



Animal Welfare Act 2006

2006 CHAPTER 45

Enforcement powers

23 Entry and search under warrant in connection with offences

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), a justice of the peace may, on the application of an inspector or constable, issue a warrant authorising an inspector or a constable to enter premises, if necessary using reasonable force, in order to search for evidence of the commission of a relevant offence.
- (2) The power to issue a warrant under subsection (1) is exercisable only if the justice of the peace is satisfied—
 - (a) that there are reasonable grounds for believing—
 - (i) that a relevant offence has been committed on the premises, or
 - (ii) that evidence of the commission of a relevant offence is to be found on the premises, and
 - (b) that section 52 is satisfied in relation to the premises.
- (3) In this section, “relevant offence” means an offence under any of sections 4 to 9, 13(6) and 34(9).

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 23 modified (W.) (24.3.2010) by [Animal Welfare \(Electronic Collars\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2010 \(S.I. 2010/943\)](#), regs. 1, 4
- C2** S. 23 modified (W.) (10.9.2021) by [The Animal Welfare \(Licensing of Activities Involving Animals\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/416\)](#), regs. 1(2), 20

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 23 in force at 27.3.2007 for W. by [S.I. 2007/1030](#), art. 2(1)(e)
- I2** S. 23 in force at 6.4.2007 for E. by [S.I. 2007/499](#), art. 2(2)(g)

Changes to legislation:

Animal Welfare Act 2006, Section 23 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- s. 23 modified by [S.I. 2024/296 reg. 18](#)