



Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966

1966 CHAPTER 36

Miscellaneous and general

22 Default powers of the Privy Council.

- (1) If it appears to the Privy Council that the Council of the College have failed, but ought, to discharge any of their functions under this Act, the Privy Council may notify their opinion to the Council of the College and may direct them to discharge that function in such a manner and within such a period as may be specified in the direction.
- (2) If the Council of the College fail to comply with a direction under the foregoing subsection with respect to any function of theirs, the Privy Council may themselves discharge that function.

23 Exercise of powers conferred on the Privy Council.

- (1) For the purpose of exercising any powers of this Act conferred on the Privy Council a quorum of the Privy Council shall be two.
- (2) Any document purporting to be—
 - (a) an instrument of appointment or approval made by the Privy Council under this Act or any other instrument so made; and
 - (b) signed by the Clerk of the Privy Council or any other person authorised by the Privy Council in that behalf, shall be evidence (and in Scotland sufficient evidence) of the fact that the instrument was so made and of the terms of the instrument.

24 Exemption from jury service.

[^{F1}(1) No person registered in the register of veterinary surgeons or the supplementary veterinary register shall if actually practising veterinary surgery be liable to serve on any jury in Great Britain.]

[^{F2}(2) For section 10(1) of the ^{M1} Juries Act (Northern Ireland) 1953 there shall be substituted the following subsection:—

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“(1) No person registered in the register of veterinary surgeons or the supplementary veterinary register shall, if actually practising veterinary surgery, be liable to serve on any jury, and accordingly there shall be added at the end of Schedule 3 to the Jury Laws Amendment Act (Northern Ireland) 1926 (exemption from serving on juries) the words “ persons registered in the register of veterinary surgeons or the supplementary veterinary register, if actually practising.””]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 24(1) repealed (E.W.) by Criminal Justice Act 1972(c. 71), Sch. 6 Pt. I; repealed (S.) by [Law Reform \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1980 \(c. 55, SIF 72:2\), s. 28\(2\), Sch. 3](#)
- F2** S. 24(2) repealed (N.I.) by [S.I. 1974/2143 \(N.I. 6\), Sch. 5](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** The text of ss. 24(2), 28(1) 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

- M1** [1953 c. 19.](#)

25 Regulations, rules and orders.

- (1) No regulation or rules of the Council under this Act shall have effect unless approved by order of the Privy Council.
- (2) Any order under the foregoing subsection may be revoked by a subsequent order of the Privy Council.
- (3) Any power to make orders conferred by this Act on the Privy Council or the Ministers, and any power to make rules so conferred on the Lord Chancellor, shall be exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (4) The Ministers shall not make an order under section 19(5) of this Act unless a draft of the order has been approved by both Houses of Parliament.
- (5) Any statutory instrument made under this Act in the exercise of powers conferred by section ^{F3}... 3, 19(4) or 21 of this Act shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

- F3** Word in s. 25(5) omitted (1.7.2020) by virtue of [The Legislative Reform \(Constitution of the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons\) Order 2018 \(S.I. 2018/559\), arts. 1\(4\), 7](#)

26 Notices.

- (1) In this Act “notice” means a notice in writing.
- (2) Any notice or other document authorised or required to be served under this Act on a person registered in the register of veterinary surgeons or the supplementary veterinary

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register may, without prejudice to any other method of service, be served on him by post in a letter addressed to him at his address in the relevant register, or at his last known address if that address differs from his address in the relevant register and it appears to the registrar that such service will be more effective.

27 Interpretation.

(1) In the Act, except so far as the context otherwise requires,—

“animals” includes birds and reptiles;

“College” means the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons;

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[^{F5}“Commonwealth qualification” means a qualification granted in a place that is [^{F6}outside the United Kingdom] but is within the Commonwealth;]

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“Council” means the Council of the College;

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“disciplinary case” has the meaning assigned to it by section 15 of this Act;

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“elected members of the Council” has the meaning assigned to it by section 1 of this Act;

[^{F12}“foreign qualification” means a qualification granted in a place that is [^{F13}not] within the Commonwealth;]

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“the Ministers” means the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, [^{F15}The Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales,] and the Minister of Agriculture for Northern Ireland acting jointly;

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“qualification” means any diploma, degree, fellowship, membership, licence, authority to practise, letters testimonial, certificate or other status or document granted by any university, corporation, college or other body or by any department of, or persons acting under the authority of, the government of any country or place;

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“recognition order” has the meaning assigned to it by section 3 of this Act;

“register” means the register of veterinary surgeons;

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“veterinary surgery” means the art and science of veterinary surgery and medicine and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall be taken to include—

- (a) the diagnosis of diseases in, and injuries to, animals including tests performed on animals for diagnostic purposes;
- (b) the giving of advice based upon such diagnosis;
- (c) the medical or surgical treatment of animals; and

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- (d) the performance of surgical operations on animals.
- (2) Anything required by this Act to be done by or to the registrar may be done by or to any assistant registrar appointed by the Council.
- (3) References in this Act to any other enactment shall be construed as references thereto as amended, and as including references thereto as extended, by or under any subsequent enactment.

Textual Amendments

- F4** Words in s. 27(1) omitted (17.12.2003) by virtue of [Veterinary Surgeons' Qualifications \(European Recognition\) Order 2003 \(S.I. 2003/2919\)](#), arts. 1, 12, **Sch. para. 7(a)**
- F5** Words in s. 27(1) substituted (6.8.2008) by [The Veterinary Surgeons Qualifications \(European Recognition\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1824\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. para. 15(2)** (with reg. 4)
- F6** Words in s. 27 substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/454\)](#), regs. 1(1), **2(13)(a)** (with regs. 3-5A) (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1225](#), regs. 1(3), 22 and [S.I. 2020/1038](#), regs. 1(3), Sch. 2 paras. 2, 3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F7** Words in s. 27 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/454\)](#), regs. 1(1), **2(13)(c)(i)** (with regs. 3-5A) (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1225](#), regs. 1(3), 22 and [S.I. 2020/1038](#), regs. 1(3), Sch. 2 paras. 2, 3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F8** Words in s. 27 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/454\)](#), regs. 1(1), **2(13)(c)(ii)** (with regs. 3-5A) (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1225](#), regs. 1(3), 22 and [S.I. 2020/1038](#), regs. 1(3), Sch. 2 paras. 2, 3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F9** Words in s. 27 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/454\)](#), regs. 1(1), **2(13)(c)(iii)** (with regs. 3-5A) (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1225](#), regs. 1(3), 22 and [S.I. 2020/1038](#), regs. 1(3), Sch. 2 paras. 2, 3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F10** Words in s. 27 omitted (30.5.2007) by virtue of [Veterinary Surgeons' Qualifications \(European Recognition\) Order 2007 \(S.I. 2007/1348\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. para. 3(a)**
- F11** Words in s. 27 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/454\)](#), regs. 1(1), **2(13)(c)(iv)** (with regs. 3-5A) (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1225](#), regs. 1(3), 22 and [S.I. 2020/1038](#), regs. 1(3), Sch. 2 paras. 2, 3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F12** Words in s. 27(1) substituted (6.8.2008) by [The Veterinary Surgeons Qualifications \(European Recognition\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1824\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. para. 15(3)** (with reg. 4)
- F13** Word in s. 27 substituted (31.12.2020) by [The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/454\)](#), regs. 1(1), **2(13)(b)** (with regs. 3-5A) (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1225](#), regs. 1(3), 22 and [S.I. 2020/1038](#), regs. 1(3), Sch. 2 paras. 2, 3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)
- F14** Words in s. 27(1) omitted (6.8.2008) by virtue of [The Veterinary Surgeons Qualifications \(European Recognition\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1824\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. para. 15(4)** (with reg. 4)
- F15** Words substituted by [S.I. 1978/272](#), **Sch. 5**
- F16** Words in s. 27(1) omitted (6.8.2008) by virtue of [The Veterinary Surgeons Qualifications \(European Recognition\) Regulations 2008 \(S.I. 2008/1824\)](#), reg. 1, **Sch. para. 15(5)** (with reg. 4)
- F17** Words in s. 27 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/454\)](#), regs. 1(1), **2(13)(c)(vi)** (with regs. 3-5A) (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1225](#), regs. 1(3), 22 and [S.I. 2020/1038](#), regs. 1(3), Sch. 2 paras. 2, 3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

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F18 Words in s. 27 omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Veterinary Surgeons and Animal Welfare \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/454\)](#), regs. 1(1), **2(13)(c)(vii)** (with regs. 3-5A) (as amended by [S.I. 2019/1225](#), regs. 1(3), 22 and [S.I. 2020/1038](#), regs. 1(3), Sch. 2 paras. 2, 3); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

28 Repeal, saving and transitional provisions.

- (1) The enactments described in Schedule 4 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in column 3 of that Schedule.
- (2) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as derogating from so much of the charter of the College dated 8th March 1844 as incorporates the College, recognises the veterinary art as a profession, authorises the College to have a common seal, to hold property, to sue and be sued and to appoint officers and servants and provides for the vesting of the property of the College.
- (3) In so far as any Order in Council, regulation, rule, order or other instrument made or issued under any enactment repealed or any charter provision superseded by this Act or any other thing done under any such enactment or provision could have been made, issued or done under a corresponding provision of this Act it shall not be invalidated by the repeals effected by this section or by any other provision of this Act but shall have effect as if made, issued or done under that corresponding provision.
- (4) Without prejudice to the last foregoing subsection—
 - (a) any person registered in the register immediately before the commencement of section 2 of this Act by reason of his having obtained a diploma granted on examination by the College shall be treated as if he had been registered in that register in the general list;
 - (b) any person registered in the register under section 13 of the ^{M2}Veterinary Surgeons Act 1881 as a colonial practitioner or a foreign practitioner immediately before the commencement of the said section 2 shall be treated as if he had been registered in the register in the Commonwealth list or the foreign list, as the case may require;
 - (c) any order made under section 1 of the ^{M3}Veterinary Surgeons Act 1948 and in force immediately before the commencement of section 3 of this Act shall have effect as if it had been made under the said section 3.
- (5) Without prejudice to subsection (3) of this section, any provision of this Act relating to anything done or required or authorised to be done under, or by reference to, that provision or any other provision of this Act shall have effect as if any reference to that provision or to that other provision, as the case may be, included a reference to the corresponding provision of the enactments repealed by this Act or the corresponding charter provision superseded by this Act, as the case may require.

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^{F20}(7)

- (8) Any enactment passed before this Act referring, whether specifically or by means of a general description, to an enactment repealed or a charter provision superseded by this Act shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as referring to the corresponding provision of this Act, and any document made or issued (whether before or after the passing of this Act) referring whether specifically or by means of

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a general description, to an enactment repealed or a charter provision superseded by this Act shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be similarly construed.

(9) In this section “charter provision” means a provision of a charter of the College.

Textual Amendments

F19 S. 28(6) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\)](#), **Sch. 1 Pt. 17** Group 7

F20 S. 28(7) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\)](#), **Sch. 1 Pt. 17** Group 7

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 The text of ss. 24(2), 28(1) 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 1881c. 62.

M3 1948 c. 52.

29 Short title, extent and commencement.

(1) This Act may be cited as the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966.

(2) It is hereby declared that this Act extends to Northern Ireland, . . . ^{F21}

^{F22}(3)

^{F23}(4)

Textual Amendments

F21 Words repealed by [Northern Ireland Constitution Act 1973 \(c. 36\)](#), **Sch. 6 Pt. I**

F22 S. 29(3) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\)](#), **Sch. 1 Pt. 17** Group 7

F23 S. 29(4) repealed (22.7.2004) by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 2004 \(c. 14\)](#), **Sch. 1 Pt. 17** Group 7

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C3 S. 29(3)power of appointment conferred by s. 29(3) fully exercised: [S.I. 1967/251](#), 1972/1990

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