

1983 No. 308

WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 1983*Made* 3rd October 1983*Coming into operation* 14th November 1983

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 2(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after consultation with such persons appearing to it to represent any interests concerned as it has considered appropriate, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983 and shall come into operation on 14th November 1983.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

“operation” includes mutilation but not feather clipping;

“cattle” means all bovine animals;

“poultry” means domestic poultry;

“tail docking” means the removal of any bone or any part of a bone of the tail.

Prohibited Operations

3. Subject to the provisions of regulation 4 the following operations shall be prohibited in relation to livestock for the time being situated on agricultural land—

(a) penis amputation and other penial operations;

(b) freeze dagging of sheep;

(c) tail docking of sheep unless sufficient tail is retained to cover the vulva in the case of female sheep and the anus in the case of male sheep;

(d) tail docking of a pig unless the operation is performed by the quick and complete severance of the part of the tail to be removed and either:—

(i) the pig is less than 8 days old, or

(ii) the operation is performed by a veterinary surgeon and that the operation is necessary for reasons of health or to prevent injury from the vice of tail biting;

(e) tail docking of cattle;

(f) tongue amputation in calves;

(g) hot branding of cattle;

(h) devoicing of cockerels;

(i) castration of poultry by a method involving surgery;

(j) any operation on poultry with the object or effect of impeding flight;

(a) 1972 c. 7 (N.I.)

- (k) fitting to poultry any appliance which has the object or effect of limiting vision by a method involving the penetration or other mutilation of the nasal septum; and
- (l) removal of any part of the antlers of a deer before the velvet of the antlers is frayed and the greater part of it has been shed.

Exemptions

- 4. The prohibition contained in regulation 3 shall not apply to:—
 - (a) any act lawfully done under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876(a);
 - (b) the rendering, in emergency, of first aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain; or
 - (c) the performance by a veterinary surgeon of an operation where—
 - (i) disease or injury is present, and
 - (ii) the proper treatment for the disease or injury is, or includes, an operation referred to in regulation 3.

Offences

5. A person who contravenes the provisions of regulation 3 shall be guilty of an offence under section 2(2) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.

Revocation

6. The Welfare of Livestock (Cattle and Poultry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(b) are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 3rd October 1983.

(L.S.)

S. R. Armstrong

Assistant Secretary

(a) 1876 c. 77.
(b) S.R. 1975 No. 147

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations prohibit the performance of certain operations on livestock.

The prohibition in the regulations does not apply to operations lawfully carried out under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876, or the rendering of first aid to save life or relieve pain, or the performance by a veterinary surgeon of an operation for reasons of health.