

By the Judgement of 18 July 2024 No.38-II, the Constitutional Court assessed constitutionality of Article 7 (part 4) and Article 18 (paragraph 1 of part 1 and paragraph 1 of part 7) of the Federal Law “On Responsible Treatment of Animals and on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation”.

These legal provisions have been the subject of consideration to the extent that, on the basis of them, the authorities of a constituent entity of the Russian Federation, when establishing by legislative act measures not provided for by normative acts of the Russian Federation in the performance of activities involving the treatment of stray animals, may include in such measures the euthanasia of stray animals in places of temporary care centre of animals which are not animal shelters.

The contested legal provisions are recognised as not contradicting the Constitution of the Russian Federation, since they presuppose, by allowing the definition of grounds for euthanasia of stray animals in the specified places and points in the event:

where a stray animal has attacked a person or is unmotivatedly aggressive, or is a carrier of a dangerous disease, or where it is necessary to stop the intolerable physical suffering of a non-viable animal;

in other cases, only if there is an exceptional situation in the constituent entity of the Russian Federation with regard to ensuring the safety of citizens from attacks by stray animals or from the spread of dangerous diseases carried by them, and only if the organisation of other measures cannot lead to the resolution of this situation, and provided that this measure is temporary and there is reasonable time and conditions for the animal to be found by its owner.