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THE ANIMAL WORLD AS THE OBJECT OF LEGAL PROTECTION

Based on an analysis of current legislation of Ukraine and laws of foreign countries, the article considers the concept of fauna. It is grounded that the animal world is a special subject of legal relationships, in particular, an object of protection and legal defence.

It is difficult to overestimate the value of wildlife for any modern state, including Ukraine, because it is an integral component of the environment, national wealth, and a source of spiritual enrichment and aesthetic education of the people, the object of research and an important base for obtaining industrial and medicinal plants, food, and other material goods.

On the basis of the Law of Ukraine "On Wildlife," one can distinguish environmental, economic, and scientific and cultural aspects of the value of wild fauna. These aspects of the social value of wildlife cause different areas of human activity. According to them, several groups of so-

cial relations are created that fall within the scope of environmental legal regulations.

So, having considered the essential features that characterize the animal world as the object of legal relationships, it is possible to make an attempt to give the following concept. Animal world as the object of environmental legal relations is the whole of wild animals (animals, birds, fishes, amphibians, insects, etc.) in all species and their population diversity and at all stages of development (embryos, pupae, etc.) that are in the state of natural freedom, in captivity or in semi-free conditions, on land, in water, soil and air, permanently or temporarily inhabit the territory of Ukraine, or belong to the natural resources of its continental shelf and exclusive (maritime) economic zone, for which a legal regime is established that ensures their full protection and allows their use without harm for reproduction.