



Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962

1962 CHAPTER 26 10 and 11 Eliz 2

An Act to prohibit the killing of animals by cruel poisons; and for purposes connected therewith. [3rd July 1962]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Words of enactment omitted under authority of [Statute Law Revision Act 1948 \(c. 62\), s. 3.](#)

1 Offences and penalties.

Where the use of any poison for the purpose of destroying any animal has been prohibited or restricted by regulations under this Act—

- (a) the fact that the poison was used as mentioned in the proviso to section eight of the ^{M1}Protection of Animals Act, 1911, or the proviso to section seven of the ^{M2}Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act, 1912, shall not be a defence in proceedings under paragraph (b) of either section if the poison was used in contravention of the regulations; and
- (b) any person convicted in such proceedings of an offence committed by or in connection with the use of the poison in contravention of the regulations shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 S. 1 amended (S.) (1.4.1996) by [1995 c. 40, ss. 3, 7\(2\), Sch. 1 para. 3\(1\), Sch. 2 Pt. II](#)

C3 S. 1 has effect (E.W.) by virtue of [Criminal Law Act 1977 \(c. 45, SIF 39:1\), s. 31, Sch. 6](#) and [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c. 48, SIF 39:1\), s. 46](#) and (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c. 21, SIF 39:1\), s. 289G, Sch. 7C](#) as if the maximum fine that may be imposed on summary conviction was level 3 on the standard scale

Marginal Citations

M1 1911 c. 27.

M2 1912 c. 14.

Changes to legislation: *Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 April 2023. 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. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

2 Prohibition or restriction of use of poisons.

- (1) Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that a poison cannot be used for destroying animals or animals of any description without causing undue suffering and that other suitable methods of destroying them exist and are or would in certain circumstances be adequate, he may by regulations made by statutory instrument prohibit or restrict the use of that poison for destroying animals or, as the case may be, animals of that description.
- (2) A statutory instrument containing regulations under this section shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

3 Interpretation.

In this Act “animal” means any mammal.

4 Short title, citation, extent and commencement.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act, 1962.
- (2) This Act ^{F1}... and the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Acts, 1912 to 1960, may be cited together as the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Acts, 1912 to 1962.
- (3) This Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.
- (4) This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January, nineteen hundred and sixty-three.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 4(2) repealed (27.3.2007 for W., 6.4.2007 for E.) by [Animal Welfare Act 2006 \(c. 45\)](#), s. 68(3), [Sch. 4](#) (with ss. 1(2), 58(1), 59, 60); S.I. 2007/499, art. 2(2)(m); S.I. 2007/1030, art. 2(1)(m)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 1(b) words substituted by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 26 para. 17](#)