



# Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

## 1986 CHAPTER 14

### *Preliminary*

#### **1 Protected animals.**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, “a protected animal” for the purposes of this Act means any living vertebrate other than man [<sup>F1</sup>and any living cephalopod] .
- (2) Any such vertebrate in its foetal, larval or embryonic form is a protected animal only from the stage of its development when—
  - (a) in the case of a mammal, bird or reptile, [<sup>F2</sup>two-thirds of] the gestation or incubation period for the relevant species has elapsed; and
  - (b) in any other case, it becomes capable of independent feeding.

[<sup>F3</sup>(2A) Any living cephalopod in its embryonic form is not a protected animal.]

- (3) The Secretary of State may by order—
  - (a) extend the definition of protected animal so as to include [<sup>F4</sup>any description of invertebrates other than cephalopods] ;
  - (b) alter the stage of development specified in subsection (2) above;
  - (c) make provision in lieu of subsection (2) above as respects any animal which becomes a protected animal by virtue of an order under paragraph (a) above.
- (4) For the purposes of this section an animal shall be regarded as continuing to live until the permanent cessation of circulation or the destruction of its brain.
- (5) 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.

#### **Extent Information**

- E1** In its application to Northern Ireland, this section has effect subject to the modifications set out in s. 29, see s. 29(1)

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the  
Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Section 1. (See end of Document for details)

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### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 1(1) inserted (1.1.2013) by [The Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/3039\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(a)** (with Sch. 3)
- F2** Words in s. 1(2)(a) substituted (1.1.2013) by [The Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/3039\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(b)** (with Sch. 3)
- F3** S. 1(2A) inserted (1.1.2013) by [The Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/3039\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(c)** (with Sch. 3)
- F4** Words in s. 1(3)(a) substituted (1.1.2013) by [The Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986 Amendment Regulations 2012 \(S.I. 2012/3039\)](#), regs. 1(2), **3(d)** (with Sch. 3)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Section 1.