



Animals Act 1971

1971 CHAPTER 22

Strict liability for damage done by animals

6 Interpretation of certain expressions used in sections 2 to 5

- (1) The following provisions apply to the interpretation of sections 2 to 5 of this Act.
- (2) A dangerous species is a species—
 - (a) which is not commonly domesticated in the British Islands; and
 - (b) whose fully grown animals normally have such characteristics that they are likely, unless restrained, to cause severe damage or that any damage they may cause is likely to be severe.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4) of this section, a person is a keeper of an animal if—
 - (a) he owns the animal or has it in his possession ; or
 - (b) he is the head of a household of which a member under the age of sixteen owns the animal or has it in his possession;and if at any time an animal ceases to be owned by or to be in the possession of a person, any person who immediately before that time was a keeper thereof by virtue of the preceding provisions of this subsection continues to be a keeper of the animal until another person becomes a keeper thereof by virtue of those provisions.
- (4) Where an animal is taken into and kept in possession for the purpose of preventing it from causing damage or of restoring it to its owner, a person is not a keeper of it by virtue only of that possession.
- (5) Where a person employed as a servant by a keeper of an animal incurs a risk incidental to his employment he shall not be treated as accepting it voluntarily.