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# Animal Health Act 1981

## CHAPTER 22

### ANIMAL HEALTH ACT 1981

#### PART I

#### GENERAL

##### *General powers of Ministers to make orders and to authorise regulations*

- 1 General powers of Ministers to make orders.
- 2 Local authority regulations.

##### *Eradication and prevention of disease*

- 3 Expenditure for eradication.
- 4 Offences as to s. 3.
- 5 Veterinary services and therapeutic substances.
- 6 Eradication areas and attested areas.

##### *Cleansing and movement*

- 7 Cleansing and disinfection.
- 8 Movement generally.

##### *Transport by sea and air*

- 9 Prohibition in specific cases.
- 10 Importation.
- 10A Annual review of import controls
- 11 Export to member States.
- 12 Export quarantine stations.

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### *Control of dogs, and preventive treatment of sheep*

- 13 Orders as to dogs.
- 14 Prevention of sheep scab.

## **PART II**

### **DISEASE**

#### *Outbreak*

- 14B Duty to consider vaccination
- 15 Separation and notice.
- 16 Treatment after exposure to infection.
- 16A Slaughter of vaccinated animals

#### *Infection*

- 17 Powers as to infected places and areas.
- 18 Other provisions as to infected places and areas.
- 19 Destruction of foxes etc. on rabies infection.
- 20 Additional provisions under s. 17 on rabies infection.
- 21 Destruction of wild life on infection other than rabies.
- 22 Powers of entry etc. for s. 21.
- 23 Orders as to infected places and areas.
- 24 Rabies: quarantine and virus control.
- 25 Movement of diseased or suspected animals.
- 26 Pleuro-pneumonia or foot-and-mouth disease found in transit.
- 27 Exclusion of strangers.
- 28 Seizure of diseased or suspected animals.
- 28A Deliberate infection
- 28B Deliberate infection: disqualification

#### *Risk to human health*

- 29 Control of zoonoses.
- 30 Provisions supplemental to s. 29.

#### *Slaughter*

- 31 Slaughter in certain diseases.
- 32 Slaughter in other diseases.
- 32A Slaughter to prevent spread of disease
- 32B Disease control (slaughter) protocol
- 32C Protocol: exercise of powers
- 32D Explanation of preventive slaughter
- 33 Additional staff and expenses.
- 34 Slaughter and compensation generally.

#### *Carcases etc. liable to spread disease*

- 35 Seizure and disposal of carcasses etc.
- 36 Compensation for seizure.

## **PART 2A**

### **SCRAPIE**

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*Sheep genotypes*

36A Power of Secretary of State to specify sheep genotypes

*Genetically susceptible sheep*

36B Identification of genetically susceptible sheep  
36C Restrictions on breeding from genetically susceptible sheep  
36D Appeals

*Enforcement*

36E Secretary of State's powers of enforcement  
36F Offences

*Power of entry*

36G Power of entry  
36H Warrants  
36I Supplementary  
36J Offences

*General*

36K Compensation  
36L Orders and Regulations  
36M Interpretation

**PART III**

**WELFARE AND EXPORT**

*Care*

37 Prevention of suffering.  
38 Food and water.

*Export*

39 Export of animals generally.

*Export of horses other than those defined as ponies*

40 Restriction on export of horses.

*Export of horses defined as ponies*

41 Restriction on export of ponies.  
42 Restriction on export of registered ponies.  
43 Regulation of export of ponies.

*Other provisions as to export of horses*

44 Slaughter on examination of inspection.  
45 Marking of horses certified for export.  
46 Slaughter of injured horses.  
47 Exemption of thoroughbreds in transit.  
48 Certificates.  
49 Enforcement and interpretation.

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## **PART IV**

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 50 Local authorities for purposes of this Act.
- 51 Local authorities and their districts.
- 52 Inspectors and other officers.
- 53 Borrowing powers.
- 54 Provision of wharves etc.
- 55 Power to acquire land.
- 56 Public facilities for sheep dipping.
- 57 Burial of carcasses washed ashore.
- 58 Regulations.
- 59 Default.

## **PART V**

### ENFORCEMENT, OFFENCES AND PROCEEDINGS

#### *Enforcement*

- 60 Duties and authorities of constables.
- 61 Powers of arrest as to rabies.
- 62 Entry and search under s. 61.
- 62A Slaughter: power of entry
- 62B Slaughter: warrants
- 62C Slaughter: supplementary
- 62D Tests and samples: power of entry
- 62E Tests and samples: warrants
- 62F Tests and samples: supplementary
- 63 General powers of inspectors.
- 64 Powers of inspectors as to poultry.
- 64A Powers of inspectors relating to Community obligations
- 65 Power to detain vessels and aircraft.
- 65A Inspection of vehicles
- 66 Refusal and obstruction.
- 66A Refusal and obstruction of inspector

#### *Offences as to licences, declarations, certificates and instruments*

- 67 Issue of false licences etc.
- 68 Issue of licences etc. in blank.
- 69 Falsely obtaining licences etc.
- 70 Alteration of licences etc.
- 71 Other offences as to licences.

#### *Offences generally*

- 71A Prosecutions: time limit
- 72 Offences made and declared by and under this Act.
- 73 General offences.

#### *Further provisions as to punishment of offences*

- 74 Liability under the customs and excise Acts.
- 75 Punishment of summary offences not otherwise provided for.

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76 Certain importation offences triable either summarily or on indictment.

*Proceedings*

77 Money recoverable summarily.

78 Appeal.

79 Evidence and procedure.

**PART VI**

SUPPLEMENTAL

*Reports and information*

80 Yearly return to Parliament.

81 Reports to Minister.

82 Information from Agricultural Marketing Boards.

*Notices, fees, and exemption from stamp duty*

83 Form and service of instruments.

84 Fees.

85 Exemption from stamp duty.

*Interpretation, functions, and orders etc.*

86 Ministers and their functions.

87 Meaning of “animals” and “poultry”.

88 Meaning of “disease”.

89 Other interpretation provisions.

90 Application to hovercraft.

91 Orders etc.

*Scotland and Northern Ireland*

92 General application to Scotland.

93 Communications to and from Northern Ireland.

*Miscellaneous provisions as to operation*

94 Transitional.

95 Savings.

96 Consequential amendments and repeals.

97 Short title, extent, and commencement.

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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Regulation of Manufacture of and Other Matters Connected with  
Veterinary Therapeutic Substances

*Substances to which this Schedule applies*

1 (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraph (2) below, this...

*Power to make orders as to substances to which this Schedule applies*

2 (1) The Ministers may make orders for the following purposes—...

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*Licences to manufacture*

- 3 (1) The following provisions shall have effect with respect to...

*Licences to import*

- 4 The issue of a licence to import a substance the...

*Therapeutic substances to which this Schedule applies*

- 5 The therapeutic substances mentioned in paragraph 1(1)(a) above are—

*Offences under this Schedule*

- 6 A person who— (a) contravenes or fails to comply with...

SCHEDULE 2 — Specific Matters with Respect to Which Provision may be made  
in Orders Under Section 10

- 1 The conditions to be observed before, during and after importation....  
2 Exemptions from provisions of the order by means of licences,...  
3 The prohibition of the importation of animals or other things...  
4 Landing and quarantine of animals and other things.  
4A The premises at which animals and other things are to...  
5 Seizure, detention and treatment of animals and other things.  
6 Slaughter of animals and destruction of other things.  
7 Cleansing and disinfection.  
8 Marking, testing and use of animals and other things.  
9 Movement of persons and of animals and other things.  
10 Recovery of costs.  
11 Inspection.  
12 Entitlement to compensation and the determination, subject to the  
Treasury's...

SCHEDULE 2A — Specified diseases

Foot-and-mouth disease Swine vesicular disease Peste des petits  
ruminants Lumpy...

SCHEDULE 3 — Power to Slaughter in Relation to Certain Diseases

*Cattle plague*

- 1 (1) The Minister shall cause to be slaughtered all animals...

*Pleuro-pneumonia*

- 2 (1) The Minister shall cause to be slaughtered all cattle...

*Foot-and-mouth disease*

- 3 (1) The Minister may, if he thinks fit, in any...

*Swine-fever*

- 4 (1) The Minister may, if he thinks fit, in any...

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*Diseases of poultry*

5 (1) The Minister may, if he thinks fit, cause to...

SCHEDULE 4 — Additional Provisions as to Food and Water at Railway Stations

- 1 The food and water, or either of them, provided under...
- 2 As regards water, if, in the case of any animal,...
- 3 The Ministers may, if they think fit, by order prescribe...
- 4 The body supplying food or water under section 38(2) may...
- 5 The amount of those additional charges accrued due in respect...
- 6 The body concerned shall have a lien for the amount...

SCHEDULE 5 — Consequential Amendments

1 . . . . .

*Food and Drugs Act 1955*

2 In section 100(6) of the Food and Drugs Act 1955...

*Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act 1956*

3 In section 36(6) of the Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act...

*Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1963*

4 In section 16(3) of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1963...

*London Government Act 1963*

5 In section 54(3) of the London Government Act 1963 for...

*Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963*

6 In paragraph (b) of the proviso to section 5(1) of...

*Agriculture Act 1967*

7 In section 13(5) of the Agriculture Act 1967 for “Diseases...

*Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968*

8 In section 8(2) of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968  
—...

*Transport Act 1968*

9 In paragraph 7(2)(b) of Schedule 16 to the Transport Act...

*Agriculture Act 1970*

10 In section 106(6) of the Agriculture Act 1970 for “Diseases...

*Slaughterhouses Act 1974*

11 In the Slaughterhouses Act 1974— (a) in section 20(5) for...

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*Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) Act 1980*

12 In the Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) Act 1980—

Schedule 6 — Repeals



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