

Animal protection in Estonia before World War II

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My presentation will give an overview about the animal protection movement in Estonia before World War II.

The starting point for the Estonian animal protection movement is in 1869 when the first animal welfare organization was created in Tallinn. In the end of the century, other organizations were created in smaller Estonian towns as well. Most of them disappeared during the First World War.

The most active period for the Estonian animal welfare movement was during the interwar period, when altogether 22 organizations were established in the country and more than 10 000 people were associated with the movement. The activists organized charity events and parties, they spread propaganda, published animal welfare journals and worked hands-on to improve the situation of the animals.

The end of the movement came during the Second World War when Estonia was occupied by the Soviet Union.