Summary

The purpose of this thesis was to establish a catalogue of veterinary demands for building, equipping and running an animal shelter for dogs and cats. To demonstrate the current situation, 10 German animal shelters of different sizes have been visited and examined, as well as 100 dog and cat owners have been questioned about the holiday accommodations of their animals.

Legal aspects, recent developments in research and veterinary demands will also be regarded. These are the basis for the given recommendations.

The interview of the 100 pet-owners showed that the demand for holiday accommodations in animal shelters decreased so dramatically that providing up such places must not be taken into consideration when building or rebuilding an animal shelter.

The result of the survey was that every one of the 10 animal shelters was unique. The everyday and fundamental problems in administration, housing animals and animal care were the same: Most of them employ laity, which do their job with a lot of commitment but without knowledge. Therefore they come into conflict with the demands of animal protection.

Veterinary surgeons, responsible authorities and communities are strongly asked to take steps against the described situation. The reason for the fact, that such steps are missed, is, that there is no guideline or recommendation available for these persons, which handles animal shelters relative to "animal justice" and the right housing of animals.

This thesis wants to help with the recommendations. It is a guideline for animal home owners and builders, veterinary surgeons, veterinary authorities and communities, which gives suggestions to build, equip and run animal shelters for cats and dogs responsible regarding the individual circumstances and in the best way for animal and human being.