

英国には、飼育動物と野生動物保護のために70以上の法律があります。動物虐待に関する最初の法律が議会を通過し、馬、羊、牛などに対する殴打や虐待を犯罪と定めたのは1822年のことでした。その後、これに、他のいくつかの法律が加えられ、1911年に動物保護法として統合されました。以来、この法令は最も広く利用されてきており、RSPCA（王立動物虐待防止協会）が告発する動物虐待の基準にもなっています。虐待の定義は、各違反項目ごとに具体的に示されていないものの、一般的には、不必要な苦しみを与える行為だと考えられています。給餌、牛の搾乳などの義務を怠った不作為の場合も虐待と見なされます。

しかし、その後90年間に、人々の虐待に関する認識が変わり、同時に、世の中自体も大きく変化したため、法令改正が緊急に求められています。RSPCAが変えたいと望む幾つかの点のひとつは、「不必要な苦しみを与える恐れがある」という表現を入れることです。現在の法律では、動物が苦しんでいても、容認しがたい状態にあることが証明されない限り、RSPCAの検査官は違反者を告発することができません。言い換えれば、新しい法律では、虐待防止のために、現に残虐行為をしている者の告発だけでなく、事前に予防措置をとれるように変えようというのです。また、違反者に対する「飼育不適格命令」の強化を盛り込むことも意図しています。現在、裁判所は、虐待で有罪判決を受けた当事者が将来動物を飼うのを禁ずることはできません。ところが、家族が動物を飼い続けるのを規制することはできないのです。

英国政府は、RSPCAと協議の上、今年中に法律を見直す予定と約束しています。

Prosecution of Animal Hoarder- recent UK case

Woman with 63 cats, dogs jailed over pet abuse

An elderly British woman who kept 63 cats and dogs in her home received a two-month prison sentence for mistreating her pets.

Audrey Warburton sobbed as she was told she was also banned from owning any pets for the rest of her life.

She had pleaded guilty to 25 counts of failing to provide proper care and attention to the animals when she appeared before Manchester Magistrates Court.

Many of the animals, kept in two front rooms and the kitchen, were found caged and standing in their own urine and excrement.

Warburton's lawyer told the court her client suffered from a recognized condition known as animal hoarding and had begun collecting pets when she lost her 15-year-old son in 1976

In the UK there are over 70 laws protecting both domestic and wild animals. The first law relating to cruelty against animals was passed in 1822, making it an offense to beat or ill-treat animals such as horses, sheep and cattle. Other laws were subsequently added to this and in 1911 the Protection of Animals Act consolidated the legislation. This act has been the most widely used piece of legislation and one which the RSPCA (Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) uses to prosecute offences of animal cruelty. Although a definition of cruelty is not laid down for each offence, it is generally considered to be an action which causes unnecessary suffering to an animal. Cruel treatment can also include omitting to do something, such as not milking a cow or failing to feed an animal.

However, since the world has changed a lot in 90 years, as have people's perceptions of cruelty, the Act is in urgent need of reform. Among the changes the RSPCA wants to see is the introduction of "likely to cause unnecessary suffering." Under the current law, RSPCA inspectors can only take action where animals are kept in unacceptable conditions once suffering has taken place. In other words the new law would allow not only prosecution of those who are cruel, but also use the law pro-actively to prevent cruelty. It also wants to see a tightening up of the disqualification orders. Courts are at present able to ban people convicted of cruelty from having future custody of animals but the law does not prevent other members of the household from continuing to own those animals.

The British government has promised to review the legislation within this year in consultation with the RSPCA.

Woman with 63 cats, dogs jailed over pet abuse

LONDON (AP)—An elderly British woman who kept 63 cats and dogs in her home received a two-month prison sentence Friday for mistreating the pets.

Audrey Warburton, 68, sobbed as she was told she was also banned from owning any pets for the rest of her life.

She had pleaded guilty to 25 counts of failing to provide proper care and attention to the animals when she appeared at Manchester Magistrates' Court before Judge Alan Mitchell.

Many of the animals, kept in two front rooms and the kitchen, were found caged and standing in their own urine and excrement.

Warburton's lawyer Sharon Watson told the court her client suffered from a recognized condition known as animal hoarding and had begun collecting the pets when she lost her 15-year-old son in 1976.

最近の英国における「動物大量飼育者」告発のケース

63匹の犬猫を飼育する老女がペット虐待の罪で投獄される

自宅で63匹の犬猫を飼っている高齢のイギリス女性が、ペット虐待のかどで2か月の禁固刑判決を受けました。オードリー・ウォーバートンは、以後、生涯に渡って、動物を飼育することを一切禁ずると宣告された時、すすり泣きました。マンチェスター治安判事裁判所に出席した彼女は、動物に対する適切な保護・管理を怠ったとする25の訴因について罪を認めました。家の表側に面した2つの部屋と台所で飼われていた動物の多くは、ケージに入り、排泄物にまみれていました。被告の弁明に立った女性弁護士によると、依頼人ウォーバートンは、「アニマル・ホーディング（動物を大量に貯える病癖）」という公認の病気にかかっており、1976年に15歳の息子を失った時から病的なペット収集を始めるようになったとのことでした。