Book XI. Title XXXXV. (XXXXIV)

Concerning the chase of wild beasts. (De venatione ferarum.)

11.45.1. Emperors Honorius and Theodosius to Maurianus, Count of the Domestics and Vice-Master of the Soldiers.

We allow everyone to kill lions and we permit no one to fear a prosecution on that account. 1. But we direct that the beasts, which are sent by all the dukes of the border to the imperial court, shall not be retained longer than seven days within any city; those who do otherwise must pay 5 pounds of gold into the fisc. C. Th. 15.11.1.

Note.

This law was enacted so that the people of the cities would not be overburdened by keeping and feeding the beasts and their conductors. It appears from Theod. 15.11.2 that their conductors delayed three or four months at times in one place. The beasts were taken to the imperial court to be exhibited at spectacles.