

Protocol of veterinary action for the correct detection of mistreatment in the dog clinic

Final degree project ~ Veterinary Faculty

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OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate and harmonize a protocol for the evaluation and diagnostic improvement to detect dog's abuse by the clinical veterinarian of small animals.
- Determine the degree of possible mistreatment, in order to have objective elements and decision criteria, based on documented scientific references, that a clinical veterinarian is able to make a complaint or not to the competent authorities, or in relevant cases, to request help and legal defence in the corresponding veterinary college.



Data from Spain 2018

73% of mistreatment cases occur at the perpetrator's home

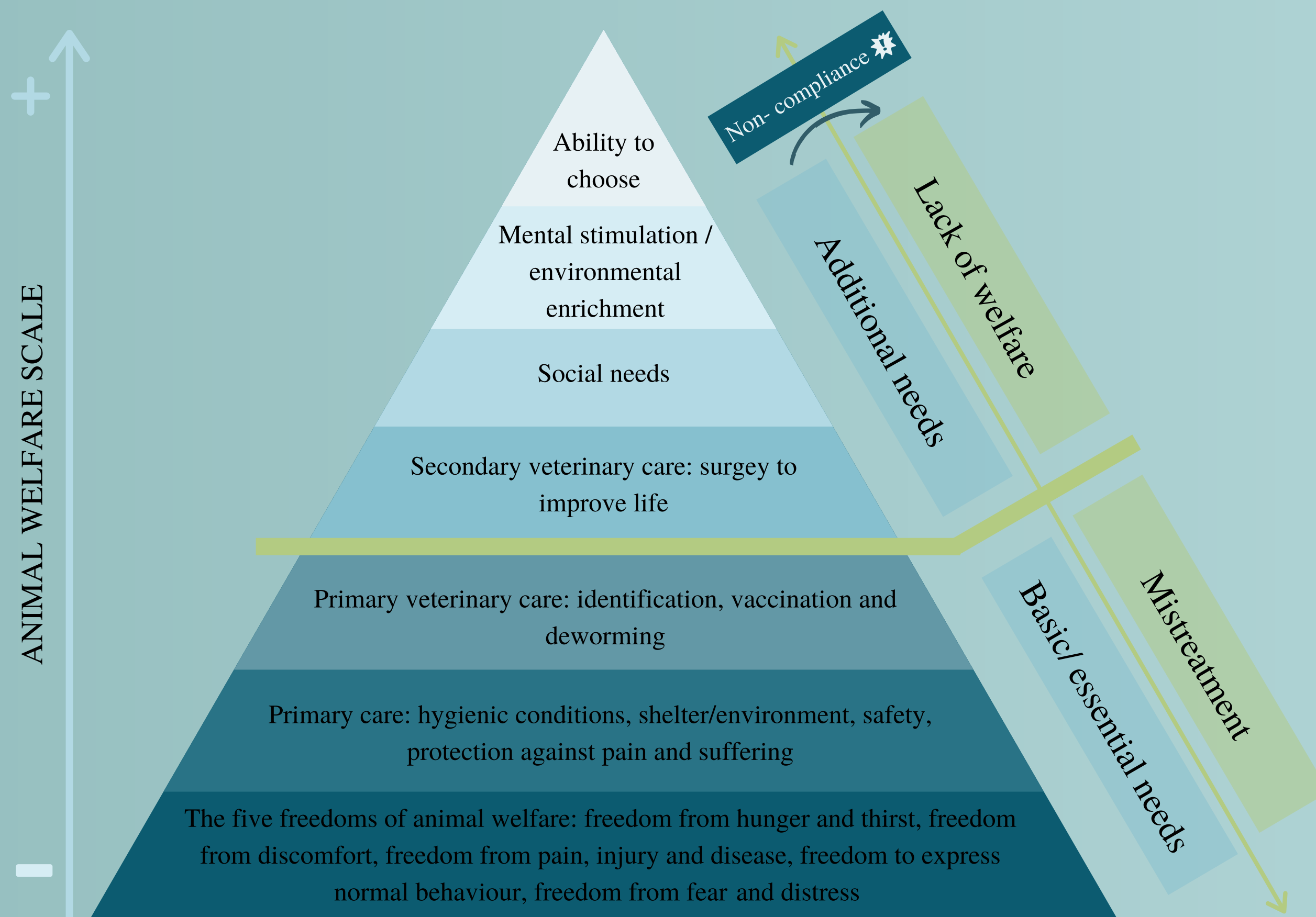
138.407 cases of abandoned dogs

661 cases detected of mistreatment and abandonment of cats and dogs

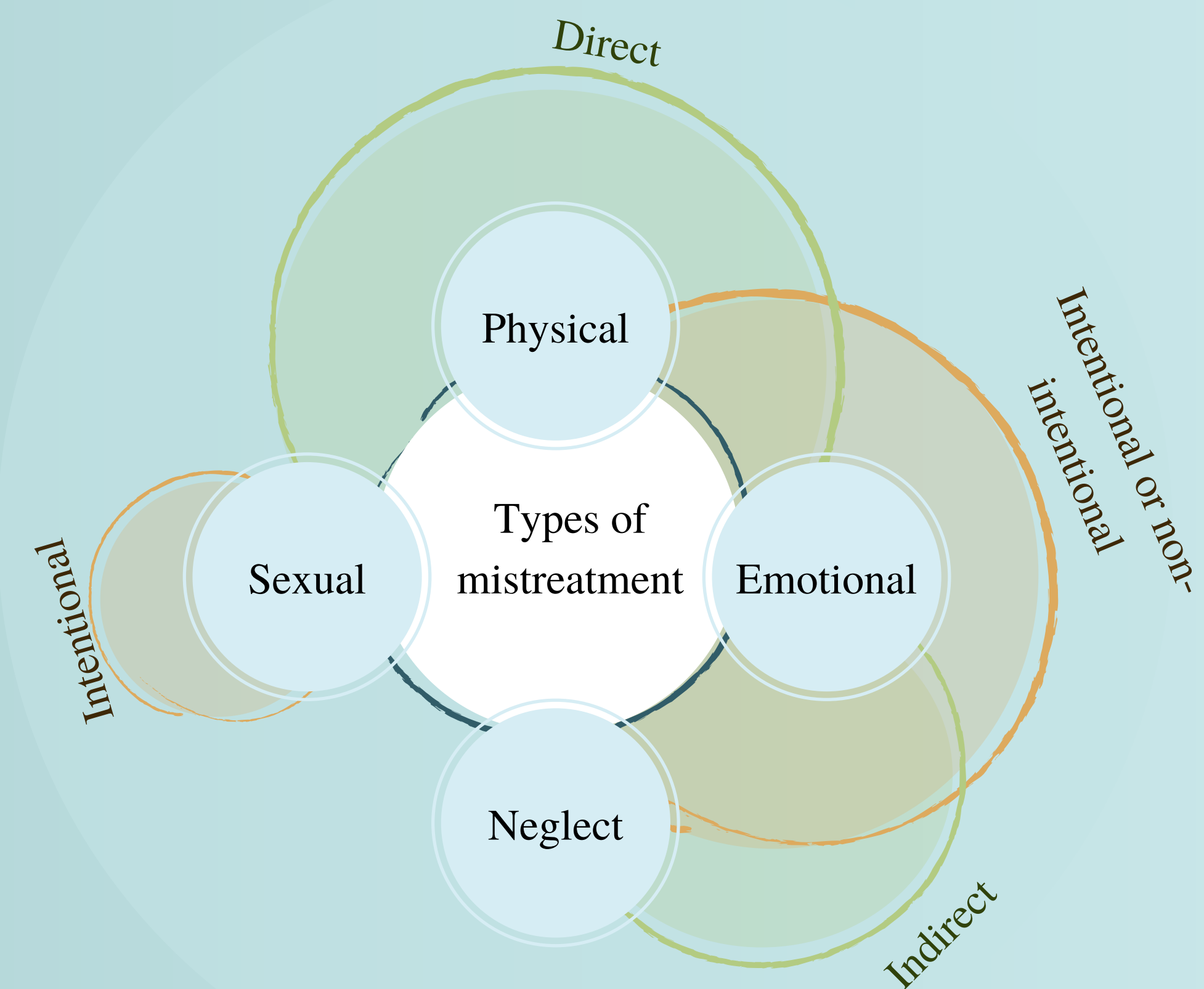
459 detained or investigated cases

LESS than **1%** of cases detained

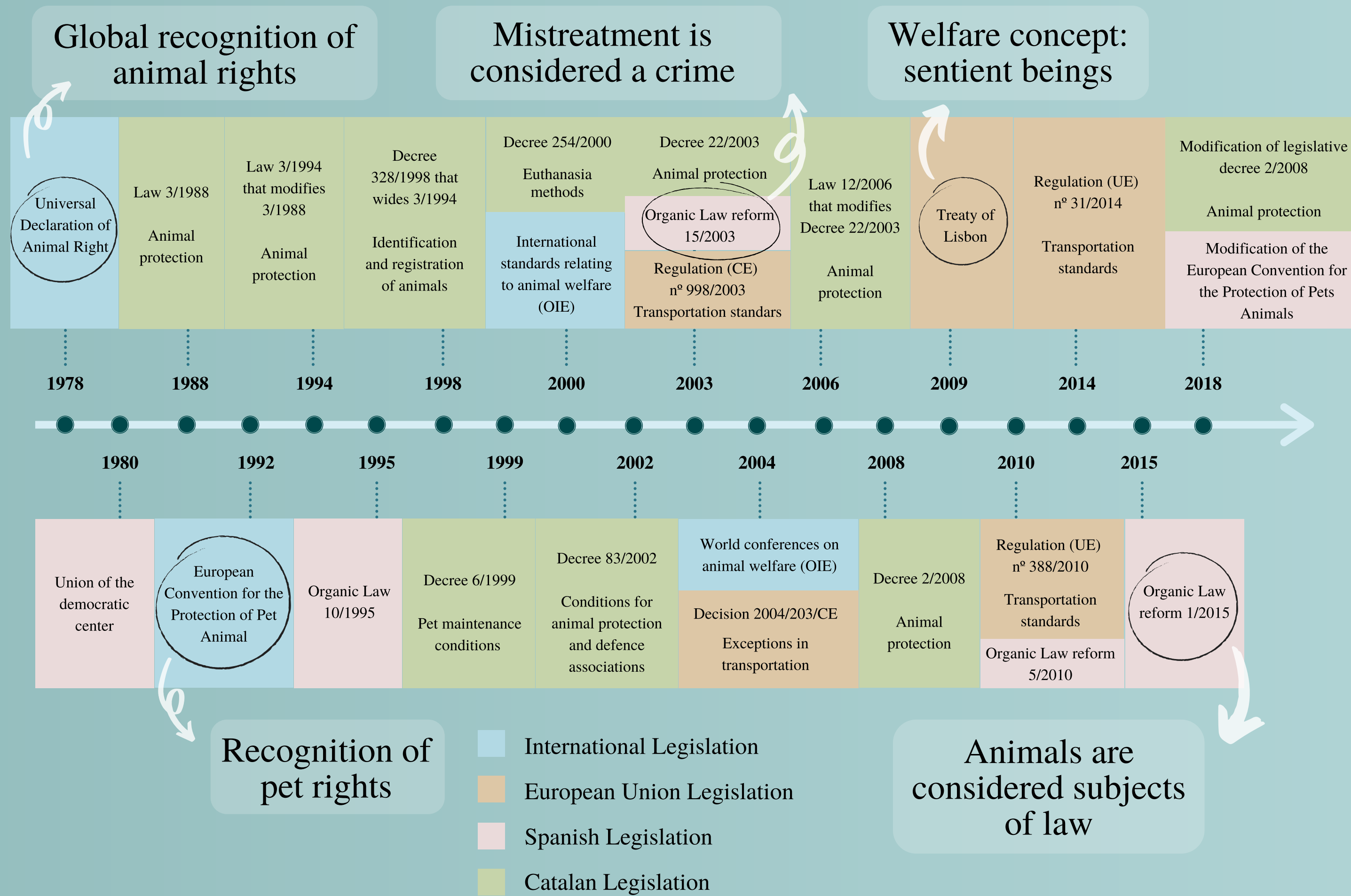
ANIMAL WELFARE AND MISTREATMENT SCALE



CLASSIFICATION OF ANIMAL MISTREATMENT



MILESTONES IN LAWS RELATED TO ANIMALS' PROTECTION AND RIGHTS



CLASSIFICATION AND PENALTIES OF ORGANIC LAW 1/2015 AND LEGISLATIVE DECREE 2/2008

DESCRIPTION	Art 337 Organic Law 1/2015			Legislative Decree 2/2008		
	Basic (337.1)	Aggravated (337.2-3)	Attenuated (337 bis)	Mild	Grave	Very grave
Injury or detriment that produces considerable pain or suffering and seriously harms health. Includes sexual exploitation.	X					
Previous plus any aggravating factor: objects, carnage, loss or uselessness of organ/ limb, presence of underage		X (337.2)				
Death of the animal		X (337.3)			X (in public)	
Abandonment			X			X
Mistreatment, physically assaulting or any practice that causes suffering, physical or psychological harm				X		
Supply substances that can cause alteration in health or behavior ...				X		
Maintaining animals in improper facilities from the point of view of hygiene, sanitation and animal safety. With health consequences ...				X		
Practice mutilation, removal of nails, vocal cords or other parts/ organs		X (337.2)				X
Not providing them enough food. With health consequences...					X	
Failure to provide veterinary care to ensure health, causing health consequences ...				X		
No vaccinate or no perform mandatory treatments					X	
Dog fights						X
Penalties						
Fine	1-6 m	1-6 m	1-6 m	100 a 400 €	401 a 2.000 €	2.001 a 20.000 €
Professional disqualification	3 m-1 y	1-4 y	3 m-1 y			
Jail		9-18 m				

Inaccurate and subjective terminology
Legal loophole

- Type vs Gravity mistreatment
- Maximum penalty vs just in public
- Special category vs like other mistreatment
- Living with non-owned animals

CONCLUSION



- The assessment of abuse will be different depending on the geographical, cultural and social context.** Countries where dogs are a member of the family and countries where dogs are eaten currently coexist.
- Animal abuse stems from the deprivation of basic needs, classified into **physical, sexual, emotional and neglect**. On the other hand, the absence of any of the additional needs is a lack of welfare.
- There is an established link between cruelty to animals and violence toward humans.** Good detection of animal abuse is needed, not only for the effect on the animal itself, but also to be able to predict and prevent situations of interpersonal violence.
- Since 1978, international organizations, the European Union, Spain and Catalonia are progressing as a way to improve the rights and legal protection of animals. However, in 2016, **86% of Spaniards believe that animals should have greater protection.** Organic Law 1/2015 and Legislative Decree 2/2008 present **subjective, inaccurate and inconsistent terminologies** that complicate the detection and reporting of mistreatment cases.
- Several authors have compiled lists of mistreatment risk factors, without leading to a final diagnosis. The complexity in the definitive diagnosis of the abuse, shows the **absence of protocols available by clinicians nowadays.**
- This work proposes a first approach for the development of a protocol that allows easy detection and classification of abuse in dogs. To validate it, **an in-depth assessment should be made with current and historical real cases.** This protocol provides the right tools to start to build a detection of mistreatment algorithm.

The image shows a form with two pages. Annotations indicate:

- First page:** Mistreatment risk 21 criteria.
- Second page:** Confirm mistreatment 26 criteria.

 The form includes sections for:

- DOG AND OWNER INFORMATION
- OWNER'S PROFILE AND BEHAVIOUR
- DOG'S PROFILE AND BEHAVIOUR
- HISTORY OF EVENTS
- PROTOCOL AND HISTORY CHARACTERISTICS
- DOG'S CONDITION AND HANDLING