



Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

1986 CHAPTER 14

Preliminary

1 Protected animals.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, “a protected animal” for the purposes of this Act means any living vertebrate other than man.
- (2) Any such vertebrate in its foetal, larval or embryonic form is a protected animal only from the stage of its development when—
 - (a) in the case of a mammal, bird or reptile, half the gestation or incubation period for the relevant species has elapsed; and
 - (b) in any other case, it becomes capable of independent feeding.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by order—
 - (a) extend the definition of protected animal so as to include invertebrates of any description;
 - (b) alter the stage of development specified in subsection (2) above;
 - (c) make provision in lieu of subsection (2) above as respects any animal which becomes a protected animal by virtue of an order under paragraph (a) above.
- (4) For the purposes of this section an animal shall be regarded as continuing to live until the permanent cessation of circulation or the destruction of its brain.
- (5) In this section “vertebrate” means any animal of the Sub-phylum Vertebrata of the Phylum Chordata and “invertebrate” means any animal not of that Sub-phylum.

Extent Information

- E1** In its application to Northern Ireland, this section has effect subject to the modifications set out in s. 29, see s. 29(1)

Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, Cross Heading: Preliminary. (See end of Document for details)

2 Regulated procedures.

- (1) Subject to the provision of this section, “a regulated procedure” for the purposes of this Act means any experimental or other scientific procedure applied to a protected animal which may have the effect of causing that animal pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.
- (2) An experimental or other scientific procedure applied to an animal is also a regulated procedure if—
 - (a) it is part of a series or combination of such procedures (whether the same or different) applied to the same animal; and
 - (b) the series or combination may have the effect mentioned in subsection (1) above; and
 - (c) the animal is a protected animal throughout the series or combination or in the course of it attains the stage of its development when it becomes such an animal.
- (3) Anything done for the purpose of, or liable to result in, the birth or hatching of a protected animal is also a regulated procedure if it may as respects that animal have the effect mentioned in subsection (1) above.
- (4) In determining whether any procedure may have the effect mentioned in subsection (1) above the use of an anaesthetic or analgesic, decerebration and any other procedure for rendering an animal insentient shall be disregarded; and the administration of an anaesthetic or analgesic to a protected animal, or decerebration or any other such procedure applied to such an animal, for the purposes of any experimental or other scientific procedure shall itself be a regulated procedure.
- (5) The ringing, tagging or marking of an animal, or the application of any other humane procedure for the sole purpose of enabling an animal to be identified, is not a regulated procedure if it causes only momentary pain or distress and no lasting harm.
- [^{F1}(6) The administration of any substance or article to an animal is not a regulated procedure if the substance or article is administered for research purposes in accordance with an animal test certificate granted under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2006.]
- (7) Killing a protected animal is a regulated procedure only if it is killed for experimental or other scientific use, the place where it is killed is a designated establishment and the method employed is not one appropriate to the animal under Schedule 1 to this Act.
- (8) In this section references to a scientific procedure do not include references to any recognised veterinary, agricultural or animal husbandry practice.
- (9) Schedule 1 to this Act may be amended by orders made by the Secretary of State.

Extent Information

- E2** In its application to Northern Ireland, this section has effect subject to the modifications set out in s. 29, see s. 29(1)

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 2(6) substituted (1.10.2006) by [The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2006 \(S.I. 2006/2407\)](#), reg. 1, [Sch. 9 para. 6](#) (with [regs. 2\(4\), 3](#))

Status:

Point in time view as at 01/10/2006.

Changes to legislation:

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