



Pet Animals Act 1951

1951 CHAPTER 35

7 Interpretation.

- (1) References in this Act to the keeping of a pet shop shall, subject to the following provisions of this section, be construed as references to the carrying on at premises of any nature (including a private dwelling) of a business of selling animals as pets, and as including references to the keeping of animals in any such premises as aforesaid with a view to their being sold in the course of such a business, whether by the keeper thereof or by any other person:

Provided that—

- (a) a person shall not be deemed to keep a pet shop by reason only of his keeping or selling pedigree animals bred by him, or the offspring of an animal kept by him as a pet;
 - (b) where a person carries on a business of selling animals as pets in conjunction with a business of breeding pedigree animals, and the local authority are satisfied that the animals so sold by him (in so far as they are not pedigree animals bred by him) are animals which were acquired by him with a view to being used, if suitable, for breeding or show purposes but have subsequently been found by him not to be suitable or required for such use, the local authority may if they think fit direct that the said person shall not be deemed to keep a pet shop by reason only of his carrying on the first-mentioned business.
- (2) References in this Act to the selling or keeping of animals as pets shall be construed in accordance with the following provisions, that is to say—
- (a) as respects cats and dogs, such references shall be construed as including references to selling or keeping, as the case may be, wholly or mainly for domestic purposes; and
 - (b) as respects any animal, such references shall be construed as including references to selling or keeping, as the case may be, for ornamental purposes.
- (3) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:—
- " animal " includes any description of vertebrate;

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

" local authority " means the council of any county borough or county district, the council of a metropolitan borough or the Common Council of the City of London and in Scotland means the council of any county or burgh;

" pedigree animal " means an animal of any description which is by its breeding eligible for registration with a recognised club or society keeping a register of animals of that description;

" premises " includes any stall or barrow in a market, but save as aforesaid does not include any stall or barrow or any part of a street or public place;

" veterinary surgeon " means a person who is for the time being registered in the Register of Veterinary Surgeons;

" veterinary practitioner " means a person who is for the time being registered in the Supplementary Veterinary Register.