

Ethical analysis of strictly endangered species shooting exceptions
under law:
The case of the wolf (*Canis lupus italicus*) in Switzerland

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In the instance of the wolf (*Canis lupus italicus*) in Switzerland, despite being a legally protected species, exceptions allow shooting it when it causes severe damage. As the wolf population grows, the Federal Council is adjusting the Hunting Ordinance to ensure a viable coexistence between humans, livestock, and the species, as it did in Summer 2021. It becomes crucial to study this legislation using an ethical framework to determine whether law regarding the wolf shooting is morally justified or not.

To do so, it is important to find common ground amongst numerous doctrines like utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics for the Swiss wolf faith. Indeed, having several ethical theories leading to the same conclusion promotes a robust ethical agreement. If the legislation does not reflect the ethical agreement, a moral alternative legislation, based on common ethical grounds, will be provided to know what one ought to do or not in this conflict so that cohabitation between the wolf, livestock, and shepherds is possible. This alternative is subsequently implemented to evaluate the challenges of a moral legislation in practice and apprehended to grasp how they affect the Swiss wolf-livestock-shepherds conflict in the political ecology view. Indeed, the juxtaposition between ethics and law makes it possible to determine whether the legislation is morally justified or not. The addition of political ecology in this debate points out that involved beings can have a voice in such ecological challenges, and link what they think about implementing legislation based on moral considerations with their morality.

This thesis proposes a moral alternative legislation, based on moral considerations, that strikes a balance between not killing the wolf and providing appropriate and moral assistance measures to livestock and shepherds. This moral alternative legislation is then addressed in the context of political ecology, with the wolf's actual symbol for shepherds. The argument goes beyond replacing wolf-hunted livestock with money: the wolf symbolises shepherds' loss of control over how they exploit natural resources, resulting in a decrease in their rural values.

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