



# Animal Welfare Act 2006

## CHAPTER 45

### ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 2006

#### *Introductory*

- 1 Animals to which the Act applies
- 2 “Protected animal”
- 3 Responsibility for animals

#### *Prevention of harm*

- 4 Unnecessary suffering
- 5 Mutilation
- 6 Docking of dogs' tails
- 7 Administration of poisons etc.
- 8 Fighting etc.

#### *Promotion of welfare*

- 9 Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare
- 10 Improvement notices
- 11 Transfer of animals by way of sale or prize to persons under 16
- 12 Regulations to promote welfare

#### *Licensing and registration*

- 13 Licensing or registration of activities involving animals

#### *Codes of practice*

- 14 Codes of practice
- 15 Making and approval of codes of practice: England
- 16 Making of codes of practice: Wales

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17 Revocation of codes of practice

*Animals in distress*

- 18 Powers in relation to animals in distress
- 19 Power of entry for section 18 purposes
- 20 Orders in relation to animals taken under section 18(5)
- 21 Orders under section 20: appeals

*Enforcement powers*

- 22 Seizure of animals involved in fighting offences
- 23 Entry and search under warrant in connection with offences
- 24 Entry for purposes of arrest
- 25 Inspection of records required to be kept by holder of licence
- 26 Inspection in connection with licences
- 27 Inspection in connection with registration
- 28 Inspection of farm premises
- 29 Inspection relating to assimilated law

*Prosecutions*

- 30 Power of local authority to prosecute offences
- 31 Time limits for prosecutions

*Post-conviction powers*

- 32 Imprisonment or fine
- 33 Deprivation
- 34 Disqualification
- 35 Seizure of animals in connection with disqualification
- 36 Section 35: supplementary
- 37 Destruction in the interests of the animal
- 38 Destruction of animals involved in fighting offences
- 39 Reimbursement of expenses relating to animals involved in fighting offences
- 40 Forfeiture of equipment used in offences
- 41 Orders under section 33, 35, 37, 38 or 40: pending appeals
- 42 Orders with respect to licences
- 43 Termination of disqualification under section 34 or 42
- 44 Orders made on conviction for reimbursement of expenses
- 45 Orders for reimbursement of expenses: right of appeal for non-offenders

*Scotland*

- 46 Effect in Scotland of disqualification under section 34
- 47 Deprivation orders in connection with offence under section 46(2)
- 48 Seizure orders where disqualification breached: Scotland
- 49 Appeals against deprivation orders and seizure orders
- 50 Deprivation orders, seizure orders and interim orders: offences

*General*

- 51 Inspectors
- 52 Conditions for grant of warrant
- 53 Powers of entry, inspection and search: supplementary

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- 54 Power to stop and detain vehicles
- 55 Power to detain vessels, aircraft and hovercraft
- 56 Obtaining of documents in connection with carrying out orders etc.
- 57 Offences by bodies corporate
- 58 Scientific research
- 59 Fishing
- 60 Crown application
- 61 Orders and regulations
- 62 General interpretation
- 63 Financial provisions
- 64 Minor and consequential amendments
- 65 Repeals
- 66 Transition
- 67 Extent
- 68 Commencement
- 69 Short title

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## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 1 — Regulations under section 13

#### Part 1 — LICENCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SECTION

##### *Introductory*

- 1 This Part has effect in relation to regulations under section...

##### *Licensing authority*

- 2 Regulations shall provide for the licensing authority to be—
- 3 Where the licensing authority is a local authority, regulations may...

##### *Period of licence*

- 4 Regulations may, in particular— (a) make provision about the period...
- 5 Regulations may not provide for licences to be granted for...

##### *Exercise of licensing functions*

- 6 Regulations may, in particular— (a) require a licensing authority not...
- 7 Regulations shall make provision requiring a licensing authority not to...

##### *Grant of licence subject to conditions*

- 8 (1) Regulations may, in particular, make provision for the grant...

##### *Breach of licence condition*

- 9 (1) Regulations may provide for breach of a condition of...

##### *Appeals*

- 10 Regulations may, in particular, make provision for appeals in relation...

##### *Fees*

- 11 Regulations may include provision for fees or other charges in...

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## Part 2 — REGISTRATION FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE SECTION

### *Introductory*

- 12 This Part has effect in relation to regulations under section...

### *Registering authority*

- 13 Regulations shall provide for the registering authority to be—  
14 Where the registering authority is a local authority, regulations may...

### *Exercise of registration functions*

- 15 Regulations may, in particular— (a) require a registering authority not...

### *Appeals*

- 16 Regulations may, in particular, make provision for appeals in relation...

### *Fees*

- 17 Regulations may include provision for fees or other charges in...

## Part 3 — SUPPLEMENTARY

- 18 Power to make regulations under section 13(7) includes power—  
19 (1) Power to make regulations under section 13 includes power...

## SCHEDULE 2 — Powers of entry, inspection and search: supplementary

### *Safeguards etc. in connection with powers of entry conferred by warrant*

- 1 (1) Sections 15 and 16 of the Police and Criminal...  
2 (1) This paragraph and paragraph 3 have effect in relation...  
3 (1) A warrant may be executed by any inspector.

### *Duty to produce evidence of identity*

- 4 (1) This paragraph applies to a power of entry conferred...

### *Power to take persons onto premises*

- 5 In exercising a power to which paragraph 4 applies, a...

### *Duty to exercise power of entry at reasonable time*

- 6 Entry under a power to which paragraph 4 applies shall...

### *Power to require assistance*

- 7 (1) This paragraph applies to a power of entry conferred...

### *Power to take equipment onto premises*

- 8 In exercising a power to which paragraph 7 applies, a...

### *Duty to leave premises secured*

- 9 If, in the exercise of a power of entry to...

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*Functions in connection with inspection and search*

- 10 (1) This paragraph applies to— (a) a power of inspection...  
11 A person who takes a sample from an animal pursuant...  
12 (1) Paragraph 10(2)(j) does not include power to seize an...  
13 As soon as reasonably practicable after having exercised a power...  
14 (1) A person exercising a power of search conferred by...

*Functions in connection with entry under section 19*

- 15 (1) Where a person enters premises in exercise of a...

*Offences*

- 16 A person commits an offence if he—

SCHEDULE 3 — Minor and consequential amendments

*Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 (c. 38)*

- 1 In section 4 of the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925...

*Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937 (c. 59)*

- 2 In section 1 of the Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937...

*Pet Animals Act 1951 (c. 35)*

- 3 (1) Section 2 of the Pet Animals Act 1951 (pets...

*Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954 (c. 40)*

- 4 (1) In the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Act 1954, after...

*Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 (c. 43)*

- 5 (1) In section 1 of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act...

*Riding Establishments Act 1964 (c. 70)*

- 6 (1) In section 1 of the Riding Establishments Act 1964...

*Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 (c. 60)*

- 7 In section 1 of the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973...

*Guard Dogs Act 1975 (c. 50)*

- 8 In section 3 of the Guard Dogs Act 1975 (guard...

*Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (c. 38)*

- 9 In section 6 of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976...

*Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (c. 43)*

- 10 In section 108 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 (right...

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*Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (c. 37)*

- 11 In section 4 of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (grant...

*Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (c. 14)*

- 12 (1) In section 22(5) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act...

*Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 (c. 3)*

- 13 For section 3 of the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996...

*Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (c. 16)*

- 14 (1) In section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Police...

SCHEDULE 4 — Repeals

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- s. 13(1) applied by [S.I. 2024/296 reg. 4](#)
- s. 23 modified by [S.I. 2024/296 reg. 18](#)
- s. 33 applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2024/296 reg. 19\(a\)](#)
- s. 34 applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2024/296 reg. 19\(b\)](#)
- s. 37 applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2024/296 reg. 19\(c\)](#)
- s. 42 applied (with modifications) by [S.I. 2024/296 reg. 19\(d\)](#)