

REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
LAW ON WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS NO VIII-500 AMENDMENT OF
ARTICLES 2, 10, 12 AND 17
THE LAW

2023, No
Vilnius

Article 1. Amendment to Article 2

Article 2(27) shall be amended to be worded as follows:

“27. **Domestic animal** – animal kept or bred for food, medicine and other production, labour and other farming purposes.”

Article 2. Amendment to Article 10

1. The following paragraph 8 is added to Article 10:

“8. The keeping and/or breeding of animals for the purpose of fur production or marketing shall be prohibited.”

2. Former paragraph 8 of Article 10 shall be treated as paragraph 9.

Article 3. Amendment to Article 12

The following paragraph 6 is added to Article 12:

“6. It shall be prohibited to sell or otherwise transfer animals for the purpose of fur production.”

Article 4. Amendment to Article 17

1. The title of Article 17 shall be amended to read as follows:

“**Article 17. Slaughter of farm animals, killing of chicks and embryos**”.

2. Article 17(4) shall be amended to be worded as follows:

“4. In hatcheries, chicks up to 72 hours of age and embryos must be killed in accordance with the regulatory methods in accordance with the requirements of legislation on the protection of animals at the time of killing”

Article 5. Entry into Force, Implementation and Application of the Law

1. This Law, with the exception of paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of this Article, shall enter into force on 1 January 2027.

2. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania or its authorised body shall adopt the implementing legislation in respect of this Law by 31 December 2023.

3. The Ministry of Agriculture or an institution authorised by it shall, from 1 April 2024, grant, calculate and pay compensation for the cessation of commercial activities for the purpose of obtaining or selling fur to economic operators who commenced their economic activities before 1 January 2022, which have ceased by 31 December 2026. The amount of compensation for the cessation of commercial activities for the purpose of obtaining or selling fur shall be determined on the basis of the number of fur animals declared by the operator in the Farm Animals Register, by calculating the average annual number of fur animals kept by the economic operator as per the year preceding the year of official publication of this Law, by paying for one fur animal: Compensation in the amount of EUR 3, if that commercial practice ceases by 1 January 2025, compensation of EUR 2 if that commercial practice ceases before 1 January 2026, and EUR 1, if that commercial practice ceases by 31 December 2026. The one-off compensation for the termination of commercial activities for the purpose of obtaining or selling fur shall be awarded from the date of receipt of the documents attesting to the cessation of that commercial activity.

4. The average annual number of fur animals per operator shall be calculated by multiplying the number of fur animals declared by that operator in the Farm Animals Register and kept in the year preceding the year of official publication of this Law and dividing the amount obtained by the declarations made by the economic operator during that year.

5. For the demolition of structures owned by economic operators for the purpose of obtaining or selling fur and for the demolition and disposal of remaining building waste after demolition in accordance with the legislation in force and/or destruction of facilities intended to carry out commercial activities for the purpose of obtaining or selling fur, and the management and removal of waste in accordance with the applicable legislation, from 1 April 2024 to 31 December 2026, a one-off compensation for the demolition of such structures, destruction of facilities and waste management and removal shall be granted in accordance with the applicable legislation. This one-off compensation shall be granted from the date of receipt of documents certifying the cessation of commercial activities aimed at obtaining or selling fur and documents certifying the demolition of structures, destruction of facilities and waste management and export in accordance with the legislation in force. This provision shall apply to economic operators engaged in commercial activities for the purpose of obtaining or selling fur on the date of adoption of this Law.

6. Compensations and severance payments referred to in paragraphs 3, 5 and 8 of this Article shall be granted from 1 April 2024 until 31 December 2026, except in the cases referred to in paragraph 9 of this Article.

7. Decisions on the award of compensations referred to in paragraphs 3, 5 and 8 of this Article and severance payments shall be made from 1 April 2024 until 1 March 2027.

8. The severance allowance provided for in Article 57(8) of the Labour Code shall be granted and paid from the State budget to an employee of an economic entity engaged in commercial activities the purpose of which is to receive or sell fur, who is dismissed pursuant to Article 57(1)(1) of the Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Government or an institution authorised by it.

9. The compensation referred to in paragraphs 3 and 5 of this Article shall be paid only after the loans referred to in this paragraph have been fully repaid by the economic operators who have received preferential loan(s) under the incentive scheme “Loans to provide liquidity to operators active in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products during the period of the outbreak of COVID-19” and “Loans to ensure liquidity of operators active in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products in response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine”.

10. From 1 January 2024, support from national and/or European Union funds for commercial activities aimed at obtaining or selling fur shall not be granted in any form other than the compensation referred to in paragraphs 3, 5 and 8 of this Article.

I hereby promulgate this Law passed by the Seimas (Lithuanian Parliament) of the Republic of Lithuania.

President of the Republic

Submitted by
Aistė Gedvilienė,

Chair of the Environmental Protection Committee