

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1982 No. 1884

ANIMALS

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

**The Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations)
Regulations 1982***Laid before Parliament in Draft**Made - - - - 23rd December 1982**Coming into Operation 1st January 1983*

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales, acting jointly, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968(a) and now vested in them(b) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, after consultation in accordance with the said section 2 with such persons appearing to them to represent any interests concerned as they consider appropriate, hereby make the following regulations, of which a draft has been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament:—

Title and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations 1982 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1983.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations “cattle” means all bovine animals.

Prohibited operations

3. Subject to the provisions of regulation 4 no person shall perform, or cause or permit to be performed, any of the following operations in relation to livestock for the time being situated on agricultural land—

- (a) penis amputation and other penial operations;
- (b) freeze dagging of sheep;

(a) 1968 c. 34.

(b) By the Transfer of Functions (Wales) (No. 1) Order 1978 (S.I. 1978/272).

- (c) short-tail docking of sheep, unless sufficient tail is retained to cover the vulva in the case of female sheep and the anus in the case of male sheep;
- (d) tongue amputation in calves;
- (e) hot branding of cattle;
- (f) tail docking of cattle;
- (g) devoicing of cockerels;
- (h) castration of a male bird by a method involving surgery;
- (i) any operation on a bird with the object or effect of impeding its flight, other than feather clipping;
- (j) fitting any appliance which has the object or effect of limiting vision to a bird by a method involving the penetration or other mutilation of the nasal septum;
- (k) tail docking of a pig unless the operation is performed by the quick and complete severance of the part of the tail to be removed and either—
 - (i) the pig is less than 8 days old, or
 - (ii) the operation is performed by a veterinary surgeon who is of the opinion that the operation is necessary for reasons of health or to prevent injury from the vice of tail biting; and
- (l) removal of any part of the antlers of a deer before the velvet of the antlers is frayed and the greater part of it has been shed.

Exemptions

4. The prohibition contained in regulation 3 shall not apply to—
- (a) any act lawfully done under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876(a);
 - (b) the rendering, in emergency, of first aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain; or
 - (c) the performance by a veterinary surgeon of an operation where in his opinion—
 - (i) disease or injury is present, and
 - (ii) the proper treatment for the disease or injury is, or includes, the operation.

Offences

5. A person who contravenes any provision of regulation 3 shall be guilty of an offence under section 2 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968.

Revocation

6. The Welfare of Livestock (Docking of Pigs) Regulations 1974(b), the

(a) 1876 c. 77.

(b) S.I. 1974/1061.

Welfare of Livestock (Cattle and Poultry) Regulations 1974(a) and the Welfare of Livestock (Deer) Regulations 1980(b) are hereby revoked.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 21st December 1982.



Peter Walker,
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food.

George Younger,
Secretary of State for Scotland.

22nd December 1982.

Nicholas Edwards,
Secretary of State for Wales.

23rd December 1982.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations consolidate earlier welfare regulations and in addition prohibit, in relation to livestock for the time being situated on agricultural land, the following operations—

- (i) penis amputation and other penial operations;
- (ii) freeze dagging of sheep;
- (iii) tongue amputation in calves;
- (iv) hot branding of cattle;
- (v) devoicing of cockerels; and
- (vi) short-tail docking of sheep, unless sufficient tail is retained to cover the vulva in the case of female sheep and the anus in the case of male sheep.

The Regulations do not apply to any act lawfully done under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876; to the rendering of first aid in cases of emergency; or to the performance of certain operations by a veterinary surgeon.

(a) S.I. 1974/1062.
(b) S.I. 1980/1004.

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