



Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

2006 asp 11

The Bill for this Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by the Parliament on 31st May 2006 and received Royal Assent on 11th July 2006

An Act of the Scottish Parliament to amend the Animal Health Act 1981, including by making provision for preventing the spread of disease; to make provision for the welfare of animals, including for prevention of harm; and for connected purposes.

PART 1

ANIMAL HEALTH

Powers of slaughter

1 Slaughter for preventing spread of disease

(1) In the Animal Health Act 1981 (c. 22) (in this Part referred to as the “1981 Act”), after section 32D there is inserted—

“32E Slaughter for preventing spread of disease: Scotland

Schedule 3A to this Act has effect as to slaughter in relation to—

- (a) cattle plague;
- (b) pleuro-pneumonia;
- (c) foot-and-mouth disease;
- (d) swine-fever;
- (e) diseases of poultry; and
- (f) such other diseases as are specified under paragraph 6 of that Schedule.”

(2) After Schedule 3 to that Act there is inserted—

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

“SCHEDULE 3A

(introduced by section 32E)

POWER OF SLAUGHTER FOR PREVENTING SPREAD OF DISEASE: SCOTLAND

Cattle plague

- 1 With a view to preventing the spread of cattle plague, the Scottish Ministers may, if they think fit, cause any animals to be slaughtered.

Pleuro-pneumonia

- 2 With a view to preventing the spread of pleuro-pneumonia, the Scottish Ministers may, if they think fit, cause any cattle to be slaughtered.

Foot-and-mouth disease

- 3 With a view to preventing the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, the Scottish Ministers may, if they think fit, cause any animals to be slaughtered.

Swine-fever

- 4 With a view to preventing the spread of swine-fever, the Scottish Ministers may, if they think fit, cause any swine to be slaughtered.

Diseases of poultry

- 5 With a view to preventing the spread of diseases of poultry, the Scottish Ministers may, if they think fit, cause any animals or birds to be slaughtered.

Additional power of slaughter

- 6 (1) With a view to preventing the spread of such disease of animals as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify, the Scottish Ministers may, if they think fit, cause to be slaughtered any animals, birds or amphibians of such description as they may so specify.
- (2) A specification of animals under sub-paragraph (1) may include any kind of mammal (except man).
- (3) In sub-paragraph (1), “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.

Exercise of powers of slaughter

- 7 The Scottish Ministers may, in relation to a disease, exercise a power of slaughter conferred by paragraphs 1 to 6 whether or not the animals, birds or amphibians concerned—
 - (a) are affected with the disease or suspected of being affected with the disease;
 - (b) are or have been in contact with animals, birds or amphibians affected with the disease;

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- (c) have been in any way exposed to the disease; or
- (d) have been treated with serum or vaccine (or both) against the disease.

Compensation

- 8 (1) The Scottish Ministers must pay compensation, of such amount as they may prescribe by order, in respect of—
- (a) any animals slaughtered under paragraphs 1 to 5; and
 - (b) any animals—
 - (i) of any kind to which a power of slaughter under those paragraphs relates; and
 - (ii) which are slaughtered by virtue of paragraph 6.
- (2) An order under sub-paragraph (1) may make different provision for different cases or classes of case.
- (3) An order under sub-paragraph (1) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

Orders

- 9 (1) No order is made under paragraph 6 unless a draft of the order has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Scottish Parliament.
- (2) But where the Scottish Ministers are of the opinion that there exists—
- (a) an outbreak of a disease of animals not specified in or by virtue of paragraphs 1 to 6; or
 - (b) some other emergency relating to a disease of animals,
- sub-paragraph (1) does not apply in relation to the making of an order under paragraph 6.
- (3) Where sub-paragraph (2) applies, an order made accordingly (an “emergency order”)—
- (a) is to be laid before the Scottish Parliament; and
 - (b) ceases to have effect at the expiry of a period of 28 days beginning with the date on which it was made unless, before the expiry of that period, the order has been approved by a resolution of the Parliament.
- (4) However, paragraph (b) of sub-paragraph (3) does not apply in relation to an order which—
- (a) revokes (wholly or partly) an emergency order; and
 - (b) does nothing else, or nothing else except make provision incidental or supplementary to the revocation.
- (5) In reckoning for the purposes of sub-paragraph (3)(b) any period of 28 days, no account is to be taken of any period during which the Scottish Parliament is—
- (a) dissolved; or
 - (b) in recess for more than 4 days.
- (6) Sub-paragraph (3)(b) is without prejudice to anything previously done by reference to an emergency order or to the making of a new emergency order.

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(7) An emergency order must include a description of the emergency in relation to which the order is made.

(8) In sub-paragraph (2), “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.”.

Commencement Information

II [S. 1](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

2 Slaughter of treated animals

After section 16A of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“16B Slaughter of treated animals: Scotland

- (1) Subsection (4) applies to any animal or bird which has been treated with serum or vaccine (or both) for the purpose of preventing the spread of—
 - (a) cattle plague;
 - (b) pleuro-pneumonia;
 - (c) foot-and-mouth disease;
 - (d) swine-fever; or
 - (e) diseases of poultry.
- (2) Subsection (4) also applies to any animal or bird which has been treated with serum or vaccine (or both) for the purpose of preventing the spread of such other disease of animals as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.
- (3) The references in subsections (1) and (2) to any animal which has been treated mean any kind of mammal (except man); and the power conferred by subsection (4) is exercisable accordingly.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may, for the purpose of securing (or contributing to the securing of) disease-free status, cause to be slaughtered any animal or bird to which this subsection applies.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers must pay compensation, of such amount as they may prescribe by order, in respect of any animals—
 - (a) slaughtered under subsection (4); and
 - (b) of a kind to which the power of slaughter under that subsection would relate if subsection (3) were omitted.
- (6) An order under subsection (5) may make different provision for different cases or classes of case.
- (7) An order under subsection (5) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.
- (8) An order made under subsection (2)—
 - (a) is to be laid before the Scottish Parliament; and
 - (b) ceases to have effect at the expiry of a period of 28 days beginning with the date on which it was made unless, before the expiry of that period, the order has been approved by a resolution of the Parliament.

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- (9) However, paragraph (b) of subsection (8) does not apply in relation to an order which—
 - (a) revokes (wholly or partly) a previous order; and
 - (b) does nothing else, or nothing else except make provision incidental or supplementary to the revocation.
- (10) In reckoning for the purposes of subsection (8)(b) any period of 28 days, no account is to be taken of any period during which the Scottish Parliament is—
 - (a) dissolved; or
 - (b) in recess for more than 4 days.
- (11) Subsection (8)(b) is without prejudice to anything previously done by reference to an order made under subsection (2) or to the making of a new order under that subsection.
- (12) An order under subsection (2) must refer to the circumstances in relation to which the order is made.
- (13) In subsection (2), “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.
- (14) In subsection (4), “disease-free status” means recognition in accordance with any rule of the European Community or any other international rule that in a particular area no animals or birds of a particular class are infected by a particular disease or class of disease.”.

Commencement Information

I2 S. 2 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

3 Disease control (slaughter) statement

After section 32E (inserted by section 1 of this Act) of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“32F Disease control (slaughter) statement: Scotland

- (1) Before exercising, in relation to a particular event or state of affairs (regardless of its geographical extent), a power of slaughter conferred by or under—
 - (a) section 16B of this Act; or
 - (b) Schedule 3A to this Act,the Scottish Ministers must make a statement under this subsection.
- (2) The statement—
 - (a) must—
 - (i) describe the event or state of affairs concerned; and
 - (ii) express the reason why there is (in addition to, or as an alternative to, other courses of action) to be resort to exercise of that particular power for the relevant purpose;
 - (b) may include further information, for example—
 - (i) about factors that have been taken into account (including types of advice to which regard has been had);
 - (ii) as to procedures that are to be followed.

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- (3) The Scottish Ministers are to—
- (a) make the statement in such manner; and
 - (b) publicise the statement to such extent,
- as they consider appropriate.”.

Commencement Information

I3 [S. 3](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Prevention of the spread of disease

4 Biosecurity codes

After section 6B of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“6C Biosecurity codes: Scotland

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may make an order containing a code (referred to in this section and section 6D as a “biosecurity code”) which makes provision for the taking of, and in relation to, the measures specified in subsection (2).
- (2) Those are measures (“biosecurity measures”) for preventing—
 - (a) diseases of animals;
 - (b) the spread of causative agents of diseases of animals—
 - (i) among animals, birds or amphibians;
 - (ii) between any of those categories of creature and another of those categories; or
 - (iii) from any of those categories of creature to humans.
- (3) In subsection (2)(b), “causative agent”, in relation to a disease, includes any virus, bacterium and any other organism or infectious substance which may cause or transmit the disease.
- (4) A biosecurity code may relate solely to one, or more than one—
 - (a) kind of creature; or
 - (b) disease.
- (5) A biosecurity code may include guidance as to the best practicable means of taking biosecurity measures.
- (6) A biosecurity code may—
 - (a) prescribe general requirements to which persons to whom the code applies are subject;
 - (b) prescribe particular requirements to which such persons are, in such circumstances as are specified in the code, subject; and
 - (c) specify circumstances in which any person is to be regarded for the purposes of this section as complying with, or (as the case may be) not complying with, any requirements prescribed under paragraphs (a) or (b).

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- (7) A biosecurity code may make different provision for different cases or classes of case.
- (8) A biosecurity code applies, to the extent provided for in the code, to any person who owns, keeps or is in charge of any creature of a kind to which the code relates.
- (9) A person must, to the extent to which a biosecurity code applies to the person, comply with the code.
- (10) A person who is subject to a requirement prescribed under subsection (6)(a) or (b) commits an offence if, without lawful authority or excuse (proof of which lies on the person), that person fails to comply with the requirement.
- (11) Before making an order under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider appropriate about the proposed biosecurity code.
- (12) A statutory instrument containing an order under subsection (1) is not made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Scottish Parliament.
- (13) In sub-paragraph (i) of paragraph (b) of subsection (2), the reference to animals means any kind of mammal (except man).
- (14) In this section and section 6D(1)(b), “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.

6D Emergency biosecurity orders: Scotland

- (1) Where the Scottish Ministers are of the opinion that there exists—
 - (a) an outbreak of a disease specified in Schedule 2B to this Act; or
 - (b) some other emergency relating to a disease of animals,subsections (11) and (12) of section 6C do not apply in relation to the making of an order under subsection (1) of that section containing a biosecurity code relating to the outbreak or, as the case may be, the other emergency.
- (2) Where subsection (1) applies, an order made accordingly (an “emergency order”)—
 - (a) is to be laid before the Scottish Parliament; and
 - (b) ceases to have effect at the expiry of a period of 28 days beginning with the date on which it was made unless, before the expiry of that period, the order has been approved by a resolution of the Parliament.
- (3) However, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) does not apply in relation to an order which—
 - (a) revokes (wholly or partly) an emergency order; and
 - (b) does nothing else, or nothing else except make provision incidental or supplementary to the revocation.
- (4) In reckoning for the purposes of subsection (2)(b) any period of 28 days, no account is to be taken of any period during which the Scottish Parliament is—
 - (a) dissolved; or
 - (b) in recess for more than 4 days.

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- (5) Subsection (2)(b) is without prejudice to anything previously done by reference to an emergency order or to the making of a new emergency order.
- (6) An emergency order must include a description of the emergency in relation to which the order is made.”.

Commencement Information

I4 S. 4 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

5 Tests and samples

After section 6D (inserted by section 4 of this Act) of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“6E Tests and samples: Scotland

- (1) An inspector may at any time enter any premises in Scotland for the purpose of ascertaining (any or all)—
 - (a) whether—
 - (i) biological indicators of any disease of animals;
 - (ii) biological indicators of any causative agent of a disease of animals,
 exist in animals, birds or amphibians on the premises;
 - (b) whether any animals, birds or amphibians on the premises or which were kept there at any time are, or were at the time they were so kept, infected with a disease of animals;
 - (c) whether any causative agent of a disease of animals is present on the premises.
- (2) The inspector may take such samples (including samples from any animals, birds or amphibians on the premises) and carry out such tests as the inspector thinks are necessary for a purpose mentioned in subsection (1).
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2), the references to animals in which biological indicators exist, infected with a disease or from which samples may be taken means any kind of mammal (except man).
- (4) In this section—
 - “biological indicator”—
 - (a) in relation to a disease, includes evidence of any form of reaction to the disease;
 - (b) in relation to a causative agent, includes—
 - (i) anti-bodies in reaction to the causative agent;
 - (ii) evidence of any other form of reaction to the causative agent;
 - “causative agent”, in relation to a disease, includes any virus, bacterium and any other organism or infectious substance which may cause or transmit the disease;
 - “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act;
 - “inspector” means—

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- (a) a person appointed as an inspector for the purposes of this Act by the Scottish Ministers; or
 - (b) a person authorised by the Scottish Ministers for those purposes;
- “premises” includes—
- (a) any land or building; or
 - (b) any other place, in particular—
 - (i) a vehicle or vessel; or
 - (ii) a tent or moveable structure.

6F Samples: further testing

- (1) Where a sample from any animal, bird or amphibian has been taken—
 - (a) under any enactment; and
 - (b) in relation to the monitoring, control or prevention of any disease of animals,the Scottish Ministers (or a person authorised by them) may carry out such tests using the sample as they think are necessary or expedient for the purposes of the monitoring, control or prevention of any other disease of animals.
- (2) Except in the circumstances described in subsection (3), the power conferred by subsection (1) is not exercisable unless the sample has previously been used for a test authorised under the relevant enactment.
- (3) Those circumstances are—
 - (a) where the Scottish Ministers are of the opinion that there exists an emergency in relation to a disease of animals; and
 - (b) the tests to be carried out under subsection (1) are in connection with the emergency.
- (4) A person who possesses a sample required for the carrying out of a test under subsection (1) must give the sample to the Scottish Ministers (or a person authorised by them) by such time as they may direct.
- (5) In subsection (1), the first reference to an animal means any kind of mammal (except man).
- (6) In this section—
 - “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act;
 - “enactment” includes an enactment comprised in, or in an instrument made under, an Act of the Scottish Parliament.”.

Commencement Information

I5 S. 5 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

6 Animal gatherings

After section 8 of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

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“8A Animal gatherings: Scotland

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order make provision for or in connection with the licensing (by them or by other persons on their behalf) of the holding of animal gatherings.
- (2) An order under subsection (1) must be with a view to the prevention of the spread of disease.
- (3) In this section, an “animal gathering” means an occasion at which animals or birds (or both) are brought together for any purpose.
- (4) But, for the purposes of subsection (3), an occasion is not an animal gathering if—
 - (a) all the animals or birds involved are owned by the same person; or
 - (b) the occasion—
 - (i) takes place on land in respect of which more than one person has a right of use; and
 - (ii) involves animals or birds all of which are owned by persons who have a right of use of the land.
- (5) An order under subsection (1) may, in particular, include provision as to—
 - (a) the procedure to be followed in relation to an application for a licence;
 - (b) any considerations to be taken into account in determining an application;
 - (c) the duration and renewal of a licence;
 - (d) conditions that must or may be imposed on granting or renewing a licence;
 - (e) circumstances in which a licence (or any of the conditions imposed in relation to the licence) must or may be revoked or suspended;
 - (f) requirements for notification of any granting, renewal, revocation, suspension or variation of a licence;
 - (g) appeals in connection with licences.
- (6) An order under subsection (1) may, in particular, also include provision as to the inspection, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with any condition of a licence, of premises where animal gatherings may take, or are taking or have taken, place.
- (7) Conditions under subsection (5)(d) may, in particular, relate to measures for the prevention of the spread of disease.
- (8) A person who holds a licence in accordance with an order made under subsection (1) commits an offence if, without excuse (proof of which lies on the person), that person contravenes any condition of the licence.
- (9) A statutory instrument containing an order under subsection (1) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.
- (10) An order under subsection (1) may make different provision for different cases or classes of case.

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- (11) Before making an order under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons appearing to them to represent relevant interests; and
 - (b) such other persons,
- as they consider appropriate.
- (12) In this section, “premises” includes—
- (a) any land or building; or
 - (b) any other place, in particular—
 - (i) a vehicle or vessel; or
 - (ii) a tent or moveable structure.”.

Commencement Information

16 [S. 6](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

7 Treatment

- (1) In section 16 (treatment after exposure to infection) of the 1981 Act—
- (a) subsection (1) is repealed,
 - (b) after that subsection there is inserted—
- “(1A) For the purpose of preventing the spread of diseases of animals, the Scottish Ministers may, if they think fit, cause to be treated with serum or vaccine, or with both serum and vaccine, any animal or bird.
- (1B) The animals which may be treated under subsection (1A) are any kind of mammal (except man).
- (1C) In subsection (1A), “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.”.
- (2) In subsection (2) of that section—
- (a) for the words “officer of the Minister” there is substituted “ inspector ”, and
 - (b) for the words from “land” to the end there is substituted “ premises ”.
- (3) After that subsection there is added—
- “(3) In this section—
- “inspector” means—
- (a) a person appointed as an inspector for the purposes of this Act by the Scottish Ministers; or
 - (b) a person authorised by the Scottish Ministers for those purposes;
- “premises” includes—
- (a) any land or building; or
 - (b) any other place, in particular—
 - (i) a vehicle or vessel; or
 - (ii) a tent or moveable structure.”.

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Commencement Information

I7 [S. 7](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

8 Seizure of carcasses etc.

After section 36 of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“36ZA Seizure of carcasses etc.: further provision for Scotland

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order make provision for—
 - (a) the seizure of anything (whether animate or inanimate) which appears to them might be capable of carrying or transmitting any disease to which this subsection applies;
 - (b) the destruction, burial, disposal or treatment of anything seized under the order; and
 - (c) regulating the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b).
- (2) Subsection (1) does not authorise provision for the seizure of a live animal, bird or amphibian; but an order under that subsection may provide for the seizure of carcasses and of anything obtained from or produced by an animal, bird or amphibian.
- (3) Subsection (1) applies to the diseases in the case of which any power of slaughter is exercisable under or by virtue of section 16B, Part 2B or Schedule 3A.
- (4) A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or excuse (proof of which lies on the person), that person throws or places, or causes or suffers to be thrown or placed, into—
 - (a) any river, stream, canal, navigation or other water; or
 - (b) the sea within 4.8 kilometres of the shore,
 the carcass of, or anything obtained from or produced by, an animal, bird or amphibian which has been slaughtered in the exercise of any power conferred by or under section 16B, Part 2B or Schedule 3A.
- (5) In this section, the references to an animal mean any kind of mammal (except man).

36ZB Compensation for seizure

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must pay compensation for anything seized under an order made under section 36ZA(1).
- (2) But subsection (1) does not apply to—
 - (a) carcasses seized; or
 - (b) other things seized which are obtained from or produced by creatures.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers may pay compensation for—
 - (a) carcasses seized under an order made under section 36ZA(1);

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- (b) other things seized under such an order which are obtained from or produced by creatures,
of such description as the Scottish Ministers may specify by order.
- (4) The compensation payable under subsection (1) or (3) for anything seized shall be its value at the time of seizure.
- (5) Where anything destroyed, buried or disposed of under an order made under paragraph (e) of section 23 could have been seized under an order made under section 36ZA(1), compensation (if any) is payable under subsections (1) or (3) as if the thing had been so seized at the time of destruction, burial or disposal.
- (6) The Scottish Ministers may make such orders as they think fit for—
 - (a) prescribing how the value of anything seized under section 36ZA(1) is to be ascertained;
 - (b) regulating applications for, and the mode of payment of, any compensation payable by virtue of this section.”.

Commencement Information

18 [S. 8](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

9 Specified diseases

- (1) After section 28H (inserted by section 10 of this Act) of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“28I Specified diseases: Scotland

- (1) Schedule 2B to this Act has effect as to the specification of certain diseases of animals.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify Schedule 2B.
- (3) An order made under subsection (2)—
 - (a) is to be laid before the Scottish Parliament; and
 - (b) ceases to have effect at the expiry of a period of 28 days beginning with the date on which it was made unless, before the expiry of that period, the order has been approved by a resolution of the Parliament.
- (4) However, paragraph (b) of subsection (3) does not apply in relation to an order which—
 - (a) revokes (wholly or partly) a previous order; and
 - (b) does nothing else, or nothing else except make provision incidental or supplementary to the revocation.
- (5) In reckoning for the purposes of subsection (3)(b) any period of 28 days, no account is to be taken of any period during which the Scottish Parliament is—
 - (a) dissolved; or
 - (b) in recess for more than 4 days.

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(6) Subsection (3)(b) is without prejudice to anything previously done by reference to a modification made by an order under subsection (2) or to the making of a new order under that subsection.

(7) An order under subsection (2) must include a statement of the reasons for making the order.”.

(2) After Schedule 2A of that Act there is inserted—

“SCHEDULE 2B

(introduced by section 28I)

SPECIFIED DISEASES: SCOTLAND

African horse sickness
African swine fever
Bluetongue
Bovine brucellosis
Classical swine fever
Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia
Foot-and-mouth disease
Highly pathogenic avian influenza
Lumpy skin disease
Newcastle disease
Peste des petits ruminants
Rift Valley fever
Rinderpest
Sheep pox and goat pox
Swine vesicular disease
Vesicular stomatitis.”.

Commencement Information

I9 [S. 9](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Deliberate infection of animals

10 Deliberate infection of animals

After section 28B of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“28C Deliberate infection: Scotland

(1) A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or excuse (proof of which lies on the person), that person—

- (a) knowingly does anything which causes or is intended to cause; or
- (b) recklessly causes,

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an animal or bird to be infected with a disease specified in Schedule 2B to this Act.

- (2) A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or excuse (proof of which lies on the person), that person acquires or retains—
 - (a) an animal or bird; or
 - (b) the carcase of an animal or bird,which the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, to be infected with a disease specified in Schedule 2B to this Act.
- (3) A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or excuse (proof of which lies on the person), that person acquires or retains anything obtained from, produced by or used in connection with—
 - (a) an animal or bird; or
 - (b) the carcase of an animal or bird,which the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, to be infected with a disease specified in Schedule 2B to this Act.
- (4) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable—
 - (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to both;
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to a fine or to both.
- (5) In this section and sections 28D to 28H, the references to an animal mean any kind of mammal (except man).

28D Deliberate infection: deprivation of entitlement to compensation

- (1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under section 28C, any provision of this Act by virtue of which compensation is payable to the person does not apply in respect of anything to which this subsection applies.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to animals to which that offence relates.
- (3) Subsection (1) also applies to any other animals which were kept on the same premises as the animals referred to in subsection (2)—
 - (a) at the same time (or any part of the time) as those animals; and
 - (b) at or after the time when the offence was committed,and in relation to which compensation would be payable but for this section.
- (4) Subsection (1) also applies to—
 - (a) any carcasses seized under an order made under section 35(1) or 36ZA(1)—
 - (i) which are of the animals referred to in subsection (2) or of the other animals referred to in subsection (3); and
 - (ii) in relation to which compensation would be payable but for this section;
 - (b) other things seized under such an order—
 - (i) which were obtained from or produced by those animals; and
 - (ii) in relation to which compensation would be payable but for this section; and

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- (c) anything else—
 - (i) seized under such an order; and
 - (ii) which was present on the same premises as those animals, or those carcases or other things, at the time described by paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (3),
 and in relation to which compensation would be payable but for this section.

- (5) Any compensation paid to a person in respect of anything to which subsection (1) applies may be recovered by the Scottish Ministers.
- (6) In subsection (3), “premises” includes—
 - (a) any land or building; or
 - (b) any other place, in particular—
 - (i) a vehicle or vessel; or
 - (ii) a tent or moveable structure.

28E Deliberate infection: deprivation orders

- (1) Where a person is convicted of—
 - (a) an offence under section 28C; or
 - (b) an offence under section 28F(16) by reason of owning or keeping an animal,
 the convicting court may make an order (in this section and section 28H referred to as a “deprivation order”) in respect of any animal in relation to which the offence was committed.
- (2) A deprivation order is an order—
 - (a) depriving a person of possession or ownership (or both) of an animal; and
 - (b) for—
 - (i) the destruction;
 - (ii) the sale; or
 - (iii) another disposal,
 of the animal.
- (3) Where the court decides not to make a deprivation order in relation to an offence referred to in subsection (1), it must state its reasons except where it makes a disqualification order in relation to the offence.
- (4) A deprivation order may be made in addition to, or instead of, any other penalty or order which may be imposed in relation to a relevant offence.
- (5) A deprivation order may make provision in respect of any dependent offspring of an animal to which it applies.
- (6) A deprivation order may include—
 - (a) provision—
 - (i) appointing a person who is to secure that the order is carried out;

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- (ii) requiring any person possessing an animal to which the order applies to give it up to a person appointed under subparagraph (i);
 - (b) provision authorising—
 - (i) a person appointed under paragraph (a)(i); and
 - (ii) any person acting on that person's behalf,to enter, for the purposes of securing that the order is carried out, any premises where an animal to which the order applies is kept;
 - (c) such other provision as the court considers appropriate in connection with the order.
- (7) Provision under subsection (6)(c) may, in particular—
 - (a) require reimbursement of any expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out the order;
 - (b) relate to the retention of any proceeds of the disposal.
- (8) The court may not make a deprivation order involving the destruction of an animal unless it is satisfied, on evidence provided (orally or in writing) by a veterinary surgeon, that destruction would be in the interests of the animal.
- (9) Before making a deprivation order, the court must give the owner of the animal concerned an opportunity to make representations unless it is not practicable for it to do so.
- (10) A deprivation order is, for the purposes of any appeal under the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (c. 46), to be treated as a sentence.
- (11) Where a deprivation order is made, any person (apart from a person who may appeal against the order by virtue of subsection (10)) who has an interest in any animal to which the order applies may appeal to the High Court of Justiciary against the order by the same procedure as applies under subsection (10).
- (12) In this section and section 28G, “premises” includes—
 - (a) any land or building; or
 - (b) any other place, in particular—
 - (i) a vehicle or vessel; or
 - (ii) a tent or moveable structure.
- (13) In this section and section 28G, “veterinary surgeon” means a person registered in the register of veterinary surgeons, or the supplementary veterinary register, kept under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (c. 36).

28F Deliberate infection: disqualification orders

- (1) Where a person is convicted of an offence under section 28C or subsection (16), the convicting court may make an order (in section 28E, this section and section 28G referred to as a “disqualification order”) disqualifying that person, for such period as it thinks fit, from one or more of the activities specified in subsection (2).
- (2) Those activities are—
 - (a) owning or keeping animals (or both);
 - (b) dealing in animals;

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- (c) transporting animals;
 - (d) working with or using animals;
 - (e) riding or driving animals;
 - (f) providing any service relating to animals (including, in particular, for their care) which involves taking possession of animals;
 - (g) taking possession of animals for the purpose of an activity in respect of which a disqualification mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (f) is imposed;
 - (h) taking charge of animals for any, or any other, purpose.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), disqualification in respect of an activity specified in subsection (2) includes disqualification from any participation in the activity including, in particular—
- (a) making arrangements in connection with the activity;
 - (b) being party to arrangements under which the activity may be controlled or influenced;
 - (c) being concerned (so far as relating to the activity) in the management or control of a body whose business involves the activity.
- (4) However, disqualification by reference to subsection (2)(h) does not include disqualification from taking charge of an animal for so long as is necessary in the circumstances—
- (a) with the consent of the owner or keeper of the animal, for the purpose of caring for it;
 - (b) for the purpose of alleviating any suffering of the animal, if no alternative arrangements for its care are reasonably available.
- (5) Where the court decides not to make a disqualification order in relation to an offence under section 28C or subsection (16), it must state its reasons.
- (6) A disqualification order may be made in addition to, or instead of, any other penalty or order which may be imposed in relation to an offence under that section.
- (7) A disqualification order may apply to animals generally or to animals of any particular kind.
- (8) A disqualification order may specify a period within which an application under subsection (11) may not be made.
- (9) The court may suspend the operation of a disqualification order—
- (a) for such period as it thinks necessary to enable arrangements to be made for the keeping of any animals to which the disqualification applies;
 - (b) pending an appeal.
- (10) A disqualification order is, for the purposes of any appeal under the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, to be treated as a sentence.
- (11) A person who is subject to a disqualification order may apply to the court which imposed the order to terminate or vary it.
- (12) An application under subsection (11) may not be made—
- (a) before the expiry of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the order was made;

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- (b) where there has been a previous application under that subsection in relation to the same order, before the expiry of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the previous application was determined; or
 - (c) within any period specified under subsection (8) or (15).
- (13) On an application under subsection (11), the court may—
 - (a) refuse the application;
 - (b) terminate the disqualification order; or
 - (c) vary the disqualification order so as to relax any disqualification imposed by it.
- (14) In considering an application under subsection (11), the court must have particular regard to—
 - (a) the nature of the offence in relation to which the disqualification order was made;
 - (b) the character of the applicant;
 - (c) the conduct of the applicant since the order was made.
- (15) Where the court refuses an application made under subsection (11), the court may specify a period within which the applicant may not make a further application under that subsection in relation to that order.
- (16) A person who breaches a disqualification order commits an offence.

28G Seizure orders where disqualification breached

- (1) Where the court is satisfied that a person who is subject to a disqualification order owns or keeps any animal in breach of the order, the court may make an order (in this section and section 28H referred to as a “seizure order”) in respect of all animals which the person owns or keeps in breach of the disqualification order.
- (2) A seizure order may be made—
 - (a) on summary application by an inspector;
 - (b) even if proceedings have not been, or are not likely to be, taken against the person for an offence under section 28F(16).
- (3) In subsection (2)(a), “inspector” means—
 - (a) a person appointed as an inspector for the purposes of this Act by the Scottish Ministers; or
 - (b) a person authorised by the Scottish Ministers for those purposes.
- (4) A seizure order is an order—
 - (a) depriving a person of possession or ownership (or both) of an animal; and
 - (b) for—
 - (i) the destruction;
 - (ii) the sale; or
 - (iii) another disposal,of the animal.

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- (5) A seizure order may include—
 - (a) provision—
 - (i) appointing a person who is to secure that the order is carried out;
 - (ii) requiring any person possessing an animal to which the order applies to give it up to a person appointed under subparagraph (i);
 - (b) provision authorising—
 - (i) a person appointed under paragraph (a)(i); and
 - (ii) any person acting on that person's behalf,
 to enter, for the purposes of securing that the order is carried out, any premises where an animal to which the order applies is kept;
 - (c) such other provision as the court considers appropriate in connection with the order.
- (6) Provision under subsection (5)(c) may, in particular—
 - (a) require reimbursement of any expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out the order;
 - (b) relate to the retention of any proceeds of the disposal.
- (7) The court may not make a seizure order which involves the destruction of an animal unless it is satisfied, on evidence provided (orally or in writing) by a veterinary surgeon, that destruction would be in the interests of the animal.
- (8) Before making a seizure order, the court must give the owner of the animals concerned an opportunity to make representations unless it is not practicable for it to do so.
- (9) In determining whether or how to make a seizure order, the court must have regard to the desirability of—
 - (a) protecting the value of any animal to which the order applies; and
 - (b) avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be required to reimburse.
- (10) Where an application is made under subsection (2)(a), the court may make an order under this subsection (an “interim order”) containing such provision as the court considers appropriate in relation to the keeping of an animal until the application is finally determined.
- (11) Subsections (5), (6)(a) and (9) apply in relation to an interim order as they apply in relation to a seizure order.
- (12) The disqualified person by reference to whom a seizure order is made, or any person (apart from that disqualified person) who entered the process prior to the making of the order, may appeal to the Sheriff Principal against the order.

28H Suspension of orders pending appeal

- (1) The operation of any deprivation order or seizure order is suspended until—
 - (a) any period for an appeal against the order has expired;
 - (b) the period for an appeal against the conviction on which the order depends has expired; and

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- (c) any appeal against the order or that conviction has been withdrawn or finally determined.
- (2) Where the operation of a deprivation order or seizure order is suspended under subsection (1), or such an order is not executable because decree has not been extracted, the court may make an order under this subsection (an “interim order”) containing such provision as the court considers appropriate in relation to the keeping of an animal for so long as the first-mentioned order remains suspended or inexecutable.
- (3) An interim order may, in particular, make provision of the sort described in—
 - (a) paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (5) of section 28G;
 - (b) paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of that section.
- (4) In determining whether or how to make an interim order, the court must have regard to the desirability of—
 - (a) protecting the value of any animal to which the order applies; and
 - (b) avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be required to reimburse.”.

Commencement Information

I10 [S. 10](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Particular provision for TSE

11 Livestock genotypes: specification, breeding and slaughter

After Part 2A of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“PART 2B

TSE: SCOTLAND

Livestock genotypes

36N Power to specify livestock genotypes and TSEs

- (1) Where the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that an animal of a particular livestock genotype has (or has had) a form of TSE, they may by order specify for the purposes of this Part—
 - (a) that livestock genotype; and
 - (b) if they consider it appropriate, the form of TSE concerned.
- (2) In subsection (1), “satisfied” means satisfied on the basis of scientific evidence.
- (3) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to any animal which has (or has had) a form of TSE solely as a consequence of scientific experimentation on the animal.

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- (4) For the purposes of subsection (1), it is immaterial where (whether in Scotland or elsewhere)—
 - (a) an animal has (or has had) a form of TSE;
 - (b) evidence as to that fact is obtained.
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (1), it is immaterial—
 - (a) to what extent an animal has (or has had) a form of TSE;
 - (b) that an animal does not show (or has never shown) outward signs of being (or having been) affected by a form of TSE.

36O **Ascertaining genotypes and identifying livestock**

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations made by statutory instrument make provision requiring the keeper of any livestock—
 - (a) to allow an inspector to take a sample from it, for the purpose of ascertaining its genotype;
 - (b) to allow an inspector to administer or otherwise attach to it an identification device;
 - (c) where the genotype of the livestock has been ascertained (whether or not as a result of the exercise of powers conferred by or under this Part), to keep a record of its genotype.
- (2) The regulations may include provision—
 - (a) with respect to the testing of samples;
 - (b) that only identification devices of a kind specified in the regulations may be administered or attached;
 - (c) requiring the issuing and keeping of certificates recording the genotypes of livestock.
- (3) The regulations may also include provision requiring the keeper of any livestock to give an inspector such assistance or information as the inspector may reasonably request in connection with the exercise of the inspector's functions under the regulations.

36P **Restrictions on breeding**

- (1) This section applies where it appears to the Scottish Ministers that livestock is of a genotype specified in an order under section 36N.
- (2) If it appears to the Scottish Ministers that there are no exceptional circumstances that justify allowing the livestock, or its semen, eggs or embryos, to be used for or in connection with breeding, they may give a notice (in this Part referred to as a “restriction notice”) to its keeper.
- (3) A restriction notice—
 - (a) may be made so as to apply to more than one creature;
 - (b) may describe the livestock to which it applies in such a way as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate; and
 - (c) must specify the restrictions and requirements provided for in subsections (6) to (8) so far as applicable in the circumstances of the case.

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- (4) If the keeper of the livestock is not the same person as its owner, the Scottish Ministers may give a separate restriction notice to the owner.
- (5) If the keeper of the livestock is not the same person as the person in possession of the semen, eggs or embryos of the livestock, the Scottish Ministers may give a separate restriction notice to the person in possession of the semen, eggs or embryos.
- (6) A person to whom a restriction notice is given must not—
 - (a) use livestock to which the notice applies, or its semen, eggs or embryos, for the purposes of or in connection with breeding; or
 - (b) cause or permit such livestock or such semen, eggs or embryos to be used by another person for those purposes.
- (7) A person to whom a restriction notice is given must arrange for any semen, egg or embryo which—
 - (a) has at any time been taken from livestock to which the notice applies; and
 - (b) is in the person's possession or under the person's control,to be destroyed within such period, of not less than 21 days, as may be specified in the notice.
- (8) A person to whom a restriction notice is given must arrange for each creature to which the notice applies and which is owned by the person—
 - (a) to be castrated or (as appropriate) sterilised within such period, of not less than 21 days, as may be specified in the notice; or
 - (b) to be slaughtered within such period, of not less than 21 days, as may be specified in the notice,whichever the person considers appropriate.
- (9) But where a request for a review is made under section 36Q(1), the operation of the restriction notice is, so far as relating to the matters subject to review, suspended until the review is determined.
- (10) For the purposes of subsection (2), exceptional circumstances include circumstances in which the imposition in relation to the livestock of the restrictions and requirements mentioned in subsections (6) to (8) is likely to—
 - (a) cause the extinction of the breed or type of which the livestock is a member; or
 - (b) jeopardise the sustainability of a common or well-established breed.
- (11) For the purposes of this Part, “slaughter” includes the killing of a fish.

36Q Review

- (1) A person to whom a restriction notice is given may, within the period referred to in subsection (2)—
 - (a) make a written request to the Scottish Ministers for a review of the restriction notice or any part of it;
 - (b) make written representations to the Scottish Ministers; and
 - (c) request—

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- (i) an appearance, for the purposes of the review, before the assessment panel;
 - (ii) that the appearance be in public.
- (2) The period is—
 - (a) 21 days beginning with the day on which the notice is given; or
 - (b) in exceptional circumstances, such longer period as the Scottish Ministers may agree to.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers must arrange for an assessment panel to consider a review as requested under subsection (1).
- (4) The proceedings of an assessment panel are to be conducted in such form and manner as the panel considers fit.
- (5) The assessment panel must prepare and send a report to the Scottish Ministers which—
 - (a) states its findings in relation to the representations and information before it; and
 - (b) makes a recommendation as to how to determine the review.
- (6) The Scottish Ministers, having regard to any representations made under subsection (1)(b) and the report sent to them under subsection (5), must—
 - (a) determine the review; and
 - (b) give to the person who requested the review—
 - (i) written notification of their determination and their reasons for it; and
 - (ii) if the person so requests, a copy of the report sent to them under subsection (5).
- (7) The Scottish Ministers may, in so far as a review upholds a restriction notice, recover from the person who requested the review such reasonable expenses as arise from any sampling or testing carried out in connection with the review.
- (8) In this section, an assessment panel—
 - (a) consists of one or more persons appointed by the Scottish Ministers for the purposes of this section; and
 - (b) must not, except with the consent of the person who requested the review, include members of the staff of the Scottish Administration.

Enforcement

36R Scottish Ministers' powers of enforcement

- (1) This section applies if the Scottish Ministers are satisfied that a person has failed to comply with one or more of the restrictions or requirements imposed on that person by a restriction notice.
- (2) But this section does not apply in relation to any livestock—
 - (a) which is the subject of a review under section 36Q which has not been determined; or

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- (b) which, as the result of a successful review, is no longer subject to the restriction notice.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers may take such reasonable steps as they consider appropriate to secure that effect is given to any restriction or requirement.
- (4) In particular, the Scottish Ministers may—
 - (a) cause to be destroyed any semen, egg or embryo which has not been destroyed as required under section 36P(7);
 - (b) cause to be castrated (or as appropriate sterilised) or slaughtered any livestock—
 - (i) which is the subject of the notice; but
 - (ii) which has neither been castrated (or as appropriate sterilised) nor slaughtered as required under section 36P(8).
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may recover from the person to whom a restriction notice has been given such reasonable expenses as arise from any steps taken under subsection (3) in relation to that notice.

36S Offences

- (1) A person to whom a restriction notice is given commits an offence (whether or not the notice is the subject of a review under section 36Q) if that person—
 - (a) sells (or otherwise transfers to another person) livestock to which the notice applies, or any of its semen, eggs or embryos;
 - (b) fails, without excuse (proof of which lies on the person) to comply with any of the restrictions or requirements specified in the notice.
- (2) Any other person commits an offence if that person uses any semen, egg or embryo which the person knows, or ought reasonably to know, has been taken from livestock which is the subject of a restriction notice.
- (3) A person commits an offence if, without excuse (proof of which lies on the person), that person fails to comply with any provision of regulations made under section 36O.
- (4) A keeper of livestock commits an offence if the keeper fails to give an inspector such assistance or information as the inspector may reasonably request in connection with the exercise by the inspector of a function under this Part.

Powers of slaughter

36T Powers of slaughter: TSE

- (1) With a view to preventing the spread of any form of TSE, the Scottish Ministers may, if they think fit, cause any livestock to which this subsection applies to be slaughtered.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to livestock—
 - (a) whose genotype is specified by virtue of section 36N; and
 - (b) in relation to whose genotype the form of TSE concerned is so specified.

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- (3) Subsection (1) also applies to livestock whose genotype is not ascertained because—
- (a) it is not reasonable in the circumstances, by reason of urgency or otherwise, to seek to ascertain the genotype; or
 - (b) the genotype cannot, in the absence for the time being of scientific knowledge, established method or otherwise, reasonably be ascertained.

Powers of entry

36U Powers of entry

- (1) An inspector may enter any premises in Scotland for the purpose of—
- (a) ascertaining whether a function of the Scottish Ministers or inspectors under this Part should be exercised; or
 - (b) doing anything in pursuance of or in connection with the exercise of that function.
- (2) An inspector acting under subsection (1) must, if required, produce evidence of the inspector's authority.

Compensation

36V Compensation

- (1) The Scottish Ministers must pay compensation, of such amount as they may prescribe by order, in respect of—
- (a) any livestock slaughtered, or other thing destroyed, in accordance with a restriction notice;
 - (b) any livestock slaughtered, or other thing destroyed, by virtue of section 36R;
 - (c) any livestock slaughtered by virtue of section 36T(1).
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may make different provision for different cases or classes of case.

General

36W Orders and regulations

A statutory instrument containing an order or regulations under this Part is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

36X Interpretation

In this Part—

“keeper” includes an owner;

“inspector” means—

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (a) a person appointed as an inspector for the purposes of this Act by the Scottish Ministers; or
 - (b) a person authorised by the Scottish Ministers for those purposes;
- “livestock” means—
- (a) any creature, including a fish, which is kept, fattened or bred for the production of food, wool, skin or fur;
 - (b) any creature, other than a dog, which is kept for use in the farming of land; and
 - (c) any equine animal;
- “premises” includes—
- (a) any land or building; or
 - (b) any other place, in particular—
 - (i) a vehicle or vessel; or
 - (ii) a tent or moveable structure;
- “TSE” means transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.”.

Commencement Information

III S. 11 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

Miscellaneous

12 Powers of entry etc.

After section 62F of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“62G Powers of entry etc.: Scotland

- (1) An inspector may enter any premises in Scotland for the purpose of—
 - (a) ascertaining whether a power of slaughter conferred by or under any provision mentioned in subsection (3) should be exercised; or
 - (b) doing anything in pursuance of or in connection with the exercise of such a power.
- (2) A power of slaughter conferred by or under any provision mentioned in subsection (3) extends to the taking of any action for the purposes of or in connection with the exercise of the power.
- (3) The provisions are—
 - (a) section 16B of;
 - (b) section 32 of;
 - (c) Schedule 3 to;
 - (d) Schedule 3A to,this Act.
- (4) An inspector acting under subsection (1) must, if required, produce evidence of the inspector's authority.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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) Where any power of entry conferred on an inspector by this Act is exercised in relation to premises used exclusively as a dwelling-house, 24 hours' notice of the intended entry is to be given to the occupier unless the inspector thinks the case is one of urgency.
- (6) Any power of entry conferred on an inspector by this Act must be exercised at a reasonable hour unless the inspector thinks the case is one of urgency.
- (7) In this section and sections 62H and 62I, an “inspector” means—
 - (a) a person appointed as an inspector for the purposes of this Act by the Scottish Ministers; or
 - (b) a person authorised by the Scottish Ministers for those purposes.
- (8) In this section and sections 62H and 62I, “premises” includes—
 - (a) any land or building; or
 - (b) any other place, in particular—
 - (i) a vehicle or vessel; or
 - (ii) a tent or moveable structure.

62H Warrants

- (1) A sheriff or justice of the peace may issue a warrant authorising an inspector to enter (if necessary using reasonable force) any premises in Scotland for the purpose mentioned in subsection (2), if satisfied by evidence on oath that—
 - (a) the first condition is satisfied; and
 - (b) either the second or the third condition is satisfied.
- (2) The purpose is that of—
 - (a) ascertaining whether a function of the Scottish Ministers or inspectors under this Act should be exercised; or
 - (b) doing anything in pursuance of or in connection with the exercise of such a function.
- (3) The evidence must include—
 - (a) a statement as to whether any representations have been made by the occupier of the premises to an inspector concerning the purpose for which the warrant is sought;
 - (b) a summary of any such representations.
- (4) The first condition is that there are reasonable grounds for an inspector to enter the premises for that purpose.
- (5) The second condition is that each of the following applies—
 - (a) the occupier has been informed of the decision to seek entry to the premises and of the reasons for that decision;
 - (b) the occupier has failed to allow entry to the premises on being requested to do so by an inspector; and
 - (c) the occupier has been informed of the intention to apply for the warrant.
- (6) The third condition is that—

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (a) the premises are unoccupied or the occupier appears to be absent and (in either case) notice of intention to apply for the warrant has been left in a conspicuous place on the premises; or
 - (b) the object of entering would be defeated if the occupier were requested to allow entry or informed of an intention to apply for a warrant.
- (7) A warrant issued under this section must be executed at a reasonable hour unless the inspector thinks the case is one of urgency.
- (8) A warrant issued under this section remains in force for one month starting with the date of its grant.

62I Entry and warrants: supplementary

- (1) This section applies to an inspector who enters any premises by virtue of a power conferred on the inspector by or under this Act or under a warrant under section 62H.
- (2) The inspector may take on to the premises—
- (a) such other persons as the inspector thinks necessary to give the inspector such assistance as the inspector thinks necessary;
 - (b) such equipment as the inspector thinks necessary.
- (3) The inspector may require any person on the premises who falls within subsection (4) to give the inspector such assistance as the inspector may reasonably require.
- (4) The following persons fall within this subsection—
- (a) the occupier of the premises;
 - (b) a person appearing to the inspector to have charge of animals on the premises;
 - (c) a person appearing to the inspector to be under the direction or control of a person mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b).
- (5) If the inspector enters any premises by virtue of a warrant issued under section 62H the inspector must at the time of entry—
- (a) serve a copy of the warrant on the occupier of the premises; or
 - (b) if the occupier is not on the premises, leave a copy of the warrant in a conspicuous place on the premises.
- (6) If the inspector enters any unoccupied premises the inspector must leave them as effectively secured against entry as the inspector found them.”.

Commencement Information

I12 S. 12 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

13 Inspection of vehicles

After section 65A of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

“65B Inspection of vehicles: Scotland

- (1) If each of the conditions in subsection (2) is satisfied, an inspector may stop, detain and inspect any vehicle to ascertain whether the provisions of any of the following are being complied with—
 - (a) this Act;
 - (b) an order under this Act;
 - (c) a regulation of a local authority made in pursuance of such an order;
 - (d) regulations made by the Scottish Ministers under this Act.
- (2) The conditions are—
 - (a) that the vehicle is in an infected place or area;
 - (b) that the inspector is accompanied by a constable in uniform.
- (3) In this section, a “vehicle” includes—
 - (a) a trailer, a semi-trailer or other thing which is designed or adapted to be towed by another vehicle;
 - (b) anything on a vehicle;
 - (c) a detachable part of a vehicle;
 - (d) a container or other structure designed or adapted to be carried by or on a vehicle.”.

Commencement Information

I13 S. 13 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

14 Penalties and time limits

For section 75 (punishment of summary offences not otherwise provided for) of the 1981 Act there is substituted—

“75 Penalties and time limits for certain offences: Scotland

- (1) This section applies to any offence under this Act for which no penalty is specified by any other provision of this Act.
- (2) A person guilty of an offence to which this section applies is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to both.
- (3) Proceedings for an offence to which this section applies may be brought within the period of 6 months from the date on which evidence sufficient in the opinion of the prosecutor to warrant the proceedings came to the prosecutor's knowledge.
- (4) No such proceedings may be brought more than 3 years—
 - (a) after the commission of the offence; or
 - (b) in the case of an offence involving a continuous contravention, after the last date on which the offence was committed.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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) It shall be competent in a prosecution of an offence involving a continuous contravention to include the entire period during which the contravention occurred.
- (6) For the purposes of this section proceedings shall be deemed to be commenced on the date on which a warrant to apprehend or to cite the accused is granted provided that the warrant is executed without undue delay.
- (7) A certificate signed by or on behalf of the prosecutor and stating the date on which such evidence came to the prosecutor's knowledge is conclusive evidence of that fact; and a certificate stating that matter and purporting to be so signed is to be treated as being so signed unless the contrary is proved.”.

Commencement Information

114 [S. 14](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

15 Electronic communication

After section 83 of the 1981 Act there is inserted—

“83A Electronic communication: Scotland

- (1) Any requirement in the provisions mentioned in subsection (3) for something to be done in writing may be met by doing that thing as described in subsection (2).
- (2) That is, by using a document—
 - (a) transmitted by electronic means; and
 - (b) capable of being reproduced in legible form.
- (3) Those provisions are—
 - (a) sections 3(2), 30(1), 36Q(1) and (6), 40(1)(b), 41(1)(b), 47, 60(9), 63(4) and 65(1) of, and paragraph 2(4) of Schedule 3 to, this Act;
 - (b) sections 17(3), 22(7)(a), 62G(5) and 81 (each as read with section 83(1)) of this Act.
- (4) But subsection (1) applies in relation to section 17(3), 22(7)(a), 30(1), 36Q(1) or (6) or 62G(5) only if—
 - (a) the recipient has consented to receive electronic communication for the purpose; and
 - (b) transmission is to an email address provided by the recipient.
- (5) For the purposes of sections 17(3), 22(7)(a), 30(1) and 36Q(1), a document transmitted under subsection (1) shall be taken to be received on the day after the day of its transmission.
- (6) The Scottish Ministers may, for the purposes of this Act, by order make further provision for the purposes of or in connection with—
 - (a) using electronic communication (including the use of electronic signatures);
 - (b) using documents in electronic form.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (7) An order under subsection (6)—
 - (a) may make provision by amending this Act or otherwise;
 - (b) shall be made by statutory instrument subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.
- (8) In this section—
 - “electronic communication” is to be construed in accordance with section 15(1) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000 (c. 7);
 - “electronic signature” is to be construed in accordance with section 7(2) of that Act.”.

Commencement Information

I15 S. 15 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

PART 2

ANIMAL WELFARE

Introductory

16 Animals to which this Part applies

- (1) In this Part, “animal” means a vertebrate other than man.
- (2) But this Part does not apply to an animal while it is in its foetal or embryonic form.
- (3) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—
 - (a) make provision which—
 - (i) extends the definition of “animal” so as to include invertebrates of any description,
 - (ii) applies instead of subsection (2) as respects any invertebrate so included,
 - (b) amend subsection (2) so as to extend the application of such provisions of this Part as are specified in the regulations to an animal from such earlier stage of its development as is so specified.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (3) may be made only if the Scottish Ministers are satisfied, on the basis of scientific evidence, that creatures of the kind concerned are capable of experiencing pain or suffering.
- (5) Before making regulations under subsection (3), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
 - (a) such persons appearing to them to represent relevant interests, and
 - (b) such other persons,
 as they consider appropriate.
- (6) In this section—
 - “vertebrate” means any creature of the Sub-phylum Vertebrata of the Phylum Chordata,

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

“invertebrate” means any creature not of that Sub-phylum.

Commencement Information

I16 S. 16 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

17 Protected animals

- (1) In this Part, an animal is a “protected animal” if it is—
 - (a) of a kind which is commonly domesticated in the British Islands,
 - (b) under the control of man on a permanent or temporary basis, or
 - (c) not living in a wild state.
- (2) In subsection (1)(a), “British Islands” is to be construed in accordance with Schedule 1 to the Interpretation Act 1978 (c. 30).

Commencement Information

I17 S. 17 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

18 Responsibility for animals

- (1) In this Part, references to being responsible for an animal mean being responsible for it on a permanent or temporary basis.
- (2) In this Part, references to being responsible for an animal include being in charge of it.
- (3) For the purposes of this Part, a person who owns an animal is always to be regarded as being a person who is responsible for it.
- (4) For the purposes of this Part, a person (“person A”) is to be regarded as responsible for any animal for which a person who is under 16 years of age, of whom person A has actual care and control, is responsible.
- (5) For the purposes of this Part, a person does not relinquish responsibility for an animal by reason only of abandoning it.

Commencement Information

I18 S. 18 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

Prevention of harm

19 Unnecessary suffering

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person causes a protected animal unnecessary suffering by an act, and
 - (b) the person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act would have caused the suffering or be likely to do so.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (2) A person who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person causes the animal unnecessary suffering by an act or omission, and
 - (b) the person knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act or omission would have caused the suffering or be likely to do so.
- (3) A person (“person A”) who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if—
 - (a) another person causes the animal unnecessary suffering by an act or omission, and
 - (b) person A—
 - (i) permits that to happen, or
 - (ii) fails to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent that happening.
- (4) The considerations to which regard is to be had in determining, for the purposes of subsections (1) to (3), whether suffering is unnecessary include—
 - (a) whether the suffering could reasonably have been avoided or reduced,
 - (b) whether the conduct concerned was in compliance with any relevant enactment or any relevant provisions of a licence or code of practice issued under an enactment,
 - (c) whether the conduct concerned was for a legitimate purpose, for example—
 - (i) the purpose of benefiting the animal, or
 - (ii) the purpose of protecting a person, property or another animal,
 - (d) whether the suffering was proportionate to the purpose of the conduct concerned,
 - (e) whether the conduct concerned was in the circumstances that of a reasonably competent and humane person.
- [^{F1}(4A) In determining for the purposes of subsection (1) whether suffering is unnecessary in a case where it was caused by conduct for a purpose mentioned in subsection (4)(c) (ii), the fact that the conduct was for that purpose is to be disregarded if—
 - (a) the animal was under the control of a relevant officer at the time of the conduct,
 - (b) it was being used by that officer at that time, in the course of the officer's duties, in a way that was reasonable in all the circumstances, and
 - (c) that officer is not the person accused of committing the offence under subsection (1).
- (4B) In subsection (4A), “relevant officer” means—
 - (a) a constable,
 - (b) a special constable within the meaning of section 9 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012,
 - (c) a person (other than a constable or a special constable) who has the powers of a constable or is otherwise employed or engaged to carry out, or assist in the carrying out of, police functions (within the meaning of section 99(1) of that Act),
 - (d) a prisoner custody officer within the meaning of section 114 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.
- (4C) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsection (4B) to—

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (a) add to the categories of person specified in subsection (4B) other categories of person in the public service of the Crown,
 - (b) vary any category of person for the time being specified in subsection (4B),
 - (c) remove any category of person for the time being so specified.]
- (5) This section does not apply to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 19(4A)-(4C) inserted (30.11.2020) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 3, 22(2)**; [S.S.I. 2020/379](#), **reg. 2(1)**, **sch. (with reg. 3)**

Commencement Information

I19 S. 19 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2**

20 Mutilation

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person—
- (a) carries out a prohibited procedure on a protected animal, or
 - (b) causes a prohibited procedure to be carried out on a protected animal.
- (2) A person (“person A”) who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if—
- (a) another person carries out a prohibited procedure on the animal, and
 - (b) person A—
 - (i) permits that to happen, or
 - (ii) fails to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent that happening.
- (3) A person commits an offence if the person takes a protected animal, or causes a protected animal to be taken, from a place in Scotland for the purpose of having a prohibited procedure carried out on the animal at a place outwith Scotland.
- (4) In this section, references to the carrying out of a prohibited procedure on an animal are to the carrying out of a procedure which involves interference with the sensitive tissues or bone structure of the animal.
- (5) This section does not apply—
- (a) in relation to a procedure which is carried out for the purpose of medical treatment of an animal,
 - (b) in relation to a procedure which is carried out—
 - (i) for a purpose which,
 - (ii) in such manner as, and
 - (iii) in accordance with such conditions as,the Scottish Ministers may by regulations specify, or
 - (c) in such circumstances as the Scottish Ministers may by regulations specify.
- (6) Before making regulations under subsection (5), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons appearing to them to represent relevant interests, and
 - (b) such other persons,

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

as they consider appropriate.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 20 excluded (21.3.2007) by [The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals \(Exemptions\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2007 \(S.S.I. 2007/256\)](#), regs. 1, 3

Commencement Information

I20 S. 20(1)-(3) in force at 30.4.2007 by [S.S.I. 2007/257](#), art. 2

I21 S. 20(4)-(6) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), art. 2

21 Cruel operations

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person performs an operation on a protected animal without due care and humanity.
- (2) A person (“person A”) who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if—
 - (a) another person performs an operation on the animal without due care and humanity, and
 - (b) person A—
 - (i) permits that to happen, or
 - (ii) fails to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent that happening.
- (3) This section is subject to the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954 (c. 46).

Commencement Information

I22 S. 21 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), art. 2

22 Administration of poisons etc.

- (1) A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the person—
 - (a) administers a poisonous or injurious drug or substance to a protected animal, or
 - (b) causes such a drug or substance to be taken by a protected animal, and the person knows the drug or substance to be poisonous or injurious.
- (2) A person (“person A”) who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if—
 - (a) without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, another person—
 - (i) administers a poisonous or injurious drug or substance to the animal, or
 - (ii) causes such a drug or substance to be taken by the animal, and
 - (b) person A—
 - (i) permits that to happen, or
 - (ii) knowing the drug or substance to be poisonous or injurious, fails to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

or otherwise) as are reasonable in the circumstances to prevent that happening.

- (3) In this section, references to a poisonous or injurious drug or substance include a drug or substance which, by virtue of the quantity or manner in which it is administered or taken, has the effect of a poisonous or injurious drug or substance.

Commencement Information

I23 S. 22 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

23 Animal fights

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person—
- (a) keeps or trains an animal for an animal fight, or
 - (b) possesses, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, any equipment which is designed or adapted for use at an animal fight.
- (2) A person commits an offence if the person—
- (a) causes an animal fight to take place,
 - (b) arranges an animal fight,
 - (c) participates in making, or carrying out, arrangements for an animal fight (including allowing premises to be used for, or charging admission to attend, an animal fight),
 - (d) makes or accepts a bet on the outcome of an animal fight or on the likelihood of anything occurring (or not occurring) in the course of an animal fight, or
 - (e) takes part in an animal fight.
- (3) A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, the person is present at an animal fight.
- (4) A person commits an offence if the person—
- (a) supplies a video recording of an animal fight,
 - (b) publishes a video recording of an animal fight,
 - (c) shows a video recording of an animal fight to another person, or
 - (d) possesses a video recording of an animal fight with the intention of supplying it to another person.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not apply if the video recording is of an animal fight which took place—
- (a) outwith Great Britain, or
 - (b) before the date on which this subsection comes into force.
- (6) Subsection (4) does not apply—
- (a) in relation to anything done—
 - (i) for the purpose of, or
 - (ii) by means of,the inclusion of a video recording in a programme service,
 - (b) in relation to anything done for the purposes of or in connection with law enforcement (including for the education or training of persons involved in law enforcement), or

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (c) in relation to anything done in the course of any other lawful activity in so far as the thing is done in the public interest or with a view to the public interest being served.
- (7) For the purposes of subsections (4) to (6)—
 - (a) the expression “programme service” has the same meaning as in the Communications Act 2003 (c. 21),
 - (b) the expression “video recording” means a recording, in any form, from which a moving image may by any means be reproduced (and includes data stored on a computer disc or by other electronic means which is capable of conversion into a moving image),
 - (c) references to supplying or publishing a video recording are to supplying or publishing a video recording in any manner (including, in relation to a video recording in the form of data recorded electronically, by means of transmitting such data),
 - (d) references to showing a video recording are to showing a moving image reproduced from a video recording by any means.
- (8) Any reference in this Part to an animal in relation to which an offence was committed includes, in the case of an offence under this section, an animal involved in the animal fight concerned.
- (9) In this section, an “animal fight” is an occasion on which a protected animal is placed with an animal, or with a human, for the purpose of fighting, wrestling or baiting.

Commencement Information

I24 [S. 23](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Promotion of welfare

24 Ensuring welfare of animals

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person does not take such steps as are reasonable in the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which the person is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.
- (2) The circumstances to which, for the purposes of subsection (1), regard is to be had include—
 - (a) any lawful purpose for which the animal is kept,
 - (b) any lawful activity undertaken in relation to the animal.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), an animal's needs include—
 - (a) its need for a suitable environment,
 - (b) its need for a suitable diet,
 - (c) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
 - (d) any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals,
 - (e) its need to be protected from suffering, injury and disease.
- (4) This section does not apply to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

Commencement Information

I25 S. 24 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

25 Care notices

(1) If—

- (a) it comes to an inspector's attention (including on information received from a constable) that a person is failing to secure the welfare of an animal for which the person is responsible, and
- (b) it appears to the inspector that the failure constitutes an offence by the person under section 24,

the inspector may serve on the person a notice (in this section referred to as a “care notice”).

(2) A care notice must—

- (a) specify—
 - (i) the nature of the failure (including the reasons why it appears to the inspector that the failure constitutes an offence under section 24),
 - (ii) the date on which the failure came to the inspector's attention,
- (b) describe the steps that the inspector considers need to be taken in order for the failure to be rectified,
- (c) require that those steps be taken,
- (d) fix a period (the “compliance period”) within which those steps are to be taken, and
- (e) explain the effect of subsections (3) to (7).

(3) Where a care notice is served, no proceedings for—

- (a) an offence under subsection (7),
- (b) an offence under section 24 which is constituted by the failure specified (or any continuation of it),

may be taken in respect of the default period before the compliance period expires.

(4) Where a person complies with a care notice in every material regard, no proceedings for an offence under section 24 which is constituted by the failure specified (or any continuation of it) may be taken in respect of the default period.

(5) In subsections (3) and (4), the “default period” is the period—

- (a) beginning on the date specified under subsection (2)(a)(ii), and
- (b) ending on the date on which the compliance period expires.

(6) An inspector may extend any compliance period.

(7) A person on whom a care notice has been served commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, the person fails in a material regard to comply with the notice.

Commencement Information

I26 S. 25 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

26 Provision for securing welfare

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision for the purposes of, and in connection with, securing the welfare of—
 - (a) animals for which a person is responsible,
 - (b) the progeny of such animals.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may include, in particular—
 - (a) provision prescribing general or specific requirements or prohibitions,
 - (b) provision for enforcement, other than by way of proceedings for an offence, of provisions of the regulations,
 - (c) provision—
 - (i) that breach of a provision of the regulations is an offence,
 - (ii) for penalties as respects the offence,
 - (d) provision for and in connection with post-conviction orders (whether by reference to sections 39 to 43 or otherwise) in relation to an offence under the regulations,
 - (e) provision conferring on persons of a specified description powers of entry, search, inspection and seizure in connection with breaches (and suspected breaches) of provisions of the regulations,
 - (f) provision—
 - (i) that obstructing a person in the exercise of a power conferred by the regulations is an offence,
 - (ii) for penalties as respects the offence,
 - (g) provision (whether or not subject to specified conditions) for exemptions from, or qualification to, any requirements, prohibitions or offences provided for in the regulations.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (2), requirements and prohibitions may, in particular, relate to—
 - (a) the prevention of suffering,
 - (b) the way in which animals are looked after and the conditions in which they are kept,
 - (c) the identification of animals (whether by use of marks, microchips or otherwise),
 - (d) the breeding and rearing of animals,
 - (e) how animals are transported,
 - (f) how animals are prepared for killing and are killed,
 - (g) hygiene,
 - (h) the prevention of disease and of the spread of disease,
 - (i) the keeping of records.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (1) may also make provision for fees or other charges in relation to the exercise of functions under the regulations.
- (5) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
 - (a) such persons appearing to them to represent relevant interests, and
 - (b) such other persons,
 as they consider appropriate.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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Commencement Information

I27 S. 26 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

27 Licensing etc. of activities involving animals

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations prohibit the carrying on, without the authority of a licence for the purpose, of an activity which—
 - (a) involves animals for which a person is responsible, and
 - (b) is specified in the regulations.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations prohibit the carrying on, without the authority of registration for the purpose, of an activity which—
 - (a) involves animals for which a person is responsible, and
 - (b) is specified in the regulations.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (1) or (2) must be for the purposes of securing the welfare of animals for which a person is responsible.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (1) or (2) may include, in particular—
 - (a) provision for enforcement, other than by way of proceedings for an offence, of provisions of the regulations,
 - (b) provision—
 - (i) that breach of a provision of the regulations is an offence,
 - (ii) for penalties as respects the offence,
 - (c) provision for and in connection with post-conviction orders (whether by reference to sections 39 to 43 or otherwise) in relation to an offence under the regulations,
 - (d) provision conferring on persons of a specified description powers of entry, search, inspection and seizure in connection with breaches (and suspected breaches) of provisions of the regulations,
 - (e) provision—
 - (i) that obstructing a person in the exercise of a power conferred by the regulations is an offence,
 - (ii) for penalties as respects the offence,
 - (f) provision (whether or not subject to specified conditions) for exemptions from, or qualification to, an offence under the regulations.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision about—
 - (a) licences for the purposes of subsection (1),
 - (b) registration for the purposes of subsection (2).
- (6) Such provision may, in particular, relate to—
 - (a) procedures for—
 - (i) applying for licences or (as the case may be) registration,
 - (ii) granting and refusing applications,
 - (b) any—
 - (i) qualifications required to be held by applicants for licences or (as the case may be) registration,

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- (ii) other matters to be taken into account when considering applications for licences or (as the case may be) registration,
 - (c) conditions of licences or (as the case may be) registration,
 - (d) suspension and revocation of licences or (as the case may be) registration in specified circumstances,
 - (e) appeals in connection with the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d).
- (7) Regulations under subsection (5)(a) may include, in particular—
 - (a) provision for enforcement, other than by way of proceedings for an offence, of provisions of licences,
 - (b) provision—
 - (i) that contravention of a condition of a licence is an offence,
 - (ii) for penalties as respects the offence,
 - (c) provision for and in connection with post-conviction orders (whether by reference to sections 39 to 43 or otherwise) in relation to an offence under the regulations,
 - (d) provision conferring on persons of a specified description powers of entry, search, inspection and seizure in connection with contraventions (and suspected contraventions) of provisions of licences.
- (8) Regulations under subsection (1), (2) or (5) may also make provision for fees or other charges in relation to the exercise of functions under the regulations.
- (9) Before making regulations under subsection (1), (2) or (5), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
 - (a) such persons appearing to them to represent relevant interests, and
 - (b) such other persons,
 as they consider appropriate.

Commencement Information

I28 S. 27 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

28 Prohibition on keeping certain animals

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations prohibit the keeping at—
 - (a) domestic premises,
 - (b) other premises,
 of any animals of a kind specified in the regulations.
- (2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), “other premises”—
 - (a) does not include the premises of a zoo—
 - (i) to which the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (c. 37) applies, and
 - (ii) which is licensed under that Act,
 - (b) otherwise, means premises of such type as are described in the regulations.
- (3) Regulations under subsection (1) must be for the purposes of securing the welfare of animals.
- (4) Regulations under subsection (1) may include, in particular—

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- (a) provision for enforcement, other than by way of proceedings for an offence, of provisions of the regulations,
 - (b) provision—
 - (i) that breach of a provision of the regulations is an offence,
 - (ii) for penalties as respects the offence,
 - (c) provision for and in connection with post-conviction orders (whether by reference to sections 39 to 43 or otherwise) in relation to an offence under the regulations,
 - (d) provision conferring on persons of a specified description powers of entry, search, inspection and seizure in connection with breaches (and suspected breaches) of provisions of the regulations,
 - (e) provision—
 - (i) that obstructing a person in the exercise of a power conferred by the regulations is an offence,
 - (ii) for penalties as respects the offence,
 - (f) provision (whether or not subject to specified conditions) for exemptions from, or qualification to, an offence under the regulations.
- (5) In determining whether to make regulations under subsection (1) in relation to a type of premises, the Scottish Ministers must have regard to whether (and the extent to which) adequate provision for the welfare of animals of the kind in question—
- (a) is capable of being made, and
 - (b) is likely to be made,
- at that type of premises.
- (6) Before making regulations under subsection (1), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
- (a) such persons appearing to them to represent relevant interests, and
 - (b) such other persons,
- as they consider appropriate.

Commencement Information

I29 S. 28 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

29 Abandonment

- (1) A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, the person—
 - (a) abandons an animal for which the person is responsible, and
 - (b) does so in circumstances likely to cause it unnecessary suffering.
- (2) A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, the person—
 - (a) leaves unattended an animal for which the person is responsible, and
 - (b) fails to make adequate provision for its welfare.
- (3) The considerations to which regard is to be had in determining, for the purposes of subsection (2), whether such provision has been made include—
 - (a) the kind of animal concerned and its age and state of health,
 - (b) the length of time for which it is, or has been, left,
 - (c) what it reasonably requires by way of—

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- (i) food and water,
- (ii) shelter and warmth.

Commencement Information

I30 S. 29 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

30 Sale of animals to children

- (1) A person (“person A”) commits an offence if person A sells an animal to a person (“person B”) who is under 16 years of age.
- (2) It is a defence to a charge of an offence under subsection (1) for person A to demonstrate that person A—
 - (a) having been shown convincing evidence (for example, a passport or a photocard driving licence) of person B's identity and age, or
 - (b) having no reasonable cause to suspect from person B's appearance that person B was under 16 years of age,
 believed that person B was aged 16 years or over.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1), selling an animal includes transferring, or agreeing to transfer, ownership of the animal in consideration of entry by the transferee into another transaction.

Commencement Information

I31 S. 30 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

31 Offering animals as prizes

- (1) A person commits an offence if the person offers or gives an animal to another person as a prize.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply where the prize is offered or given in a family context.

Commencement Information

I32 S. 31 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

Animals in distress

32 Taking possession of animals

- (1) An inspector or a constable may, if it appears that a protected animal is suffering—
 - (a) take, or
 - (b) arrange for the taking of,
 such steps as appear to be immediately necessary to alleviate the animal's suffering.

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- (2) However, subsection (1) does not authorise the destruction of a protected animal (for which ^{F2}sections 32A and 35 make] provision).
- (3) If a veterinary surgeon certifies that a protected animal is—
 - (a) suffering, or
 - (b) likely to suffer if its circumstances do not change,an inspector or a constable may take possession of the animal.
- (4) But an inspector or a constable may take that step, or arrange for the taking of that step, without the certification of a veterinary surgeon if—
 - (a) it appears that the animal is—
 - (i) suffering, or
 - (ii) likely to suffer if its circumstances do not change, and
 - (b) it is reasonable in the circumstances not to seek the assistance of, or wait for, a veterinary surgeon.
- (5) Where possession is taken of an animal under subsection (3) or (4), an inspector or constable may also take possession of any dependent offspring of the animal.
- (6) Where possession is taken of an animal under subsection (3), (4) or (5), an inspector or a constable may—
 - (a) remove the animal, or arrange for it to be removed, to a place of safety,
 - (b) care for the animal, or arrange for it to be cared for—
 - (i) at the place where it was found,
 - (ii) at such other place as the inspector or constable considers appropriate.
 - ^{F3}(c) administer treatment (as defined in section 32A) to the animal, or arrange for treatment to be administered, but only where the treatment is, in the opinion of the inspector or constable, consistent with the long-term welfare of the animal and is unlikely to significantly—
 - (i) reduce the value of the animal, or
 - (ii) otherwise affect the character of the animal.]
- (7) An inspector or a constable may use (or arrange to have used) a mark, microchip or another method for identifying any animal so taken.
- (8) An inspector or a constable may, in acting under subsection (6)(b)(i), make use of any equipment found at the place.
- (9) A veterinary surgeon may examine, and take samples from, an animal for the purpose of determining its condition for the purposes of subsection (3).
- (10) In considering, for the purposes of subsection (3) or (4), whether an animal is likely to suffer if its circumstances do not change, account may be taken of any suffering of other animals that are (or were recently) subject to similar circumstances at the same place.
- (11) Any expenses reasonably incurred by an inspector or a constable in consequence of acting under this section are to be reimbursed by the owner or any other person responsible for the animal concerned.
- (12) This section is without prejudice to—
 - (a) the ability of an inspector or a constable to take possession of an animal with the consent of its owner or of any other person who is responsible for it, and

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- (b) any other authority for taking possession of an animal.

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 32(2) substituted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\), ss. 20\(a\), 22\(2\); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2\(d\)](#)
- F3** S. 32(6)(c) inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\), ss. 20\(b\), 22\(2\); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2\(d\)](#)

Commencement Information

- I33** S. 32 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2](#)

[^{F4}32A Powers of authorised person where animal taken into possession

- (1) Where a protected animal has been taken into possession under section 32, an authorised person may—
 - (a) without the consent of the owner of the animal or of any other person who is responsible for it, and
 - (b) without having applied for or obtained an order under section 34, take any of the steps mentioned in subsection (2) (in this section and in sections 32B to 32M, “relevant steps”).
- (2) The relevant steps are—
 - (a) administering treatment to the animal,
 - (b) transferring ownership of the animal to another person,
 - (c) destroying the animal.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4), in deciding to take a relevant step, the authorised person must have regard to the desirability of—
 - (a) protecting the long-term welfare of the animal so far as it is reasonable to do so,
 - (b) where the relevant step is administering treatment to the animal, protecting the value of the animal,
 - (c) avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be required to reimburse.
- (4) An authorised person may decide to destroy the animal under subsection (1) only if a veterinary surgeon certifies that destruction of the animal is appropriate.
- (5) An authorised person may take a relevant step only if—
 - (a) a notice has been served in accordance with sections 32B and 32C, and
 - (b) either—
 - (i) the time period specified in section 32D(3) has expired without an appeal being made to the court under section 32D, or
 - (ii) such an appeal having been made, subsection (6) applies.
- (6) This subsection applies where—
 - (a) the court has made an order under section 32D(6)(a) or (c) permitting the relevant step to be taken, or
 - (b) the appeal has been determined without any order being made which prevents the relevant step being taken.

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- (7) Subsection (5) is subject to section 32E(6).
- (8) If a relevant step may be taken under this section, the authorised person has all of the rights and powers an owner of the animal would have in relation to the taking of that step.
- (9) This section is without prejudice to—
- (a) the powers of inspectors and constables under sections 32 and 35,
 - (b) any other power or authority of an authorised person to take any relevant step or other action in relation to the animal.
- (10) In this section and in sections 32B to 32M—
- “authorised person” means—
- (a) an inspector or a constable who is caring for, or has arranged for the care of, the animal taken into possession under section 32,
 - (b) any other person—
 - (i) with whom an arrangement for the care of the animal has been made under section 32, and
 - (ii) who is authorised by the Scottish Ministers to exercise the power to take relevant steps under this section,
- references to the “taking” of relevant steps include references to arranging for those steps to be taken (and cognate expressions are to be construed accordingly),
- “treatment” means any treatment or procedure which has as its purpose—
- (a) the prevention, reduction or alleviation of a protected animal's illness, disease, pain or discomfort,
 - (b) the better management of the animal,
 - (c) the health, safety or well-being of any other animal or person.

Textual Amendments

- F4** Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32B Decision notice for exercise of powers under section 32A: content

- (1) Before taking a relevant step under section 32A(1), an authorised person must serve a notice (in this section and in sections 32C to 32M, a “decision notice”) specifying—
- (a) a description of the protected animal,
 - (b) the date on which the animal was taken into possession under section 32,
 - (c) the relevant step that the authorised person intends to take in relation to the animal,
 - (d) the reason for taking that step (including, if the step is to destroy the animal, confirmation that a certificate has been obtained from a veterinary surgeon in accordance with section 32A(4)),
 - (e) how any compensation will be assessed and the process by which it may become payable in accordance with sections 32G to 32K if the step is taken,
 - (f) the effect of section 32L,

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- (g) how service of the decision notice affects rights to apply for court orders under sections 33 and 34,
 - (h) the procedure for appealing to the court in respect of the decision notice and the period within which such an appeal may be made.
- (2) A decision notice which specifies a relevant step mentioned in section 32A(2)(b) need not include any details of the proposed transfer of ownership of the animal other than the fact that such a transfer is proposed.
- (3) The authorised person may choose to include in the decision notice the market value of the animal at the time the animal was taken into possession under section 32.
- (4) But see sections 32E(5) and 32F(5) which make further provision for when a decision notice may and may not be served.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32C Decision notice: service

- (1) Before serving a decision notice, an authorised person must—
- (a) make reasonable enquiries to establish the identity of the owner of the protected animal, or
 - (b) be satisfied that such reasonable enquiries have been made by another person.
- (2) A decision notice must be served on the owner of the animal by—
- (a) leaving it at the owner's home or business address, or
 - (b) sending it to such an address by—
 - (i) a registered post service (as defined in section 125(1) of the Postal Services Act 2000), or
 - (ii) a postal service which provides for the delivery of the document to be recorded.
- (3) A single decision notice may be served in respect of two or more animals where—
- (a) those animals were taken into possession under section 32 under the same exercise of the power conferred by that section, and
 - (b) in the opinion of the authorised person, the animals have the same owner.
- (4) The date of service of a decision notice is the date on which it was served under subsection (2).
- (5) Evidence that a decision notice has been sent in accordance with subsection (2)(b)(i) or (ii) is sufficient evidence of service of it.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

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32D Appeal to the court in respect of decision notice

- (1) A person mentioned in subsection (2) may appeal to the court for an order in respect of a decision notice.
- (2) The person is—
 - (a) the owner of the protected animal to which the decision notice relates,
 - (b) any other person appearing to the court to have a sufficient concern for the animal.
- (3) An appeal to the court under this section may only be made before the expiry of the period of 3 weeks beginning with the date of service of the decision notice.
- (4) A person is entitled to be heard in relation to an appeal under subsection (1) if (despite not being the appellant) the person is—
 - (a) a person mentioned in subsection (2),
 - (b) an authorised person,
 - (c) an inspector (if not an authorised person),
 - (d) a constable who took the animal into possession under section 32 (if not an authorised person).
- (5) The grounds on which an appeal to the court may be made under this section are that the decision to serve a decision notice or to specify any relevant step in it—
 - (a) is materially affected by an error of fact,
 - (b) is wrong in law,
 - (c) is unreasonable.
- (6) The court may—
 - (a) make an order permitting the relevant step specified in the decision notice to be taken,
 - (b) make an order that the relevant step specified in the decision notice must not be taken,
 - (c) make an order varying the decision notice to permit a different relevant step to be taken in relation to the animal (including by varying a relevant step specified in the notice or by substituting for it another relevant step),
 - (d) make an order which would be available to the court on a valid application to it under subsection (1) of section 33 on the same terms as set out in that section,
 - (e) dispose of the proceedings in any other way it thinks fit.
- (7) An order under subsection (6) may include—
 - (a) provision appointing a person who is to secure that the order is carried out,
 - (b) such other provision as the court considers appropriate in connection with the order.
- (8) The decision of the court on an appeal under this section is final.
- (9) If the court makes an order under subsection (6)(b), an authorised person may, subject to following the procedure in sections 32A to 32C, decide to take a different relevant step in relation to the animal.
- (10) In this section, “court” means the sheriff.

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Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32E Effect of decision notice on applications under section 33

- (1) Subsections (2) to (4) and (6) set out how section 33 operates where a decision notice has been served specifying a relevant step mentioned in section 32A(2)(b) or (c) in respect of a protected animal (whether or not a step mentioned in section 32A(2)(a) is also specified).
- (2) An application to the court for an order under section 33 in respect of the animal—
 - (a) may be made before the expiry of the period of 3 weeks beginning with the date of service of the decision notice,
 - (b) may not then be made unless and until one of the circumstances mentioned in subsection (3) occurs.
- (3) Those circumstances are—
 - (a) the court makes an order under section 32D(6) which—
 - (i) results in no relevant step being permitted (other than a step mentioned in section 32A(2)(a)), and
 - (ii) does not result in the animal being returned to its owner or its ownership being transferred to another person,
 - (b) the relevant step specified in the decision notice is not taken within 1 year beginning with the date mentioned in subsection (4),
 - (c) an authorised person advises the owner in writing that the relevant step specified in the decision notice will not be taken.
- (4) The date referred to in subsection (3)(b) is—
 - (a) the date on which the decision notice was served, provided that—
 - (i) no application under section 33 is made in accordance with subsection (2)(a), and
 - (ii) no appeal under section 32D is made in accordance with section 32D(3),
 - (b) where an application under section 33 made in accordance with subsection (2) (a) is rejected by the court, the date it is so rejected, provided no appeal is made,
 - (c) where a decision mentioned at paragraph (b) is appealed, the date on which the appeal is rejected,
 - (d) where an appeal under section 32D is made in accordance with section 32D(3) and the court makes an order under section 32D(6)(a) or (c) which results in a step mentioned in section 32A(2)(b) or (c) being permitted, the date of that order, or
 - (e) where such an appeal is determined without any order being made which prevents a relevant step (other than a step mentioned in section 32A(2)(a)) being taken, the date of that determination.
- (5) If an application is made to the court under section 33 before a decision notice has been served—

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (a) an authorised person may not serve such a notice in respect of the animal to which the application relates until the proceedings under section 33 are finally disposed of or abandoned, and
 - (b) if such a notice is served, it is of no effect.
- (6) If an application is made to the court under section 33 in accordance with subsection (2), an authorised person may not take the relevant step specified in the decision notice in respect of the animal until the proceedings under section 33 are finally disposed of or abandoned.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32F Effect of decision notice on applications under section 34

- (1) Subsections (2) to (4) set out how section 34 operates where a decision notice has been served specifying a relevant step mentioned in section 32A(2)(b) or (c) in respect of a protected animal (whether or not a step mentioned in section 32A(2)(a) is also specified).
- (2) An application to the court for an order under section 34 in respect of the animal may not be made unless and until one of the circumstances mentioned in subsection (3) occurs.
- (3) Those circumstances are—
- (a) the court makes an order under section 32D(6) which—
 - (i) results in no relevant step being permitted (other than a step mentioned in section 32A(2)(a)), and
 - (ii) does not result in the animal being returned to its owner or its ownership being transferred to another person,
 - (b) the relevant step specified in the decision notice is not taken within 1 year beginning with the date mentioned in subsection (4),
 - (c) an authorised person advises the owner in writing that the relevant step specified in the decision notice will not be taken.
- (4) The date referred to in subsection (3)(b) is—
- (a) the date on which the decision notice was served, provided that—
 - (i) no application under section 33 is made in accordance with section 32E(2)(a), and
 - (ii) no appeal under section 32D is made in accordance with section 32D(3),
 - (b) where an application under section 33 made in accordance with section 32E(2)(a) is rejected by the court, the date it is so rejected, provided that no appeal is made,
 - (c) where a decision mentioned at paragraph (b) is appealed, the date on which the appeal is rejected,
 - (d) where an appeal under section 32D is made in accordance with section 32D(3) and the court makes an order under section 32D(6)(a) or (c) which results in

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- a step mentioned in section 32A(2)(b) or (c) being permitted, the date of that order, or
 - (e) where such an appeal is determined without any order being made which prevents a relevant step (other than a step mentioned in section 32A(2)(a)) being taken, the date of that determination.
- (5) If an application is made to the court under section 34 before a decision notice has been served—
- (a) an authorised person may not serve such a notice in respect of the animal to which the application relates until the proceedings under section 34 are finally disposed of or abandoned, and
 - (b) if such a notice is served, it is of no effect.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 14), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32G Compensation notice for exercise of powers under section 32A

- (1) If a relevant step specified in a decision notice is taken in relation to a protected animal, an authorised person must serve a notice (in this section and in sections 32H to 32M, a “compensation notice”) specifying—
- (a) a description of the animal,
 - (b) which relevant step has been taken,
 - (c) the date on which the relevant step was taken,
 - (d) the compensation amount (if any) and how this has been calculated in accordance with section 32H,
 - (e) the effect the existence or possibility of relevant criminal proceedings may have on the payment of the compensation amount,
 - (f) the process for payment of any compensation amount,
 - (g) whether the authorised person is electing to defer payment of the compensation amount under section 32K(3),
 - (h) the procedure for appealing to the court in respect of the compensation amount under section 32J.
- (2) Before serving a compensation notice, an authorised person must—
- (a) make reasonable enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the relevant owner of the animal, or
 - (b) be satisfied that such reasonable enquiries have been made by another person.
- (3) A compensation notice must be served on the relevant owner of the animal by—
- (a) leaving it at the relevant owner's home or business address,
 - (b) sending it to such an address by—
 - (i) a registered post service (as defined in section 125(1) of the Postal Services Act 2000), or
 - (ii) sending it by a postal service which provides for the delivery of the document to be recorded, or
 - (c) such other method as the court, on the application of the authorised person, determines.

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- (4) Subject to subsection (5), the authorised person must serve a compensation notice on the relevant owner of the animal within 3 months of a relevant step specified in the decision notice being taken.
- (5) Where the decision notice specified more than one relevant step, the authorised person must serve a compensation notice on the relevant owner of the animal within 3 months of the earlier of—
 - (a) the last relevant step being taken,
 - (b) the expiry of the period of 1 year beginning with the date on which the first relevant step is taken.
- (6) Where subsection (5)(b) applies, the authorised person must serve a compensation notice in respect of any other relevant step specified in the decision notice within 3 months of it being taken.
- (7) A single compensation notice may be served in respect of two or more animals where—
 - (a) a single decision notice was served in respect of those animals by virtue of section 32C(3), and
 - (b) relevant steps have been taken by virtue of that notice in relation to all of those animals.
- (8) Evidence that a compensation notice has been sent in accordance with subsection (3)(b)(i) or (ii) is sufficient evidence of service of it.
- (9) In this section, “court” means the sheriff.
- (10) In this section and in sections 32H to 32L—

“relevant criminal proceedings” means proceedings in respect of a relevant offence which arise from the circumstances which led to the protected animal being taken into possession under section 32,

“relevant offence” means an offence under any of the following—

 - (a) sections 19 to 23,
 - (b) section 24 or 25(7),
 - (c) section 29,
 - (d) section 40(11),

“relevant owner” means the person who was the owner of the animal at the time it was taken into possession under section 32.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32H Compensation amount

- (1) This section provides for the calculation of the compensation amount which is to be specified in the compensation notice.
- (2) Where the only relevant step specified in the decision notice is the step mentioned in section 32A(2)(a), the compensation amount is an amount equivalent to any decrease

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in the market value of the protected animal caused by the administration of the treatment, less any relevant expenses mentioned in subsection (4)(b).

(3) Where the relevant step specified in the decision notice is the step mentioned in section 32A(2)(b) or (c), or the step mentioned in section 32A(2)(a) along with another relevant step, the compensation amount is an amount equivalent to the greater of—

- (a) the market value of the animal at the time it was taken into possession under section 32,
- (b) the market value of the animal at the time immediately before the last relevant step specified in the compensation notice was taken, and
- (c) any proceeds of sale of the animal,

less the amounts mentioned in subsection (4).

(4) The amounts referred to in subsections (2) and (3) are—

- (a) any compensation amount which has been the subject of a previous compensation notice in respect of that animal, and
- (b) any relevant expenses to the extent they have not been—
 - (i) reimbursed by or on behalf of the relevant owner, or
 - (ii) deducted from any amount in accordance with subsection (2) or (3) in relation to a previous compensation notice in respect of that animal.

(5) In this section and in sections 32I and 32L, “relevant expenses” means—

- (a) any expenses reasonably incurred in relation to the animal after it was taken into possession under section 32,
- (b) the reasonable costs of taking the relevant step specified in the compensation notice, and
- (c) the reasonable costs of taking a relevant step specified in a previous compensation notice in respect of the animal,

to the extent that they have been incurred by or on behalf of an authorised person or, where the authorised person is an individual, the authorised person's employer.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32I Application of proceeds of sale

(1) This section applies where—

- (a) a relevant step specified in the decision notice is the step mentioned in section 32A(2)(b), and
- (b) that step is taken.

(2) Any proceeds of sale of the animal are to be applied by the authorised person in the following order—

- (a) to meeting any liability of the relevant owner to reimburse any relevant expenses,
- (b) to meeting any liability of the authorised person to pay any compensation amount to the relevant owner.

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- (3) The relevant owner's entitlement to the compensation amount is instead of any entitlement any owner has to any proceeds of sale of the animal.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 14), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32J Appeal to court in respect of compensation amount

- (1) The relevant owner of a protected animal may appeal to the court for an order in respect of the compensation amount.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), an appeal to the court under this section may only be made before the expiry of the period of 3 months beginning with the date of service of the compensation notice (or, if more than one notice has been served by virtue of section 32G(5) or (6), the last of those notices).
- (3) Where the authorised person has deferred payment of the compensation amount under section 32K(3), an appeal to the court under this section may only be made within the period of 1 month beginning with the date determined in accordance with section 32K(4).
- (4) A person is entitled to be heard in relation to an appeal under subsection (1) if the person is—
- (a) an authorised person,
 - (b) an inspector (if not an authorised person),
 - (c) a constable who took the animal into possession under section 32 (if not an authorised person).
- (5) The court may—
- (a) order payment of the compensation amount specified in the compensation notice,
 - (b) order payment of a different compensation amount,
 - (c) order that no compensation be paid.
- (6) The decision of the court on an appeal under this section is final.
- (7) In this section, “court” means the sheriff.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 14), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32K Payment of compensation amount

- (1) Subject to any order of a convicting court under section 32L that the relevant owner's right to compensation is forfeited (in whole or in part), this section determines when the compensation amount becomes payable.

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- (2) Unless the authorised person opts to defer payment of it under subsection (3), the compensation amount becomes payable to the relevant owner (determined in accordance with subsection (6)) when either—
 - (a) the period within which an appeal to the court may be made under section 32J has expired without an appeal being made, or
 - (b) such an appeal having been made, the court has made an order under section 32J(5)(a) or (b).
- (3) The authorised person may defer payment of the compensation amount where—
 - (a) relevant criminal proceedings have been commenced against the relevant owner and have not been concluded, or
 - (b) in the opinion of the authorised person, the relevant owner is at risk of having relevant criminal proceedings brought against them.
- (4) Where the authorised person has deferred payment of the compensation amount, the compensation amount becomes payable to the relevant owner (determined in accordance with subsection (6)) as follows—
 - (a) where relevant criminal proceedings had been commenced before the compensation notice was served or such proceedings were commenced within the period of 1 year beginning with the date that notice was served, on the conclusion of those relevant criminal proceedings,
 - (b) otherwise, on the expiry of the period of 1 year beginning with the date on which the compensation notice was served.
- (5) Once it has become payable, the compensation amount must be paid within 3 weeks of the relevant owner (determined in accordance with subsection (6)) providing details of the bank account to which payment may be made.
- (6) The person who is determined to be the relevant owner for the purposes of this section is—
 - (a) in a case where no appeal has been made under section 32J and the authorised person is satisfied as to who the relevant owner is, that person,
 - (b) otherwise, the person determined by the court to be the relevant owner—
 - (i) on an appeal under section 32D in relation to the decision notice,
 - (ii) on an appeal under section 32J in relation to the compensation amount,
 - (iii) on an application under section 33 or 34, or
 - (iv) on an application to the court for the purposes of this subsection.
- (7) Where the authorised person is unable to pay the compensation amount in accordance with subsection (5) (because the relevant owner has not provided the bank account details mentioned in that subsection or for some other reason), the authorised person may apply to the court for an order as to the disposal of the compensation amount.
- (8) In subsections (6)(b)(iv) and (7), “court” means the sheriff.

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 19, 22(2)**; S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

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32L Forfeiture of compensation

- (1) Where—
 - (a) a person is convicted of a relevant offence, and
 - (b) that conviction arises out of relevant criminal proceedings,the convicting court may order that the person forfeits (in whole or in part) any right to compensation which would otherwise be due under this Part in respect of the protected animal to which the offence relates.
- (2) Where the court makes an order under subsection (1), any compensation amount payable under section 32K is adjusted accordingly.
- (3) An order under subsection (1) may include such other provision the court considers appropriate, including for the disposal of any proceeds of sale which would otherwise be applied under section 32I(2)(b) to meet the authorised person's liability to pay the compensation amount to the relevant owner.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision for or in connection with the disposal of any proceeds of sale under subsection (3).
- (5) Regulations under subsection (4) may modify any enactment (including this Act).

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

32M Modification of powers over animals

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision—
 - (a) about the content and service of decision notices and compensation notices, including, in particular, provision in relation to—
 - (i) the matters which must be specified in a notice,
 - (ii) the person on whom a notice must be served,
 - (iii) the method by which service of a notice may be effected (including how service may be effected other than in accordance with section 32C(2) or 32G(3)),
 - (iv) the date of service of a notice (including the evidence required to prove service has been effected),
 - (b) about the calculation and payment of the compensation amount, including, in particular—
 - (i) the person to whom the compensation amount may or must be paid,
 - (ii) the timing and procedure for payment of the compensation amount (including deferral of payment),
 - (iii) forfeiture of compensation,
 - (c) about appeals in relation to decision notices and compensation notices under sections 32D and 32J, including, in particular—
 - (i) the timing and procedure for an appeal,
 - (ii) the orders which a court may make on an appeal.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) may—

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- (a) modify any enactment (including this Act),
- (b) make different provision for different purposes.]

Textual Amendments

F4 Ss. 32A-32M inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. 19, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(c)

33 Release orders where animals taken

- (1) The court may order that any animal taken into possession under section 32 be given up to a person specified in the order.
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may be made on summary application by—
 - (a) the owner of the animal, or
 - (b) any other person appearing to the court to have a sufficient concern for the animal.
- (3) A person is entitled to be heard in relation to an application for an order under subsection (1) if (despite not being the applicant) the person is—
 - (a) the owner of the animal,
 - (b) an inspector,
 - (c) a constable who—
 - (i) took the animal into possession under section 32,
 - (ii) is caring for, or has arranged for the care of, the animal under that section,
 - (d) a person—
 - (i) with whom an arrangement for the care of the animal has been made under that section, and
 - (ii) who is authorised by the Scottish Ministers to be heard in relation to the application, or
 - (e) any other person appearing to the court to have a sufficient concern for the animal.
- (4) In determining whether to make an order under subsection (1), the court must have regard to the desirability of—
 - (a) protecting the value of any animal to which the order applies, and
 - (b) avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be required to reimburse.

Commencement Information

I34 S. 33 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), art. 2

34 Disposal orders where animals taken

- (1) The court may, in relation to any animal taken into possession under section 32, order—
 - (a) that specified treatment be administered to the animal,

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- (b) that the animal be—
 - (i) destroyed,
 - (ii) sold, or
 - (iii) disposed of in another manner.
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may include—
 - (a) provision appointing a person who is to secure that the order is carried out,
 - (b) such other provision as the court considers appropriate in connection with the order.
- (3) Provision under subsection (2)(b) may, in particular, require reimbursement of any expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out the order.
- (4) An order under subsection (1) may be made on summary application by—
 - (a) the owner of the animal,
 - (b) an inspector,
 - (c) a constable who—
 - (i) took the animal into possession under section 32,
 - (ii) is caring for, or has arranged for the care of, the animal under that section,
 - (d) a person—
 - (i) with whom an arrangement for the care of the animal has been made under that section, and
 - (ii) who is authorised by the Scottish Ministers to make the application,

[^{F5}(da) an authorised person (as defined in section 32A) who does not fall within paragraphs (b) to (d),] or

 - (e) any other person appearing to the court to have a sufficient concern for the animal.
- [^{F6}(4A) A person mentioned in paragraphs (b) to (da) of subsection (4) may only make an application for an order under subsection (1) if a decision notice cannot be served under section 32C(2).]
- (5) A person is entitled to be heard in relation to an application for an order under subsection (1) if (despite not being the applicant) the person is—
 - (a) a person mentioned in paragraph (a) to (c) [^{F7}, (da)] or (e) of subsection (4), or
 - (b) a person—
 - (i) with whom an arrangement for the care of the animal has been made under section 32, and
 - (ii) who is authorised by the Scottish Ministers to be heard in relation to the application.
- (6) The court may not make an order under subsection (1) which involves the destruction of an animal unless it is satisfied, on evidence provided (orally or in writing) by a veterinary surgeon, that destruction would be in the interests of the animal.
- (7) Before making an order under subsection (1), the court must give the owner of the animal an opportunity to make representations unless it is not practicable for it to do so.
- (8) In determining whether or how to make an order under subsection (1), the court must have regard to the desirability of—
 - (a) protecting the value of any animal to which the order applies, and

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- (b) avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be required to reimburse.
- (9) If an owner of an animal is subject to any liability by virtue of—
 - (a) section 32(11),
 - (b) subsection (3),
 any sum which the owner is due from any proceeds of sale of the animal under this section may be used to offset the liability.

Textual Amendments

- F5** S. 34(4)(da) inserted (30.9.2021) by Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 14), **ss. 21(a)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(e) (with reg. 3)
- F6** S. 34(4A) inserted (30.9.2021) by Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 14), **ss. 21(b)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(e) (with reg. 3)
- F7** Words in s. 34(5)(a) inserted (30.9.2021) by Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 14), **ss. 21(c)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(e) (with reg. 3)

Commencement Information

- I35** S. 34 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, **art. 2**

35 Resort to destruction of animals

- (1) If a veterinary surgeon certifies that the condition of a protected animal is such that it is appropriate that it be destroyed, an inspector or a constable may—
 - (a) destroy the animal where it is or take it elsewhere and destroy it there, or
 - (b) arrange for the taking of any of those steps.
- (2) But an inspector or a constable may take, or arrange for the taking of, any of those steps without the certification of a veterinary surgeon if—
 - (a) it appears the condition of the animal is such that there is no reasonable alternative to destroying it, and
 - (b) it is reasonable in the circumstances not to seek the assistance of, or wait for, a veterinary surgeon.
- (3) A veterinary surgeon may examine, and take samples from, an animal for the purpose of determining its condition for the purposes of subsection (1).
- (4) Any expenses reasonably incurred by an inspector or a constable in consequence of acting under this section are to be reimbursed by the owner or any other person responsible for the animal concerned.

Commencement Information

- I36** S. 35 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, **art. 2**

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Welfare bodies, codes and guidance

36 Animal welfare bodies

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—
 - (a) establish a body with the function of providing advice to—
 - (i) the Scottish Ministers, and
 - (ii) such other persons as the Scottish Ministers may direct, on such matters concerning the welfare of protected animals as may be specified in the regulations,
 - (b) make such provision for the purposes of and in connection with the establishment and operation of the body as the Scottish Ministers consider appropriate.
- (2) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision for facilitating or improving co-ordination among bodies which have functions relating to the welfare of protected animals.

Commencement Information

I37 S. 36 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

37 Animal welfare codes

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may make codes of practice for the purpose of providing practical guidance in respect of any provision made by this Part or by regulations under this Part.
- (2) Before making a code of practice under subsection (1) (in this section referred to as an “animal welfare code”), the Scottish Ministers must consult—
 - (a) such persons appearing to them to represent relevant interests, and
 - (b) such other persons,as they consider appropriate.
- (3) An animal welfare code may—
 - (a) make different provision for different cases or class of case,
 - (b) revise a previous code.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by notice revoke, with such transitional or saving provision as they consider to be necessary or expedient, any animal welfare code.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers must, in such manner and to such extent as they consider appropriate, publicise any animal welfare code.
- (6) An animal welfare code—
 - (a) requires to be laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Scottish Parliament, and
 - (b) comes into effect on such date after approval under paragraph (a) as is specified in the code.
- (7) A notice revoking an animal welfare code—
 - (a) requires to be laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Parliament, and

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- (b) revokes the code on such date after approval under paragraph (a) as is specified in the notice.
- (8) A person's failure to comply with a provision of an animal welfare code does not of itself render the person liable to proceedings of any sort.
- (9) In any proceedings for an offence under this Part, or under regulations made under section 26 or 27—
 - (a) failure to comply with a relevant provision of an animal welfare code may be relied upon as tending to establish liability,
 - (b) compliance with a relevant provision of an animal welfare code may be relied upon as tending to negative liability.

Commencement Information

I38 [S. 37](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

38 Animal welfare guidance

The Scottish Ministers may, with a view to securing the welfare of protected animals, issue guidance on such matters as they consider appropriate.

Commencement Information

I39 [S. 38](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Post-conviction orders

39 Deprivation orders

- (1) Where a person is convicted of a relevant offence, the convicting court may make an order (in this Part referred to as a “deprivation order”) in respect of any animal in relation to which the offence was committed.
- (2) A deprivation order is an order—
 - (a) depriving a person of possession or ownership (or both) of an animal, and
 - (b) for—
 - (i) the destruction,
 - (ii) the sale, or
 - (iii) another disposal,
 of the animal.
- (3) Where the court decides not to make a deprivation order in relation to a relevant offence, it must state its reasons except where it makes a disqualification order in relation to the offence.
- (4) A deprivation order may be made in addition to, or instead of, any other penalty or order which may be imposed in relation to a relevant offence.
- (5) A deprivation order may make provision in respect of any dependent offspring of an animal to which it applies.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (6) A deprivation order may include—
- (a) provision—
 - (i) appointing a person who is to secure that the order is carried out,
 - (ii) requiring any person possessing an animal to which the order applies to give it up to a person appointed under sub-paragraph (i),
 - (b) provision authorising—
 - (i) a person appointed under paragraph (a)(i), and
 - (ii) any person acting on that person's behalf,to enter, for the purposes of securing that the order is carried out, any premises where an animal to which the order applies is kept,
 - (c) such other provision as the court considers appropriate in connection with the order.
- (7) Provision under subsection (6)(c) may, in particular—
- (a) require reimbursement of any expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out the order,
 - (b) relate to the retention of any proceeds of the disposal.
- (8) Except in the case of an offence under section 23, the court may not make a deprivation order which involves the destruction of an animal unless it is satisfied, on evidence provided (orally or in writing) by a veterinary surgeon, that destruction would be in the interests of the animal.
- (9) Before making a deprivation order, the court must give the owner of the animal concerned an opportunity to make representations unless it is not practicable for it to do so.
- (10) In this section, a “relevant offence” is—
- (a) an offence under sections 19 to 23,
 - (b) an offence under section 24 or 25(7),
 - (c) an offence under section 29,
 - (d) an offence under section 40(11) committed by reason of owning or keeping an animal.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 Ss. 39, 40 applied (1.9.2021) by [The Animal Welfare \(Licensing of Activities Involving Animals\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021 \(S.S.I. 2021/84\)](#), regs. 1, **25(1)**

Commencement Information

I40 S. 39 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2** (with [art. 4\(1\)\(b\)](#))

40 Disqualification orders

- (1) Where a person is convicted of a relevant offence, the convicting court [^{F8}must consider whether it is necessary, to protect animal welfare, to] make an order (in this Part referred to as a “disqualification order”) which imposes on the person one or more of the disqualifications specified in subsection (2).

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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[^{F9}(1A) The purpose of a disqualification order is for the future protection of animals and not in substitution for a penalty for a relevant offence.]

(2) Those are disqualification from—

- (a) owning or keeping animals (or both),
- (b) dealing in animals,
- (c) transporting animals,
- (d) working with or using animals,
- (e) riding or driving animals,
- (f) providing any service relating to animals (including, in particular, for their care) which involves taking possession of animals,
- (g) taking possession of animals for the purpose of an activity in respect of which a disqualification mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (f) is imposed,
- (h) taking charge of animals for any, or any other, purpose.

(3) For the purposes of subsections (1) and (2), disqualification in respect of an activity includes disqualification from any participation in the activity including, in particular—

- (a) making arrangements in connection with the activity,
- (b) being party to arrangements under which the activity may be controlled or influenced,
- (c) being concerned (so far as relating to the activity) in the management or control of a body whose business involves the activity.

(4) However, disqualification by reference to subsection (2)(h) does not include disqualification from taking charge of an animal for so long as is necessary in the circumstances—

- (a) with the consent of the owner or keeper of the animal, for the purpose of caring for it,
 - (b) for the purpose of alleviating any suffering of the animal,
- if no alternative arrangements for its care are reasonably available.

[^{F10}(5) The court must state its reasons—

- (a) for deciding to make or, as the case may be, not make a disqualification order,
- (b) where it decides to make such an order—
 - (i) for including in the order the particular disqualifications imposed by it,
 - (ii) for specifying, under subsection (9)(a), the period for which the order is to have effect, and
 - (iii) for specifying, under subsection (9)(b), a period within which no application under section 42(1) may be made.]

(6) A disqualification order may be made in addition to ^{F11}... any other penalty or order which may be imposed in relation to a relevant offence.

(7) A disqualification order may apply to animals generally or to animals of any particular kind.

(8) A disqualification order which imposes disqualification from owning or keeping animals of a particular kind may in any appropriate case be framed so as to provide

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that the disqualification is from owning or keeping more than a specified maximum number of animals of that kind.

- (9) A disqualification order—
- (a) has effect for such period as may be specified in the order,
 - (b) may specify a period within which an application under section 42(1) for termination or variation of the order may not be made.
- (10) The court may suspend the operation of a disqualification order—
- (a) for such period as it considers necessary for enabling arrangements to be made for the keeping of any animals to which the order applies,
 - (b) pending an appeal.
- (11) A person who breaches a disqualification order commits an offence.
- (12) If a disqualification order framed as described in subsection (8) is breached, the breach is to be regarded, for the purpose of—
- (a) any proceedings for an offence under subsection (11),
 - (b) the making of—
 - (i) a deprivation order,
 - (ii) a seizure order,
- as having occurred in relation to all the animals of the particular kind concerned (that is, without restriction by reference to the maximum number specified).
- (13) In this section, a “relevant offence” is—
- (a) an offence under subsection (11),
 - (b) an offence under sections 19 to 23,
 - (c) an offence under section 24 or 25(7),
 - (d) an offence under section 29.

Textual Amendments

- F8** Words in s. 40(1) substituted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 4(2)(a)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(a)
- F9** S. 40(1A) inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 5(2)(a)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(b)
- F10** S. 40(5) substituted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 4(2)(b)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(a)
- F11** Words in s. 40(6) repealed (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 5(2)(b)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(b)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Ss. 39, 40 applied (1.9.2021) by [The Animal Welfare \(Licensing of Activities Involving Animals\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021 \(S.S.I. 2021/84\)](#), regs. 1, **25(1)**

Commencement Information

- I41** S. 40 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2** (with art. 4(1)(a))

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

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41 Seizure orders where disqualification breached

- (1) Where the court is satisfied that a person who is subject to a disqualification order owns or keeps an animal in breach of the order, the court may make an order (in this Part referred to as a “seizure order”) in respect of all animals which the person owns or keeps in breach of the disqualification order.
- (2) A seizure order may be made—
 - (a) on summary application by an inspector,
 - (b) even if proceedings have not been, or are not likely to be, taken against the person for an offence under section 40(11).
- (3) A seizure order is an order—
 - (a) depriving a person of possession or ownership (or both) of an animal, and
 - (b) for—
 - (i) the destruction,
 - (ii) the sale, or
 - (iii) another disposal,
 of the animal.
- (4) A seizure order may include—
 - (a) provision—
 - (i) appointing a person who is to secure that the order is carried out,
 - (ii) requiring any person possessing an animal to which the order applies to give it up to a person appointed under sub-paragraph (i),
 - (b) provision authorising—
 - (i) a person appointed under paragraph (a)(i), and
 - (ii) any person acting on that person's behalf,
 to enter, for the purposes of securing that the order is carried out, any premises where an animal to which the order applies is kept,
 - (c) such other provision as the court considers appropriate in connection with the order.
- (5) Provision under subsection (4)(c) may, in particular—
 - (a) require reimbursement of any expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out the order,
 - (b) relate to the retention of any proceeds of the disposal.
- (6) The court may not make a seizure order which involves the destruction of an animal unless it is satisfied, on evidence provided (orally or in writing) by a veterinary surgeon, that destruction would be in the interests of the animal.
- (7) Before making a seizure order, the court must give the owner of the animals concerned an opportunity to make representations unless it is not practicable for it to do so.
- (8) In determining whether or how to make a seizure order, the court must have regard to the desirability of—
 - (a) protecting the value of any animal to which the order applies, and
 - (b) avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be required to reimburse.

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- (9) When an application is made under subsection (2)(a), the court may make an order under this subsection (an “interim order”) containing such provision as the court considers appropriate in relation to the keeping of an animal until the application is finally determined.
- (10) Subsections (4), (5)(a) and (8) apply in relation to an interim order as they apply in relation to a seizure order.

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 Ss. 41, 42 applied (1.9.2021) by [The Animal Welfare \(Licensing of Activities Involving Animals\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021 \(S.S.I. 2021/84\)](#), regs. 1, **25(2)**

Commencement Information

I42 S. 41 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2** (with art. 4(1)(c))

42 Termination or variation of disqualification

- (1) A person who is subject to a disqualification order may request the court which made the order to terminate or vary the order.
- (2) An application under subsection (1) may not be made—
- (a) before the expiry of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the order was made,
 - (b) where there has been a previous application under that subsection in relation to the same order, before the expiry of the period of one year beginning with the date on which the previous application was determined, or
 - (c) within any period specified under—
 - (i) section 40(9)(b), or
 - (ii) subsection (5).
- (3) On an application under subsection (1), the court may—
- (a) refuse the application,
 - (b) terminate the disqualification order, or
 - (c) vary the disqualification order so as to relax any disqualification imposed by it.
- (4) In considering the application, the court must have particular regard to—
- (a) the nature of the offence in relation to which the disqualification order was made,
 - (b) the character of the applicant, and
 - (c) the applicant's conduct since the order was made.
- (5) Where the court refuses an application made under subsection (1), the court may specify a period within which the applicant may not make a further application under that subsection in relation to the same order.
- [^{F12}(6) The court must state its reasons—
- (a) for granting or, as the case may be, refusing the application under subsection (1),

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- (b) where it grants the application in whole or in part, for varying or, as the case may be, terminating the disqualification order.]

Textual Amendments

F12 S. 42(6) inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. **4(3)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(a)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 Ss. 41, 42 applied (1.9.2021) by [The Animal Welfare \(Licensing of Activities Involving Animals\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2021 \(S.S.I. 2021/84\)](#), regs. 1, **25(2)**

Commencement Information

I43 S. 42 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), art. 2 (with art. 4(1)(d))

[^{F13}42A Disqualification orders: record of reasons

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service must establish and maintain a record of reasons relating to disqualification orders stated by the court under sections 40(5) and 42(6).]

Textual Amendments

F13 S. 42A inserted (30.9.2021) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), ss. **4(4)**, 22(2); S.S.I. 2021/303, reg. 2(a)

43 Appeals against orders

- (1) Any deprivation order or disqualification order is, for the purposes of any appeal under the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (c. 46), to be treated as a sentence.
- (2) Where a deprivation order is made, any person (apart from a person who may appeal against the order by virtue of subsection (1)) who has an interest in any animal to which the order applies may appeal to the [^{F14}Sheriff Appeal Court] against the order by the same procedure as applies under subsection (1) in relation to a deprivation order.
- (3) The disqualified person by reference to whom a seizure order is made, or any person (apart from that disqualified person) who entered the process prior to the making of the order, may appeal to the Sheriff Principal against the order.
- (4) The operation of any deprivation order or seizure order is suspended until—
 - (a) any period for an appeal against the order has expired,
 - (b) the period for an appeal against the conviction on which the order depends has expired, and
 - (c) any appeal against the order or that conviction has been withdrawn or finally determined.
- (5) Where the operation of a deprivation order or seizure order is suspended under subsection (4), or such an order is not executable because decree has not been extracted, the court which made the order may make an order under this subsection (an “interim order”) containing such provision as the court considers appropriate in

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- relation to the keeping of an animal for so long as the first-mentioned order remains suspended or inexecutable.
- (6) An interim order may, in particular—
- (a) make provision—
 - (i) appointing a person who is to secure that the order is carried out,
 - (ii) requiring any person possessing an animal to which the order applies to give it up to a person appointed under sub-paragraph (i),
 - (b) make provision authorising—
 - (i) a person appointed under paragraph (a)(i), and
 - (ii) any person acting on that person's behalf,to enter, for the purposes of securing that the order is carried out, any premises where an animal to which the order applies is kept,
 - (c) for reimbursement of any expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out the order.
- (7) In determining whether or how to make an interim order, the court must have regard to the desirability of—
- (a) protecting the value of any animal to which the order applies, and
 - (b) avoiding increasing any expenses which a person may be required to reimburse.
- (8) Where the operation of a deprivation order is suspended under subsection (4), a person commits an offence if the person sells or otherwise parts with an animal to which the order applies.

Textual Amendments	
F14	Words in s. 43(2) substituted (22.9.2015) by The Courts Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 (Consequential Provisions No. 2) Order 2015 (S.S.I. 2015/338), art. 1, Sch. 2 para. 10 (with art. 4)
Modifications etc. (not altering text)	
C4	S. 43 applied (1.9.2021) by The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (S.S.I. 2021/84), regs. 1, 25(2)
Commencement Information	
I44	S. 43 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

Offences and penalties

F15 44 Proceedings for animal fighting offences

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Textual Amendments	
F15	S. 44 repealed (30.11.2020) by Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 (asp 14), ss. 1(3), 22(2); S.S.I. 2020/379, reg. 2(1), sch. (with reg. 3)

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45 Offences by bodies corporate etc.

- (1) Where an offence under this Part, or under regulations made under this Part, is committed by a body corporate and is committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to the neglect of—
 - (a) a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body, or
 - (b) a person purporting to act in any such capacity,
 that person (as well as the body corporate) commits the offence.
- (2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, subsection (1) applies to acts and omissions by members in exercising functions of management as if they were directors of the body corporate.
- (3) Where an offence under this Part, or under regulations made under this Part, is committed by a Scottish partnership and is committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to the neglect of a partner, that partner (as well as the partnership) commits the offence.

Commencement Information

I45 S. 45 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

46 Penalties for offences

- [^{F16}(1) A person who commits an offence under section 19 or 23 is liable—
- (a) on summary conviction, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine not exceeding £20,000 (or both),
 - (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or a fine (or both).]
- (2) A person who commits any other offence under this Part is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to both.
- (3) A person who commits an offence under regulations made under this Part [^{F17}(other than under regulations made under section 46A)] is liable on summary conviction to such penalties, not exceeding the penalties [^{F18}mentioned in subsection (4)], as are provided for in the regulations.
- [^{F19}(4) The penalties referred to in subsection (4) are imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine not exceeding £40,000 (or both).]

Textual Amendments

- F16** S. 46(1) substituted (30.11.2020) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#) (asp 14), [ss. 1\(2\)\(a\)](#), 22(2); S.S.I. 2020/379, reg. 2(1), sch. (with reg. 3)
- F17** Words in s. 46(3) inserted (30.11.2020) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#) (asp 14), [ss. 1\(2\)\(b\)\(i\)](#), 22(2); S.S.I. 2020/379, reg. 2(1), sch.
- F18** Words in s. 46(3) substituted (30.11.2020) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#) (asp 14), [ss. 1\(2\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#), 22(2); S.S.I. 2020/379, reg. 2(1), sch.
- F19** S. 46(4) inserted (30.11.2020) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020](#) (asp 14), [ss. 1\(2\)\(c\)](#), 22(2); S.S.I. 2020/379, reg. 2(1), sch.

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Commencement Information

I46 S. 46 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

[^{F20}46A Fixed penalty notices for certain offences

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make provision for or in connection with the issuing of fixed penalty notices in relation to certain offences.
- (2) The offences in relation to which fixed penalty notices may be issued must be specified in or by virtue of regulations under subsection (1).
- (3) The offences which may be specified are offences—
 - (a) under—
 - (i) this Part,
 - (ii) regulations made under section 26, 27 or 28 (whether made before, on or after the coming into force of this section), or
 - (iii) another enactment (whether made or, as the case may be, passed before, on or after the coming into force of this section) which the Scottish Ministers consider relates to animal welfare, and
 - (b) in relation to which the maximum penalty on conviction does not exceed imprisonment for a term of 6 months or a fine of level 5 on the standard scale (or both).
- (4) Regulations under subsection (1) may in particular include provision—
 - (a) subject to subsections (6) and (7), prescribing the form of a fixed penalty notice,
 - (b) prescribing the persons or categories of persons who are authorised to issue fixed penalty notices,
 - (c) conferring on the Scottish Ministers the power to authorise a person to issue fixed penalty notices,
 - (d) conferring powers to enter premises (other than dwelling-houses) in connection with the issuing of fixed penalty notices,
 - (e) about the circumstances in which fixed penalty notices may be issued (including the test which must be satisfied before a person authorised to issue such notices may do so),
 - (f) about the circumstances in which fixed penalty notices may not be issued,
 - (g) about the circumstances in which fixed penalty notices may be withdrawn (including the effects of such withdrawal),
 - (h) prescribing the amount of the fixed penalty which is to apply to an offence, being not more than level 5 on the standard scale,
 - (i) prescribing the person to whom payment may be made (who need not be the person who issued the fixed penalty notice),
 - (j) prescribing the period of time within which a fixed penalty may be paid (in this section, the “payment period”),
 - (k) about the circumstances in which a person to whom a fixed penalty notice is issued may decline the notice or otherwise object to or challenge it (including the period within which the person may do so),
 - (l) about the effects of failing to decline or otherwise object to or challenge a fixed penalty notice before the end of the period prescribed for doing so (including that such failure is deemed to be acceptance of the notice),

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- (m) conferring on the person who issued the fixed penalty notice or the person to whom payment may be made the power to extend the payment period in any particular case if the person considers it appropriate to do so,
 - (n) about the methods by which fixed penalties may be paid,
 - (o) for the amount of a fixed penalty to be discounted or increased by an amount or percentage in circumstances prescribed by the regulations (but not so as to make the amount payable more than level 5 on the standard scale),
 - (p) prescribing the effect of paying a fixed penalty within the payment period (for example, that no proceedings may be brought in respect of the offence to which the fixed penalty notice relates),
 - (q) about the consequences of not paying a fixed penalty within the payment period (including how liability to pay the penalty may be enforced),
 - (r) for additional procedure relating to fixed penalty notices (for example to make provision for hearings or appeals),
 - (s) for the destination of funds, the keeping of accounts and the preparation and publication of statements of account relating to fixed penalties provided for under the regulations,
 - (t) creating offences relating to—
 - (i) obstruction of a person who is exercising functions in relation to fixed penalty notices,
 - (ii) a failure to provide information requested in connection with a fixed penalty notice.
- (5) The maximum penalty that may be provided for in regulations under subsection (1) creating an offence is, on summary conviction, a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.
- (6) A fixed penalty notice provided for in regulations under subsection (1) must—
- (a) identify the offence to which it relates, and
 - (b) specify reasonable particulars of the circumstances alleged to constitute the offence.
- (7) A fixed penalty notice provided for in regulations under subsection (1) must also state—
- (a) the date on which the fixed penalty notice is issued,
 - (b) the amount of the fixed penalty,
 - (c) the person to whom payment may be made and the person's address,
 - (d) the payment period,
 - (e) the method by which payment may be made,
 - (f) the effect of paying the fixed penalty within the payment period and the consequences of not paying the fixed penalty within that period,
 - (g) details of any procedure for challenging or appealing the fixed penalty notice.
- (8) Regulations under subsection (1) may modify any enactment (including this Act).
- (9) In this section, “fixed penalty notice” means a notice specifying a sum of money that may or must be paid as an alternative to prosecution for an offence.]

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Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

Textual Amendments

F20 S. 46A inserted (30.11.2020) by [Animals and Wildlife \(Penalties, Protections and Powers\) \(Scotland\) Act 2020 \(asp 14\)](#), **ss. 2, 22(2)**; S.S.I. 2020/379, reg. 2(1), sch.

Exclusions from application of this Part

47 Exclusions

This Part does not apply—

- (a) in relation to anything which occurs by virtue of, or in accordance with, a provision of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (c. 14),
- (b) in relation to anything which occurs in the normal course of fishing.

Commencement Information

I47 [S. 47](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2**

Miscellaneous

48 Suffering

In this Part, references to suffering include physical or mental suffering.

Commencement Information

I48 [S. 48](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2**

49 Vets, inspectors and constables

- (1) In this Part, “veterinary surgeon” means a person registered in the register of veterinary surgeons, or the supplementary veterinary register, kept under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (c. 36).
- (2) In this Part, an “inspector” is, in the context of any particular provision, a person—
 - (a) appointed as an inspector by the Scottish Ministers, or authorised by them, for the purposes of the provision, or
 - (b) appointed as an inspector by a local authority for the purposes of the provision.
- (3) In subsection (2)(b), a “local authority” means a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 (c. 39).
- (4) An inspector incurs no civil or criminal liability for anything which the inspector does in purported exercise of any functions conferred on the inspector by a provision of this Part, or by regulations made under this Part, where the inspector acts on reasonable grounds and in good faith.
- (5) Subsection (4) does not affect any liability of any other person in respect of the thing done.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

(6) In this Part, a “constable” means a constable of [^{F21}the Police Service of Scotland].

(7) Schedule 1 makes provision in relation to powers of inspectors and constables for the purposes of and in connection with this Part.

Textual Amendments

F21 Words in s. 49(6) substituted (1.4.2013) by [Police and Fire Reform \(Scotland\) Act 2012 \(asp 8\)](#), s. 129(2), [Sch. 7 para. 34](#); [S.S.I. 2013/51](#), art. 2 (with transitional provisions and savings in [S.S.I. 2013/121](#))

Commencement Information

I49 S. 49 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

50 Premises

(1) In this Part, “premises” includes—

- (a) any land or building,
- (b) any other place, in particular—
 - (i) a vehicle or vessel,
 - (ii) a tent or moveable structure.

(2) In this Part, “domestic premises”—

- (a) means premises, or a part of premises, used (or used for the time being) exclusively as a dwelling-house, and
- (b) includes any land or structure belonging to or usually enjoyed with, or adjacent to and for the time being enjoyed with, the house.

Commencement Information

I50 [S. 50](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

51 Regulations

(1) The powers of the Scottish Ministers to make regulations under this Part are exercisable by statutory instrument.

(2) And they include power to—

- (a) make such incidental, supplemental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision as the Scottish Ministers consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with the regulations,
- (b) make different provision for different purposes or for different cases or classes of case.

(3) But a statutory instrument containing regulations under this Part is not made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Scottish Parliament.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

Commencement Information

I51 [S. 51](#) in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

PART 3

GENERAL

52 Modification of enactments

Schedule 2 modifies enactments for the purposes of and in consequence of this Act.

Commencement Information

I52 [S. 52](#) in force at 6.10.2006 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [arts. 2, 3](#)

I53 [S. 52](#) in force at 1.9.2021 for specified purposes by [S.S.I. 2020/464](#), [art. 2](#) (with [art. 3](#))

53 Ancillary provision

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order make such incidental, supplemental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision as they consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with this Act.
- (2) The power to make orders under subsection (1) is exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (3) But—
 - (a) a statutory instrument containing an order under subsection (1) which modifies an Act is not made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Scottish Parliament,
 - (b) a statutory instrument containing any other order under that subsection is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Parliament.

54 Crown application

- (1) This Act binds the Crown.
- (2) No contravention by the Crown of a provision made by or under this Act makes the Crown criminally liable.
- (3) However, the provisions made by this Act and any provisions made under it apply to persons in the service of the Crown as they apply to other persons.
- (4) The Court of Session may, on the application of the Lord Advocate, declare unlawful any act or omission of the Crown which constitutes a contravention of a provision made by or under this Act.

55 Commencement and short title

- (1) The provisions of this Act, except sections 53 and 54 and this section, come into force on such day as the Scottish Ministers may by order appoint.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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](#)

- (2) The power to make orders under subsection (1) is exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (3) And it includes power—
 - (a) to appoint different days for different provisions,
 - (b) to make such transitional or saving provision as the Scottish Ministers consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in connection with this Act,
 - (c) to make different provision for different purposes.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

SCHEDULE 1

(introduced by section 49(7))

POWERS OF INSPECTORS AND CONSTABLES FOR PART 2

Entry and inspection in connection with ^{F22}an obligation under ^{F23}assimilated law]

Textual Amendments

- F22** Words in sch. 1 para. 1 cross-heading substituted (31.12.2020) by The Animal Welfare (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/34), regs. 1, **2(2)(a)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F23** Word in sch. 1 para. 1 cross-heading substituted (1.1.2024) by The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Consequential Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/374), reg. 1(1), **sch. 1 para. 6(a)**

- 1 (1) An inspector may enter and inspect any premises for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with any regulations made under Part 2 which implement ^{F24}an^{F25}obligation under ^{F26}assimilated law].
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply in relation to domestic premises.

Textual Amendments

- F24** Words in Act substituted (22.4.2011) by The Treaty of Lisbon (Changes in Terminology) Order 2011 (S.I. 2011/1043), **arts. 3, 6** (with art. 3(2)(3)4(2)6(4)6(5))
- F25** Words in sch. 1 para. 1(1) substituted (31.12.2020) by The Animal Welfare (EU Exit) (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.S.I. 2019/34), regs. 1, **2(2)(b)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F26** Word in sch. 1 para. 1(1) substituted (1.1.2024) by The Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Consequential Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2023 (S.S.I. 2023/374), reg. 1(1), **sch. 1 para. 6(b)**

Commencement Information

- I54** Sch. 1 para. 1 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, **art. 2**

Entry and search where animals in distress

- 2 (1) A sheriff or justice of the peace may grant a warrant under this sub-paragraph if satisfied—
- (a) that there are reasonable grounds for believing that there is at premises a protected animal which—
 - (i) is suffering, or
 - (ii) is likely to suffer if its circumstances do not change, and
 - (b) that paragraph 5 is complied with in relation to the premises.
- (2) A warrant under sub-paragraph (1) authorises an inspector or a constable to enter and search the premises for the purpose of exercising any power conferred by sections 32 and 35.
- (3) An inspector or a constable may—
- (a) enter and search premises for the purpose of exercising any power conferred by sections 32 and 35, and

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: *Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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*

- (b) do so without a warrant under sub-paragraph (1),
if it appears that immediate entry is appropriate in the interests of an animal.
- (4) Sub-paragraph (3) does not apply in relation to domestic premises.

Commencement Information

I55 Sch. 1 para. 2 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Entry and inspection in connection with offences

- 3 (1) An inspector may, if there are reasonable grounds for believing that an offence under Part 2 has been committed at premises, enter and inspect the premises for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not an offence under that Part has been committed there.
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply in relation to domestic premises.

Commencement Information

I56 Sch. 1 para. 3 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Entry and search etc. in connection with offences

- 4 (1) A sheriff or justice of the peace may grant a warrant under this sub-paragraph if satisfied—
 - (a) that there are reasonable grounds for believing—
 - (i) that a relevant offence has been committed at premises, or
 - (ii) that evidence of the commission of, or participation in, a relevant offence is to be found at premises, and
 - (b) that paragraph 5 is complied with in relation to the premises.
- (2) A warrant under sub-paragraph (1) authorises an inspector or a constable to—
 - (a) enter the premises, and
 - (b) search for, examine and seize any animal (including the carcase of an animal), equipment, document or other thing tending to provide evidence of the commission of, or participation in, a relevant offence.
- (3) An inspector or a constable may—
 - (a) enter premises and search for, examine and seize any animal (including the carcase of an animal), equipment, document or other thing tending to provide evidence of the commission of, or participation in, a relevant offence, and
 - (b) do so without a warrant under sub-paragraph (1),
if it appears that delay would frustrate the purpose for which the search is to be carried out.
- (4) Sub-paragraph (3) does not apply in relation to domestic premises.
- (5) In this paragraph, a “relevant offence” is—
 - (a) an offence under sections 19 to 23,
 - (b) an offence under section 24,
 - (c) an offence under section 29,

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (d) an offence under section 40(11).

Commencement Information

I57 Sch. 1 para. 4 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Conditions for granting warrants

- 5 (1) This paragraph is complied with in relation to premises if either of the conditions specified in sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) is met.
- (2) The condition is—
- (a) that—
- (i) admission to the premises has been refused, or
- (ii) such a refusal may reasonably be expected, and
- (b) that—
- (i) notice of the intention to seek a warrant has been given to the occupier of the premises, or
- (ii) the giving of such notice would frustrate the purpose for which the warrant is sought.
- (3) The condition is that the premises are unoccupied or the occupier is temporarily absent.

Commencement Information

I58 Sch. 1 para. 5 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Stopping and detaining vehicles etc.

- 6 (1) A constable in uniform may stop and detain a vehicle or vessel for the purpose of the exercise of a relevant power.
- (2) An inspector, if accompanied by a constable in uniform, may stop and detain a vehicle or vessel for the purpose of the exercise of a relevant power.
- (3) A vehicle or vessel may be detained under sub-paragraph (1) or (2) for as long as is reasonably required for the exercise of the power concerned.
- (4) The power concerned may be exercised either at the place where the vehicle or vessel was first detained or nearby.

Commencement Information

I59 Sch. 1 para. 6 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Entry and search etc.: supplementary

- 7 A warrant granted under a provision of this schedule remains in force for one month beginning with the date on which it was granted.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

Commencement Information

I60 Sch. 1 para. 7 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2**

- 8 (1) A relevant power is exercisable only at a reasonable time.
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply if it appears that exercise of the power at a reasonable time would frustrate the purpose of exercising the power.

Commencement Information

I61 Sch. 1 para. 8 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2**

- 9 (1) A relevant power is exercisable, if necessary, by using reasonable force.
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply to a power conferred by paragraph 1 or 3.

Commencement Information

I62 Sch. 1 para. 9 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2**

- 10 A person exercising a relevant power must, if required, produce evidence of the person's authority.

Commencement Information

I63 Sch. 1 para. 10 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2**

- 11 (1) A relevant power includes power to take onto premises—
- (a) such persons for assistance, and
 - (b) such equipment,
- as are required for the purpose of the exercise of the power.
- (2) A relevant power includes power to secure the taking of any of the steps mentioned in sub-paragraph (3).
- (3) Those steps are—
- (a) carrying out tests on, and taking samples from—
 - (i) an animal (including a carcase of an animal),
 - (ii) any equipment, substance or other thing,
 - (b) using a mark, microchip or another method of identifying an animal.

Commencement Information

I64 Sch. 1 para. 11 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), **art. 2**

- 12 (1) A qualifying person must—
- (a) comply with any reasonable direction made by a person exercising a relevant power, and

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Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (b) in particular, give that person such information and assistance as that person reasonably requires.

(2) In sub-paragraph (1), a “qualifying person” is—

- (a) the occupier of premises in relation to which a relevant power is being exercised,
- (b) a person who appears to be responsible for animals at the premises,
- (c) a person who appears to be under the direction or control of a person referred to in paragraph (a) or (b).

Commencement Information

I65 Sch. 1 para. 12 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

- 13 A person exercising a relevant power in relation to unoccupied premises must leave the premises as effectively secured against entry as the person found them.

Commencement Information

I66 Sch. 1 para. 13 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Offences of obstruction

- 14 (1) A person commits an offence if, without reasonable excuse, the person contravenes paragraph 12(1).
- (2) A person commits an offence if the person intentionally obstructs a person in the exercise of a relevant power.

Commencement Information

I67 Sch. 1 para. 14 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

- 15 (1) A person commits an offence if the person intentionally obstructs a person in the exercise of a power conferred by—
- (a) section 32,
 - (b) an order under section 34(1),
 - (c) section 35.
- (2) A person commits an offence if the person intentionally obstructs a person in the carrying out of—
- (a) a deprivation order,
 - (b) a seizure order,
 - (c) an interim order under section 41(9) or 43(5).

Commencement Information

I68 Sch. 1 para. 15 in force at 6.10.2006 by [S.S.I. 2006/482](#), [art. 2](#)

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

Powers of constables: supplementary

^{F27}16

Textual Amendments

F27 Sch. 1 para. 16 repealed (25.1.2018) by Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (asp 1), s. 117(2), **sch. 2 para. 20(a)**; S.S.I. 2017/345, art. 3, sch.

Commencement Information

I69 Sch. 1 para. 16 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, **art. 2**

17 The powers conferred on constables by this schedule are without prejudice to any powers conferred on constables by law apart from this schedule.

Commencement Information

I70 Sch. 1 para. 17 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, **art. 2**

Interpretation

18 In this schedule, a “relevant power” is a power—

(a) conferred on an inspector by—

(i) a provision of this schedule, or

(ii) a warrant granted under a provision of this schedule,

(b) conferred on a constable by—

(i) a provision of this schedule ^{F28}..., or

(ii) a warrant granted under a provision of this schedule.

Textual Amendments

F28 Words in **sch. 1 para. 18(b)(i)** repealed (25.1.2018) by Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 (asp 1), s. 117(2), **sch. 2 para. 20(b)**; S.S.I. 2017/345, art. 3, sch.

Commencement Information

I71 Sch. 1 para. 18 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, **art. 2**

SCHEDULE 2

(introduced by section 52)

MODIFICATION OF ENACTMENTS

Animal health provisions

1 In section 8 (movement generally) of the Animal Health Act 1981 (c. 22)—

(a) in paragraph (e) of subsection (1), for the words “the holding of markets, fairs, exhibitions and sales of animals” there is substituted “ animal gatherings ”,

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

(b) after that subsection there is inserted—

“(1A) In subsection (1)(e), “animal gatherings” has the same meaning as it has in section 8A.”.

Commencement Information

I72 Sch. 2 para. 1 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

2 (1) In section 22 (powers of entry etc. for section 21) of that Act, subsection (5) is repealed.

(2) In section 27 (exclusion of strangers) of that Act—

(a) in subsection (1), after the word “animals” in each place where it occurs there is inserted “, birds or amphibians ”,

(b) after subsection (2) there is added—

“(3) In this section—

“animals” means any kind of mammal (except man);

“disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.”.

(3) In section 33 (additional staff and expenses) of that Act—

(a) the existing words become subsection (1),

(b) in that subsection, after the word “animals,” there is inserted “ birds or amphibians, ”,

(c) after that subsection there is inserted—

“(2) In this section, “animals” means any kind of mammal (except man).”.

(4) In section 34 (slaughter and compensation generally) of that Act—

(a) after the word “animal” in each place where it occurs there is inserted “ , bird or amphibian ”,

(b) in subsection (7), in paragraph (c), after the word “animals” there is inserted “ , birds or amphibians ”,

(c) after that subsection there is added—

“(8) In this section—

“animal” means any kind of mammal (except man);

“disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.”.

(5) In section 60 (duties and authorities of constables) of that Act—

(a) in subsection (1), after the word “Act” there is inserted “ , regulations made by the Scottish Ministers under this Act ”,

(b) in subsection (5)—

(i) for the words “other officer” there is substituted “ inspector ”,

(ii) for the word “officer” in the second place where it occurs there is substituted “ inspector ”,

(iii) after paragraph (b) there is inserted—

“(ba) of regulations made by the Scottish Ministers under this Act,”.

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (6) In section 63 (general powers of inspectors) of that Act—
- (a) in subsection (2), after paragraph (b) there is inserted—
 - “(ba) that the carcase of an animal, bird or amphibian slaughtered by virtue of section 16B, Part 2B or Schedule 3A is or has been kept, or has been buried, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of; or”,
 - (b) in subsection (2)(c), after the word “Minister,” there is inserted “ or of a regulation of the Scottish Ministers under this Act, ”,
 - (c) in subsection (2)(d), after the word “Minister” there is inserted “ or a regulation of the Scottish Ministers under this Act ”,
 - (d) in subsection (3), after the word “Minister” there is inserted “ or a regulation of the Scottish Ministers under this Act ”,
 - (e) in subsection (7), after the word “animal” there is inserted “ , bird or amphibian ”,
 - (f) after that subsection there is inserted—
 - “(7A) In subsection (7)—
 - “animal” means any kind of mammal (except man);
 - “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.”,
 - (g) after subsection (9) there is added—
 - “(10) An inspector acting under this section must, if required, produce evidence of the inspector's authority.”.
- (7) In section 64 (powers of inspectors as to poultry) of that Act, after subsection (2) there is added—
- “(3) An inspector acting under this section must, if required, produce evidence of the inspector's authority.”.
- (8) In section 65(1) (power to detain vessels and aircraft) of that Act, after the word “Minister” in the second place where it occurs, there is inserted “ or a regulation of the Scottish Ministers under this Act ”.
- (9) In section 66(a) (refusal and obstruction) of that Act, after the word “Minister,” there is inserted “ or of regulations made by the Scottish Ministers under this Act, ”.

Commencement Information

I73 Sch. 2 para. 2 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

- 3 (1) In section 73(a) (general offences) of that Act, after the word “Minister,” there is inserted “ or of regulations made by the Scottish Ministers under this Act, ”.
- (2) In section 79 (evidence and procedure) of that Act—
- (a) in subsection (2), after the word “animal” in each place where it occurs there is inserted “ , bird or amphibian ”,
 - (b) after that subsection there is inserted—
 - “(2A) In subsection (2)—
 - “animal” means any kind of mammal (except man);
 - “disease” is not restricted by its definition in this Act.”,

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

- (c) in subsection (4), after the word “Minister” there is inserted “ or regulations made by the Scottish Ministers under this Act ”.

Commencement Information

I74 Sch. 2 para. 3 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

- 4 In section 91 (orders etc.) of that Act, subsection (2) is repealed.

Commencement Information

I75 Sch. 2 para. 4 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

Animal welfare provisions

- 5 The Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1912 (c. 14), except—
(a) section 7 (poisoned grain and flesh etc.), and
(b) sections 13(a) to (d), 14 and 16 (general provisions),
is repealed.

Commencement Information

I76 Sch. 2 para. 5 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

PROSPECTIVE

- 6 In the Docking and Nicking of Horses Act 1949 (c. 70), section 1 is repealed.

- 7 In the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954 (c. 46), in section 1 (use of anaesthetics in operations on animals)—
(a) after subsection (1) there is inserted—
 “(1A) An operation to which this section applies that is performed on an animal without the use of an anaesthetic administered so as to prevent pain during the operation is, for the purposes of section 21 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 (asp 11), to be regarded as being performed without due care and humanity.”,
(b) in subsection (5), paragraph (b) and the word “ and ” immediately preceding it are repealed.

Commencement Information

I77 Sch. 2 para. 7 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2

- 8 (1) Part I of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968 (c. 34), except—
(a) section 4 (expenditure on free advice on the welfare of livestock),
(b) section 5 (extension of classes of operations in which anaesthetics must be used), and
(c) in section 8 (interpretation etc. of Part I)—

Status: This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation: Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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

(i) in subsection (1), the definition of “livestock”, and
(ii) subsection (3) so far as relating to those sections,
is repealed.

(2) In the Animal Health Act 1981, sections 37 to 39 are repealed.

Commencement Information

I78 Sch. 2 para. 8 in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2 (with art. 4(2)(3))

- 9 The whole of each of the following Acts is repealed—
- (a) the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1912 Amendment Act 1921 (c. 22),
 - (b) the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 (c. 38),
 - (c) the Protection of Animals Act 1934 (c. 21),
 - (d) the Pet Animals Act 1951 (c. 35),
 - (e) the Cockfighting Act 1952 (c. 59),
 - (f) the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954 (c. 40),
 - (g) the Abandonment of Animals Act 1960 (c. 43),
 - (h) the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 (c. 43),
 - (i) the Riding Establishments Act 1964 (c. 70),
 - (j) the Riding Establishments Act 1970 (c. 32),
 - (k) the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 (c. 60),
 - (l) the Pet Animals Act 1951 (Amendment) Act 1983 (c. 26),
 - (m) the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1988 (c. 29),
 - (n) the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991 (c. 64),
 - (o) the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1993 (c. 15),
 - (p) the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999 (c. 11)

Commencement Information

- I79** Sch. 2 paras. 9(a)(c)(e)-(g)(m)(o) in force at 6.10.2006 by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 2
I80 Sch. 2 para. 9(d) in force at 6.10.2006 for specified purposes by S.S.I. 2006/482, art. 3
I81 Sch. 2 para. 9(d) in force at 1.9.2021 in so far as not already in force by S.S.I. 2020/464, art. 2 (with art. 3)
I82 Sch. 2 para. 9(k)(l)(n)(p) in force at 1.9.2021 by S.S.I. 2020/464, art. 2 (with art. 3)

Status:

This version of this Act contains provisions that are prospective.

Changes to legislation:

Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 16 May 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.
[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 49(3) words substituted by [2024 asp 4 s. 11\(2\)\(b\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:
Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 49(2A) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 11\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 51(4) inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 11\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 5A and cross-heading inserted by [2024 asp 4 s. 11\(4\)](#)