



# Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937

## 1937 CHAPTER 59

An Act to prohibit the exhibition or distribution of cinematograph films in connection with the production of which suffering may have been caused to animals; and for purposes connected therewith. [30th July 1937]

BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

### **1 Prohibition of films involving cruelty to animals.**

- (1) No person shall exhibit to the public, or supply to any person for public exhibition (whether by him or by another person), any cinematograph film (whether produced in Great Britain or elsewhere) if in connection with the production of the film any scene represented in the film was organised or directed in such a way as to involve the cruel infliction of pain or terror on any animal or the cruel goading of any animal to fury.
- (2) In any proceedings brought under this Act in respect of any film, the court may (without prejudice to any other mode of proof) infer from the film as exhibited to the public or supplied for public exhibition, as the case may be, that a scene represented in the film as so exhibited or supplied was organised or directed in such a way as to involve the cruel infliction of pain or terror on an animal or the cruel goading of an animal to fury, but (whether the court draws such an inference or not) it shall be a defence for the defendant to prove that he believed, and had reasonable cause to believe, that no scene so represented was so organised or directed.
- (3) Any person contravening the provisions of this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.
- (4) For the purposes of this Act—
  - (a) a cinematograph film shall be deemed to be exhibited to the public when, and only when, it is exhibited in a place to which for the time being members of the general public as such have access, whether on payment of money

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*Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).*

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or otherwise, and the expression " public exhibition" shall be construed accordingly; and

- (b) the expression " animal " has the same meaning as in the Protection of Animals Act, 1911, and the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act, 1912.

## **2 Short title and extent.**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act, 1937.
- (2) This Act shall not extend to Northern Ireland.