

1987 No. 415

WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 1987

Made 4th November 1987

Coming into operation 14th December 1987

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 2(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after consultation with such persons appearing to it to represent any interests concerned as it has considered appropriate, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 and shall come into operation on 14th December 1987.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

“operation” includes mutilation but not feather clipping;

“cattle” means all bovine animals;

“poultry” means domestic poultry;

“tail docking” means the removal of any bone or any part of a bone of the tail.

Prohibited operations

3. Subject to regulation 4 a person shall not 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;

(c) 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) 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 and the operation is necessary for reasons of health or to prevent injury from the vice of tail biting;

(a) 1972 c. 7 (N.I.)

- (e) tail docking of cattle;
- (f) tongue amputation in calves;
- (g) hot branding of cattle;
- (h) devoicing of cockerels;
- (i) castration of poultry by a method involving surgery;
- (j) any operation on poultry with the object or effect of impeding flight;
- (k) fitting to poultry any appliance which has the object or effect of limiting vision by a method involving the penetration or other mutilation of the nasal septum;
- (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; and
- (m) the grinding of sheeps' teeth by any means.

Exemptions

4.—(1) The prohibitions contained in regulation 3 shall not apply to any act lawfully done under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986(a).

(2) The prohibitions contained in sub-paragraphs (a) to (l) of regulation 3 shall not apply to:—

- (a) the rendering, in emergency, of first aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain; or
- (b) the performance by a veterinary surgeon of an operation where—
 - (i) disease or injury is present; and
 - (ii) the proper treatment for the disease or injury is, or includes, an operation referred to in those sub-paragraphs.

Offences

5. A person who contravenes the provisions of regulation 3 shall be guilty of an offence under section 2(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.

Revocations

6. The Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983(b) and the Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984(c) are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 4th November 1987.

(L.S.)

S. R. Armstrong

Assistant Secretary

(a) 1986 c. 14
(b) S.R. 1983 No. 308
(c) S.R. 1984 No. 57

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations which revoke and re-enact with amendments the Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983, as amended, prohibit the performance of certain operations on livestock situated for the time being on agricultural land.

Regulation 3 specifies the operations which are prohibited. A change of substance is that the grinding of sheeps' teeth becomes a prohibited operation.

Regulation 4 provides that:

- (a) the prohibition on the grinding of sheeps' teeth does not apply to any act lawfully done under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986; and
- (b) the other prohibitions contained in regulation 3 do not apply to such acts or to the rendering of first aid to save life or relieve pain or to the performance by a veterinary surgeon of an operation for reasons of health.

Regulation 5 provides that a breach of regulation 3 is an offence under section 2(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 and any person guilty of an offence under that section shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to a fine not exceeding £1000 or both.