



# Zoo Licensing Act 1981

## 1981 CHAPTER 37

### *Supplemental*

#### [<sup>F1</sup>19A Directions **E**

- (1) Where a local authority make a direction under this Act, they shall take reasonable steps to secure that the operator of the zoo is notified in writing of it.
- (2) But where the operator of the zoo cannot, after reasonable enquiries have been made, be found, the authority shall take reasonable steps to secure that any person appearing to them to be responsible for the zoo is notified in writing of the direction.
- (3) The operator of a zoo or other person notified in writing of a direction pursuant to subsection (2) shall comply with a direction under this Act made in respect of that zoo.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** S. 19A inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3080](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 2, 25](#)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C2** S. 19A amendment by SI 2002/3080 reg. 25 extended to W. (22.4.2003) by [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/992\)](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 2\(1\)](#), [Sch. para. 22](#) (with [reg. 4](#))

#### [<sup>F9</sup>19A. Directions **S**

- (1) Where a local authority make a direction under this Act, they shall take reasonable steps to secure that the operator of the zoo is notified in writing of it.
- (2) But where, after reasonable enquiries have been made, the operator of the zoo cannot be found, the authority shall take reasonable steps to secure that any person appearing to them to be responsible for the zoo is notified in writing of the direction.
- (3) The operator of a zoo or other person notified in writing of a direction pursuant to subsection (2) shall comply with a direction under this Act made in respect of that zoo.]

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*Changes to legislation:* There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, Cross Heading: Supplemental. (See end of Document for details)

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#### Textual Amendments

- F9** S. 19A inserted (S.) (1.4.2003) by [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 Amendment \(Scotland\) Regulations 2003 \(S.S.I. 2003/174\)](#), regs. 1(1), **25**

### [<sup>F2</sup>**19B** Electronic communications

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), any reference in this Act to any document, notice, notification or statement in writing shall include a reference to that document, notice, notification or statement being an electronic communication (as defined in section 15(1) of the Electronic Communications Act [2000 \(c. 7\)](#)), which has been recorded and is consequently capable of being reproduced.
- (2) Any notice which a local authority requires to send may be given to or served on a person by such an electronic communication only if—
  - (a) the person consents in writing to the receipt of a notice of the kind in question from the sender by electronic communication sent to a specified number or address; and
  - (b) the communication is sent to the number or address in question.
- (3) In any legal proceedings, an electronic communication sent to any person under this Act shall, unless the contrary is proven, be regarded as having been received by that person on the second working day after the day on which it was sent.
- (4) In subsection (3), “working day” means a day which is not—
  - (a) a Saturday;
  - (b) a Sunday;
  - (c) Christmas Eve;
  - (d) a bank holiday in Scotland under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act [1971 \(c. 80\)](#);
  - (e) a day appointed for public thanksgiving or mourning; or
  - (f) a day which is a local or public holiday in the area in which the electronic communication is to be sent.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F2** [S. 19B](#) inserted (S.) (23.6.2006) by [The Electronic Communications \(Scotland\) Order 2006 \(S.S.I. 2006/367\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2**

### <sup>F3</sup>**20** Transitory provision for existing zoos.

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#### Textual Amendments

- F3** S. 20 repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\)](#), **Sch. 1 Pt. 17** Group 1

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## 21 Interpretation.

### (1) In this Act—

“animals” means animals of the classes Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia, Amphibia, Pisces and Insecta and any other multi cellular organism that is not a plant or a fungus and “wild animals” means animals not normally domesticated in Great Britain;

“circus” means a place where animals are kept or introduced wholly or mainly for the purpose of performing tricks or manoeuvres at that place;

“keeper” includes any person employed under the directions of a keeper;

“the list” means the list compiled by the Secretary of State under section 8;

[<sup>F4</sup>“pet shop” means premises for whose keeping as a pet shop a licence is in force, or is required, under the Pet Animals Act 1951;]

[<sup>F4</sup>“pet shop” means premises at which the licensable activity described in paragraph 1 of schedule 1 of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (selling animals as pets) is carried on;]

“taxonomic category” means a group or assemblage of species recognised as an entity in scientific classification;

“zoo” has the meaning assigned by section 1(2).

[<sup>F5</sup>“zoo closure direction” has the meaning assigned by section 13(12).]

### (2) Nothing in this Act and nothing done under it shall prejudice or affect the operation of any of the relevant statutory provisions (whenever made) as defined in Part I of the <sup>M1</sup>Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

#### Textual Amendments

**F4** Words in s. 21 substituted (S.) (8.6.2022) by [The Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006 \(Consequential Provisions\) Order 2022 \(S.S.I. 2022/195\)](#), art. 1(2), **sch. 1 para. 4(3)**

**F5** S. 21(1): definition of “zoo closure direction” inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3080](#), regs. 1(1), 2, 26 (which insertion is extended (W.) (22.4.2003) by [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/992\)](#), regs. 1(1), 2(1), **Sch. para. 23** (with reg. 4)); and (S.) (1.4.2003) by [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 Amendment \(Scotland\) Regulations 2003 \(S.S.I. 2003/174\)](#), regs. 1(1), 26

#### Marginal Citations

**M1** 1974 c. 37.

## 22 Consequential amendments.

### (1) The <sup>M2</sup>Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 shall be amended as follows—

#### (a) in section 5, for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted

“(1) a zoo within the meaning of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 for which a licence is in force (or is not for the time being required) under this Act”;

<sup>F6</sup>(b) .....

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, Cross Heading: Supplemental. (See end of Document for details)*

- (2) For the purpose of the said Act an animal shall be treated as kept in a zoo when it is elsewhere in the personal possession of the operator of the zoo, or of competent persons acting on his behalf.

#### Textual Amendments

**F6** S. 22(1)(b) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\)](#), [Sch. 1 Pt. 17](#) Group 1

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C3** The text of s. 22(1)(a)(b) is in the form in which it was originally enacted: it was not reproduced in Statutes in Force and does not reflect any amendments or repeals which may have been made prior to 1.2.1991.

#### Marginal Citations

**M2** [1976 c. 38](#).

### [<sup>F7</sup>22A Application of Act: England and Wales

- (1) The amendments made to this Act by the 2002 Regulations have effect in relation to England only, and accordingly, in the application of this Act in relation to Wales, the Act continues to have effect without the amendments made by the 2002 Regulations.

This subsection is subject to any regulations which may be made under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 by the National Assembly for Wales.

- (2) In this section “the 2002 Regulations” means the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002.]

#### Textual Amendments

**F7** S. 22A inserted (E.) (8.1.2003) by [S.I. 2002/3080](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 2](#)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C4** S. 22A ceases to have effect (22.4.2003) by virtue of [The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 \(Amendment\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2003 \(S.I. 2003/992\)](#), [regs. 1\(1\), 2\(1\)](#)

### 23 Short title, commencement and extent.

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

<sup>F8</sup>(2) .....

- (3) This Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.

#### Textual Amendments

**F8** S. 23(2) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\)](#), [Sch. 1 Pt. 17](#) Group 1

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C5** Power of appointment conferred by s. 23(2) fully exercised: 30.4.1984 appointed by [S.I. 1984/423](#)

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, Cross  
Heading: Supplemental.