

1974 No. 1062

ANIMALS

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

**The Welfare of Livestock (Cattle and Poultry)
Regulations 1974**
Laid before Parliament in draft

Made - - - 20th June 1974

Coming into Operation 1st October 1974

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 (Cattle and Poultry) 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.

(3) In these regulations—

“blinkers” means any appliance for limiting vision;

“cattle” means all bovine animals;

“operation” includes mutilation but not feather-clipping.

Prohibited operations

2.—(1) Subject as provided in paragraph (2) below, each of the following operations is prohibited where the animal or bird in question is livestock for the time being situated on agricultural land, that is to say—

(a) the docking of the tails of cattle;

(b) the castration of a male bird by a method involving surgery;

(c) any operation on a bird with the object or effect of impeding its flight;

(d) the fitting of blinkers to a bird by a method involving the penetration or other mutilation of the nasal septum.

 (a) 1968 c. 34.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) above applies to any act lawfully done under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876^(a) and nothing in sub-paragraphs (a), (b) or (c) of that paragraph affects the rendering, in emergency, of first aid for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain, or the performance by a veterinary surgeon of an operation which is in his opinion necessary for reasons of health.

(3) A person who performs an operation prohibited by this regulation, or 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 performance of the following operations on agricultural livestock:—

- (a) the docking of the tails of cattle;
- (b) the surgical castration of male birds;
- (c) operations on birds (other than feather-clipping) to impede flight;
- (d) the fitting of blinkers to birds by a method involving mutilation of the nasal septum.

The Regulations do not apply to any act lawfully done under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 nor, except with regard to the operation mentioned at (d) above, do they affect the rendering of first aid to save life or relieve pain, or the performance by a veterinary surgeon of an operation which he considers necessary for health reasons.

^(a) 1876 c. 77.

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