



Protection of Animals Act 1934

1934 CHAPTER 21 24 and 25 Geo 5

E+W+S

An Act to provide further protection to certain animals.

[17th May 1934]

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

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

1 Prohibition of certain public contests, performances, and exhibitions with animals. E+W+S

(1) No person shall promote, or cause or knowingly permit to take place any public performance which includes any episode consisting of or involving—

- (a) throwing or casting, with ropes or other appliances, any unbroken horse or untrained bull; or
- (b) wrestling, fighting, or struggling with any untrained bull; or
- (c) riding, or attempting to ride, any horse or bull which by the use of any appliance or treatment involving cruelty is, or has been, stimulated with the intention of making it buck during the performance;

and no person shall in any public performance take part in any such episode as aforesaid.

(2) For the purposes of proceedings under paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of the preceding subsection, if an animal appears or is represented to spectators to be unbroken or untrained it shall lie on the defendant to prove that the animal is in fact broken or trained.

In proceedings under paragraph (c) of the said subsection in respect of the use of any such appliance or treatment as is therein mentioned upon a horse before or during a performance, it shall be a defence for the defendant to prove that he did not know, and could not reasonably be expected to know, that the appliance or treatment was to be or was used.

(3) In this section—

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made by the [legislation.gov.uk](https://www.legislation.gov.uk) editorial team to Protection of Animals Act 1934. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

the expressions “horse,” and “bull” have, respectively, the same meanings as in the ^{M1}Protection of Animals Act, 1911;

the expression “public performance” does not include a performance presented to the public by means of the cinematograph.

(4) In the application of this section to Scotland—

the expression “horse” has the same meaning as in the ^{M2}Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act, 1912; and

the expression “bull” means ox as defined in that Act.

Marginal Citations

M1 1911 c. 27.

M2 1912 c. 14.

2 Penalties. **E+W+S**

If any person contravenes any of the provisions of the foregoing section, he shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, or, alternatively, or in addition thereto, to be imprisoned for any term not exceeding three months.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

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

C3 S. 2 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 were level 4 on the standard scale

3 Short title and extent. **E+W+S**

(1) This Act may be cited as the Protection of Animals Act, 1934.

(2) This Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

Changes to legislation:

There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to Protection of Animals Act 1934. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 2 words repealed by [2003 c. 44 Sch. 37 Pt. 9](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act repealed by [2006 c. 45 Sch. 4](#)

Commencement Orders yet to be applied to the Protection of Animals Act 1934

Commencement Orders bringing legislation that affects this Act into force:

- [S.I. 2007/499 art. 2](#) commences ([2006 c. 45](#))
- [S.I. 2007/1030 art. 2](#) commences ([2006 c. 45](#))
- [S.S.I. 2006/482 art. 23](#) commences ([2006 asp 11](#))