in modern governance. While human rights are well-established within international legal frameworks, the recognition and enforcement of animal rights remain more fragmented and controversial. This essay explores the similarities and differences between the protection of human and animal rights, analyzing the shared ethical principles and values underpinning these efforts. Additionally, it examines the role of public administration in addressing these challenges, highlighting the obstacles and opportunities inherent in promoting a holistic approach to rights protection. Specific attention is given to the comparison between Poland and Lithuania in terms of their legal frameworks and public administrative strategies, as well as broader insights into EU-wide and global approaches.

The research question that served as the foundation for this paper could be articulated as:

"How do the legal frameworks, ethical principles, and values guiding the protection of human and animal rights compare across Poland, Lithuania, and the EU, and what role does public administration play in addressing the challenges inherent in these areas?"

This question drives the exploration of:

1. Legal Comparisons: Understanding how national and EU-level laws for human and animal rights align or diverge.
2. Ethical Principles: Analyzing the shared values, such as dignity and compassion, that inform both human and animal rights advocacy.
3. Public Administration's Role: Identifying the administrative mechanisms and challenges in enforcing these rights while balancing legal, ethical, and economic considerations.