Animal Welfare Act 2006

CHAPTER 45

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006

Introductory

1 Animals to which the Act applies
2 “Protected animal”
3 Responsibility for animals

Prevention of harm

4 Unnecessary suffering
5 Mutilation
6 Docking of dogs’ tails
7 Administration of poisons etc.
8 Fighting etc.

Promotion of welfare

9 Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare
10 Improvement notices
11 Transfer of animals by way of sale or prize to persons under 16
12 Regulations to promote welfare

Licensing and registration

13 Licensing or registration of activities involving animals

Codes of practice

14 Codes of practice
15 Making and approval of codes of practice: England
16 Making of codes of practice: Wales
17 Revocation of codes of practice

**Animals in distress**

18 Powers in relation to animals in distress
19 Power of entry for section 18 purposes
20 Orders in relation to animals taken under section 18(5)
21 Orders under section 20: appeals

**Enforcement powers**

22 Seizure of animals involved in fighting offences
23 Entry and search under warrant in connection with offences
24 Entry for purposes of arrest
25 Inspection of records required to be kept by holder of licence
26 Inspection in connection with licences
27 Inspection in connection with registration
28 Inspection of farm premises
29 Inspection relating to Community obligations

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30 Power of local authority to prosecute offences
31 Time limits for prosecutions

**Post-conviction powers**

32 Imprisonment or fine
33 Deprivation
34 Disqualification
35 Seizure of animals in connection with disqualification
36 Section 35: supplementary
37 Destruction in the interests of the animal
38 Destruction of animals involved in fighting offences
39 Reimbursement of expenses relating to animals involved in fighting offences
40 Forfeiture of equipment used in offences
41 Orders under section 33, 35, 37, 38 or 40: pending appeals
42 Orders with respect to licences
43 Termination of disqualification under section 34 or 42
44 Orders made on conviction for reimbursement of expenses
45 Orders for reimbursement of expenses: right of appeal for non-offenders

**Scotland**

46 Effect in Scotland of disqualification under section 34
47 Deprivation orders in connection with offence under section 46(2)
48 Seizure orders where disqualification breached: Scotland
49 Appeals against deprivation orders and seizure orders
50 Deprivation orders, seizure orders and interim orders: offences

**General**

51 Inspectors
52 Conditions for grant of warrant
53 Powers of entry, inspection and search: supplementary
54 Power to stop and detain vehicles
55 Power to detain vessels, aircraft and hovercraft
56 Obtaining of documents in connection with carrying out orders etc.
57 Offences by bodies corporate
58 Scientific research
59 Fishing
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62 General interpretation
63 Financial provisions
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65 Repeals
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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Regulations under section 13
Part 1 — LICENCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SECTION

Introductory
1 This Part has effect in relation to regulations under section...

Licensing authority
2 Regulations shall provide for the licensing authority to be—
3 Where the licensing authority is a local authority, regulations may...

Period of licence
4 Regulations may, in particular— (a) make provision about the period...
5 Regulations may not provide for licences to be granted for...

Exercise of licensing functions
6 Regulations may, in particular— (a) require a licensing authority not...
7 Regulations shall make provision requiring a licensing authority not to...

Grant of licence subject to conditions
8 (1) Regulations may, in particular, make provision for the grant...

Breach of licence condition
9 (1) Regulations may provide for breach of a condition of...

Appeals
10 Regulations may, in particular, make provision for appeals in relation...

Fees
11 Regulations may include provision for fees or other charges in...
Part 2 — REGISTRATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SECTION

Introductory

12 This Part has effect in relation to regulations under section...

Registering authority

13 Regulations shall provide for the registering authority to be—

14 Where the registering authority is a local authority, regulations may...

Exercise of registration functions

15 Regulations may, in particular— (a) require a registering authority not...

Appeals

16 Regulations may, in particular, make provision for appeals in relation...

Fees

17 Regulations may include provision for fees or other charges in...

Part 3 — SUPPLEMENTARY

18 Power to make regulations under section 13(7) includes power—

19 (1) Power to make regulations under section 13 includes power...

SCHEDULE 2 — Powers of entry, inspection and search: supplementary

Safeguards etc. in connection with powers of entry conferred by warrant

1 (1) Sections 15 and 16 of the Police and Criminal...

2 (1) This paragraph and paragraph 3 have effect in relation...

3 (1) A warrant may be executed by any inspector.

Duty to produce evidence of identity

4 (1) This paragraph applies to a power of entry conferred...

Power to take persons onto premises

5 In exercising a power to which paragraph 4 applies, a...

Duty to exercise power of entry at reasonable time

6 Entry under a power to which paragraph 4 applies shall...

Power to require assistance

7 (1) This paragraph applies to a power of entry conferred...

Power to take equipment onto premises

8 In exercising a power to which paragraph 7 applies, a...

Duty to leave premises secured

9 If, in the exercise of a power of entry to...
Functions in connection with inspection and search

10 (1) This paragraph applies to— (a) a power of inspection...
11 A person who takes a sample from an animal pursuant...
12 (1) Paragraph 10(2)(j) does not include power to seize an...
13 As soon as reasonably practicable after having exercised a power...
14 (1) A person exercising a power of search conferred by...

Functions in connection with entry under section 19

15 (1) Where a person enters premises in exercise of a...

Offences

16 A person commits an offence if he—

SCHEDULE 3 — Minor and consequential amendments

Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 (c. 38)

1 In section 4 of the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925...

Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937 (c. 59)

2 In section 1 of the Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937...

Pet Animals Act 1951 (c. 35)

3 (1) Section 2 of the Pet Animals Act 1951 (pets...

Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954 (c. 40)

4 (1) In the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954, after...

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 (c. 43)

5 (1) In section 1 of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act...

Riding Establishments Act 1964 (c. 70)

6 (1) In section 1 of the Riding Establishments Act 1964...

Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 (c. 60)

7 In section 1 of the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973...

Guard Dogs Act 1975 (c. 50)

8 In section 3 of the Guard Dogs Act 1975 (guard...

Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (c. 38)

9 In section 6 of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976...

Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43)

10 In section 108 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (right...
11 In section 4 of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (grant...

12 (1) In section 22(5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act...

13 For section 3 of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996...

14 (1) In section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Police...

SCHEDULE 4 — Repeals
Changes to legislation:
Animal Welfare Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 April 2020. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.
View outstanding changes

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :
- s. 29 heading words substituted by S.I. 2019/454 reg. 6(2)
- s. 29(1) words substituted by S.I. 2019/454 reg. 6(3)