



## 2011 CHAPTER 16

### **PART 1**

#### INTRODUCTORY

##### **Animals to which this Act applies**

1.—(1) In this Act, except in subsections (4) and (6), “animal” means a vertebrate other than man.

(2) Nothing in this Act applies to an animal while it is in its foetal or embryonic form.

(3) The Department may by regulations for all or any of the purposes of this Act—

- (a) extend the definition of “animal” so as to include invertebrates of any description;
- (b) amend subsection (2) to extend the application of this Act to an animal from such earlier stage of its development as may be specified in the regulations.

(4) The power under subsection (3) may only be exercised if the Department is satisfied, on the basis of scientific evidence, that animals of the kind concerned are capable of experiencing pain or suffering.

(5) Before making regulations under subsection (3), the Department must consult such persons appearing to the Department to represent relevant interests as the Department considers appropriate.

(6) In this section, “vertebrate” means any animal of the Sub-phylum Vertebrata of the Phylum Chordata and “invertebrate” means any animal not of that Sub-phylum.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Section 1.