

Importation of Animals Act⁽¹⁾

1990 No 54, 16 March

⁽¹⁾Act amended by Article 95 of Act No 60/2013. The amendment enters into force on 1 July 2015 as stipulated by Article 94 of the same Act, cf. Article of Act No 23/2014.

Entry into force 31 May 1990. Amended by Act No 40/1996 (entry into force 21 May 1996), Act No 82/1998 (entry into force 1 October 1998), Act No 44/1999 (entry into force 1 July 1999), Act No 175/2000 (entry into force 29 December 2000), Act No 142/2001 (entry into force 31 December 2001), Act No 153/2002 (entry into force 30 December 2002), Act No 164/2002 (entry into force 1 January 2003), Provisional Act No 103/2003 (entry into force 1 July 2003), Act No 116/2003 (entry into force 12 November 2003), Act No 76/2005 (entry into force 1 January 2006), Act No 128/2005 (entry into force 30 December 2005), Act No 141/2007 (entry into force 1 January 2008), Act No 167/2007 (entry into force 1 January 2008), Act No 118/2009 (entry into force 29 December 2009), Act No 126/2011 (entry into force 30 September 2011) and Act No 60/2013 (entry into force 1 July 2015).

Any reference in this Act to “the Minister” or “the Ministry” not accompanied by express mention of or reference to a specific field of responsibility shall be understood as being a reference to the **Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture** or to the **Ministry of Industries and Innovation** as responsible for the implementation of this Act.

■ **Article 1** For the purpose of this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

Livestock [means poultry, goats, horses, rabbits, fur-bearing animals, cattle, sheep and pigs. In the event of a dispute arising regarding the scope of the term ‘livestock’, [the Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall make a ruling.]⁽²⁾

...⁽³⁾

Animal means any living terrestrial animals, including vertebrates, invertebrates, and aquatic animals living fully or partially in fresh water.

Isolation station [means a quarantine facility for fur-bearing animals, domestic pets, birds and fish[, as well as for pigs and porcine genetic material].]⁽²⁾⁽³⁾

[*Aquaculture animals* means live fish, crustaceans or molluscs coming from a farm, at any development stage, including animals from the wild intended for a farm.]⁽⁴⁾

Genetic material means any substance storing information that determines the genetic characteristics of animals, such as an embryo (fertilised egg or early-stage foetus), eggs or semen.

[*Advisory Board* means a committee which develops policy on breeding, research, and educational and developmental work in a specific agricultural sector pursuant to the Agricultural Act No 70/1998.]⁽³⁾

[*Domestic pets* means animals belonging to the following species and groups: dogs, cats, rabbits, ornamental fish, aquatic animals, rodents and cage birds.]⁽²⁾

Quarantine Veterinary Officer [means a professionally qualified public official responsible for surveillance at a quarantine station where animals have been imported in accordance with this Act.]⁽³⁾

Quarantine station means premises where animals and genetic materials are kept while being tested for infectious diseases.

Supervisory Veterinary Officer means any veterinarian who has been appointed to carry out surveillance in connection with importation pursuant to this Act.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 141. ⁽²⁾Act No 141/2007, Article 1. ⁽³⁾Act No 175/2000, Article 1. ⁽⁴⁾Act No 116/2003, Article 5.

■ **Article 2** The importation into Iceland of animals of any kind, domestic or wild, or their genetic material, is prohibited. [International trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora is governed by the Act on the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.]⁽¹⁾

□ [The importation ban of the first paragraph shall not extend to the importation of live fish, crustaceans or molluscs coming from a farm, at any development stage, including eggs and gametes, and including animals from the wild intended for a farm, provided that the importation complies with the requirements of Regulations issued by [the Minister]⁽²⁾ after receiving the comments of [the Food and Veterinary Authority],⁽³⁾ the Fish Disease Prevention Committee, the Institute of Freshwater Fisheries and the Genetic Resource Council in Agriculture. Importers shall provide a written confirmation by [the Food and Veterinary Authority]⁽³⁾ that the conditions laid down in this provisions are fulfilled.

□ Having received the scientific opinion of the Institute of Freshwater Fisheries, [the Minister]⁽²⁾ may limit or prohibit the importation of live salmonids, at any development stage, including eggs and gametes, where there is clear evidence that other protection and conservation measures mandated by law or administrative provisions are insufficient to prevent genetic mixing of such salmonids with local natural populations, a situation likely to threaten biological diversity and endanger the natural populations.]⁽⁴⁾

□ By way of exception from the ban of the first paragraph, [the Minister]⁽²⁾ may, on the recommendation of the Chief Veterinary Officer, authorise the importation of animals and genetic material, [subject, however, to Article 4a]⁽⁵⁾ [and Article 13, third paragraph],⁽⁶⁾ provided that the instructions contained in this Act and in any Regulation issued pursuant to it are strictly followed.

□ Any animals imported without authorisation shall be immediately put down and their carcasses destroyed so as to prevent any risk. Eggs, semen and embryos shall likewise be destroyed, as shall any animals artificially inseminated or used as surrogate mothers and any offspring born after such illegal importation.

⁽¹⁾Act No 164/2002, Article 16. ⁽²⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 141. ⁽³⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 70. ⁽⁴⁾Act No 116/2003, Article 6. ⁽⁵⁾Act No 141/2007, Article 2. ⁽⁶⁾Act No 118/2009, Article 1.

■ **Article 3** A recommendation by the Chief Veterinary Officer to authorise the import animals or genetic material shall be accompanied by a substantiated opinion of the health situation in the relevant country or region, as well as a certificate issued by the relevant health authorities attesting that no animal diseases of particular concern for Iceland have been detected in that country or region.

□ ...⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 175/2000, Article 2.

■ **Article 4** Prior to authorising the importation of livestock or its genetic material, the Minister shall seek the opinion of the [Advisory Board]⁽¹⁾ for the relevant agricultural sector, [which shall]⁽¹⁾ evaluate whether Icelandic livestock farming is in need of or could benefit from such importation. [The Advisory Board]⁽¹⁾ shall issue recommendations on the breed and species to be imported, the methods to be employed and the country from which the importation should take place.

□ The Commission⁽²⁾ may propose another form for the importation than that planned by the applicant where it considers this a safer alternative and a prerequisite for recommending the approval of the application.

⁽¹⁾Act No 175/2000, Article 3. ⁽²⁾This should presumably be 'Advisory Board'.

■ **[Article 4a]** By way of exception from the prohibition of Article 2, first paragraph, the Chief Veterinary Officer may authorise the importation of pets and genetic material thereof not belonging to new species or new breeds of species already present in Iceland, cf. Article 5, provided that the instructions contained in this Act and in any Regulation issued pursuant to it are followed.

□ An evaluation shall take place of the risks associated with the importation, and the importer may be required to provide information about the health of the pet, including a certificate of health and a certificate of origin, confirming that the pet or genetic material has undergone the necessary vaccinations, tests and treatments prior to being imported.

□ A character assessment may be required for dogs for which a permit to import is requested; similarly, a character assessment may be required for dogs the genetic material of which is the subject of a request for an importation permit. No exemptions shall be granted for the importation of dogs, wolf–dog hybrids or other types of pet that may pose a danger.]⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 141/2007, Article 3.

■ **Article 5** Prior to authorising the importation of new animal species or foreign breeds of species already existing in Iceland, [the Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall seek the opinions of [[the Environment Agency of Iceland, the Icelandic Institute of Natural History],⁽²⁾ [the Genetic Resource Council in Agriculture]⁽³⁾ and the committee of experts appointed pursuant to the Nature Conservation Act].⁽⁴⁾

□ [An application for a permit to import new animal species shall be accompanied by a risk evaluation obtained by the applicant. The risk evaluation shall include an assessment of the risk of the species in question being released into the environment and of the potential impact of this on the ecosystem.

□ After consulting with [the minister responsible for the protection of the environment],⁽¹⁾ the Minister may issue a Regulation containing more detailed provisions on the performance of risk evaluations.]⁽⁵⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 141. ⁽²⁾Act No 164/2002, Article 17. ⁽³⁾Act No 116/2003, Article 7. ⁽⁴⁾Act No 44/1999, Article 79. ⁽⁵⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 31.

■ **Article 6** [The Ministry]⁽¹⁾ [shall monitor and assume responsibility for]⁽²⁾ the importation of livestock where authorisation for such importation is granted pursuant to this Act. [It shall similarly monitor]⁽²⁾ the reproduction of imported breeds; however, [the Minister]⁽¹⁾ may delegate responsibility for such breeding to individual [agricultural associations]⁽²⁾ or breeding societies, provided that the Chief Veterinary Officer and the relevant [Advisory Board]⁽²⁾ recommend this. In such cases, the entity concerned shall demonstrate that it is capable of meeting all requirements as regards infection prevention and the facilities to be provided, and of financing all aspects of the reproduction. Such delegation of responsibilities shall always be limited to one permit to import and subject to a specific time limit.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 141. ⁽²⁾Act No 175/2000, Article 4.

■ **Article 7** [Quarantine and isolation stations shall be operated to serve the needs of importation of animals and genetic material. After receiving the proposals of [the Food and Veterinary Authority],⁽²⁾ [the Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall issue a Regulation stipulating the requirements for the equipment of quarantine and isolation stations. The Minister may charge individuals, companies or associations with the operation of the stations.]⁽³⁾

□ ...⁽⁴⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 141. ⁽²⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 70. ⁽³⁾Act No 175/2000, Article 5. ⁽⁴⁾Act No 128/2005, Article 1.

■ **Article 8** Where an animal or a genetic material is chosen for importation, each individual animal to be imported, males from which semen is to be collected, and parents which have provided fertilised eggs shall undergo a health inspection by an Official Veterinarian, and all certificates and other essential information must be provided before importation takes place. Embryos, eggs or semen may only be imported from recognised breeding stations where the