

1974 No. 1061

ANIMALS

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

The Welfare of Livestock (Docking of Pigs) Regulations 1974*Laid before Parliament in draft*

Made - - - -	20th June 1974
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Coming into Operation	1st October 1974
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The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretary of State, acting jointly in exercise of their powers under section 2 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968(a) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, and after consultation with such persons appearing to them to represent any interests concerned as they have considered appropriate, hereby make the following regulations, of which a draft has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament:—

Title, extent, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations, which may be cited as the Welfare of Livestock (Docking of Pigs) Regulations 1974, apply to Great Britain and shall come into operation on 1st October 1974.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) applies for the interpretation of these regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Restrictions on docking of pigs

2.—(1) Subject as provided in paragraph (2) below, the docking of the tail of a pig which is livestock for the time being situated on agricultural land is prohibited unless the operation is performed by the quick and complete severance of the part of the tail to be removed and either—

(a) the pig is less than eight days old, or

(b) the operation is performed by a veterinary surgeon and is one which is in his opinion necessary for reasons of health or to prevent injury from the vice of tail-biting.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) above affects the rendering, in emergency, of first aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain, or applies to any act lawfully done under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876(c).

(3) A person who performs an operation prohibited by this regulation, or

(a) 1968 c. 34.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

(c) 1876 c. 77.

who causes or permits such an operation to be performed, shall be guilty of an offence under section 2 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 19th June 1974.

(L.S.)

Frederick Peart,
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

William Ross,
Secretary of State for Scotland.

20th June 1974.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations prohibit the docking of the tails of pigs which are agricultural livestock and over seven days old except where the operation is performed by a veterinary surgeon on health grounds or to prevent injury from tail-biting. They also prohibit any method of docking pigs otherwise than by the quick and complete severance of the part of the tail to be removed. The Regulations do not affect the rendering of first aid to save life or relieve pain, nor do they apply to any act lawfully done under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876.

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