

*These notes refer to the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland)  
2011 (c.16) which received Royal Assent on 29 March 2011*

# Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

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## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

### **COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS**

#### **Part 4 - Enforcement**

##### **Post-Conviction Powers**

##### *Section 31: Penalties*

This section provides that a person found guilty of a range of offences under the Act or regulations made under the Act is liable by summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months and/or a fine not exceeding level 5 (currently £5,000). It also sets out the serious offences which the prosecutor can decide to try either by summary conviction or by indictment. The maximum penalty for conviction on indictment is imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years and/or an unlimited fine.