
 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1980 No. 685

ANIMALS

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

**The Removal of Antlers in Velvet (Anaesthetics)
Order 1980**

<i>Made - - - -</i>	15th May 1980
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	21st May 1980
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	11th June 1980

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales (hereinafter called "the Ministers"), acting jointly in exercise of powers conferred by section 5 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968(a) and now vested in them(b), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, and after consultation with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and with such other persons appearing to the Ministers to represent any other interests concerned as the Ministers have considered appropriate, hereby make the following order:—

1. This order may be cited as the Removal of Antlers in Velvet (Anaesthetics) Order 1980. It applies to Great Britain and shall come into operation on 11th June 1980.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 1 to the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics) Act 1954(c) (which relate, respectively, to experiments authorised under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876(d) and to first aid in emergency for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain), paragraphs 7 and 8 of that Schedule (which exempt certain minor operations from the requirement to use anaesthetics imposed by the said Act of 1954) shall not in any circumstances permit the removal of any part of the antlers of a deer while those antlers are in velvet without the use of an anaesthetic so administered as to prevent any pain during the operation.

Antlers are in velvet for this purpose until the velvet is frayed and the greater part of it has been shed.

(a) 1968 c. 34.

(b) In the case of the Secretary of State for Wales, by virtue of S.I. 1978/272.

(c) 1954 c. 46.

(d) 1876 c. 77.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 14th May 1980.

(L.S.)

Peter Walker,
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

George Younger,
Secretary of State for Scotland.

15th May 1980.

Nicholas Edwards,
Secretary of State for Wales.

15th May 1980.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order prohibits the performance without anaesthetic of the operation of removing any part of the antlers of a deer while those antlers are in velvet except where authorised under the Cruelty to Animals Act 1876 or in emergency for the purpose of saving life or relieving pain.

Any contravention of this Order is an offence of cruelty: in England or Wales under the Protection of Animals Act 1911 (c. 27), and in Scotland under the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1912 (c. 14).