



Animal Welfare Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 45

Post-conviction powers

37 Destruction in the interests of the animal

- (1) The court by or before which a person is convicted of an offence under any of sections 4, 5, 6(1) and (2), 7, 8(1) and (2) and 9 may order the destruction of an animal in relation to which the offence was committed if it is satisfied, on the basis of evidence given by a veterinary surgeon, that it is appropriate to do so in the interests of the animal.
- (2) A court may not make an order under subsection (1) unless—
 - (a) it has given the owner of the animal an opportunity to be heard, or
 - (b) it is satisfied that it is not reasonably practicable to communicate with the owner.
- (3) Where a court makes an order under subsection (1), it may—
 - (a) appoint a person to carry out, or arrange for the carrying out of, the order;
 - (b) require a person who has possession of the animal to deliver it up to enable the order to be carried out;
 - (c) give directions with respect to the carrying out of the order (including directions about how the animal is to be dealt with until it is destroyed);
 - (d) confer additional powers (including power to enter premises where the animal is being kept) for the purpose of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the order;
 - (e) order the offender or another person to reimburse the expenses of carrying out the order.
- (4) Where a court makes an order under subsection (1), each of the offender and, if different, the owner of the animal may—
 - (a) in the case of an order made by a magistrates' court, appeal against the order to the Crown Court;
 - (b) in the case of an order made by the Crown Court, appeal against the order to the Court of Appeal.

Changes to legislation: Animal Welfare Act 2006, Section 37 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 April 2024. 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

- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply if the court by which the order is made directs that it is appropriate in the interests of the animal that the carrying out of the order should not be delayed.
- (6) In subsection (1), the reference to an animal in relation to which an offence was committed includes, in the case of an offence under section 8(1) or (2), an animal which took part in an animal fight in relation to which the offence was committed.

Commencement Information

- I1** [S. 37](#) in force at 27.3.2007 for W. by [S.I. 2007/1030](#), [art. 2\(1\)\(e\)](#)
- I2** [S. 37](#) in force at 6.4.2007 for E. by [S.I. 2007/499](#), [art. 2\(2\)\(g\)](#)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 37 applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2024/296 reg. 19\(c\)](#)