

Act on animal diseases and measures to control them

1993 No 25, 7 April

Date of entry into force: 7 April 1993 Amended by Act No 87/1995 (entry into force 1 July 1995), Act No 73/1996 (entry into force 19 June 1996), Act No 82/1998 (entry into force 1 October 1998), Act No 31/2001 (entry into force 16 May 2001), Act No 63/2003 (entry into force 7 April 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 167/2007 (entry into force 1 January 2008), Act No 88/2008 (entry into force 1 January 2009 with the exception of Transitional Provision VII which entered into force on 21 June 2008), Act No 143/2009 (entry into force 1 March 2010 with the exception of Sections II to IV which entered into force on 1 November 2011 (except Article 43 of Section IV: entry into force 1 March 2010) and Articles 54 and 55 and the ninth substantive paragraph of Article 63, which entered into force on 1 March 2011; *EEA Agreement*: Annex I and Annex II: Regulation No 178/2002), Act No 126/2011 (entry into force 30 September 2011) and Act No 4/2014 (entry into force 25 January 2014).

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.

Section I Purpose, scope, and general administration

■ **Article 1** The purpose of this Act is:

- a. to promote good health in Icelandic animals and prevent the introduction of new infectious diseases;
- b. to monitor and prevent the spreading of animal diseases and work toward their eradication;
- c. to ensure the wholesomeness of livestock products of Icelandic origin.

■ **Article 2** This Act shall apply to all diseases in animals, whether farm animals, domestic pets or wildlife.

■ **Article 3** The [Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall assume responsibility for the general administration of any matter governed by this Act.

[The Food and Veterinary Authority]⁽²⁾ shall provide assistance and advice to the Minister with respect to any matter regarding animal diseases and the implementation of the Act.

District Veterinary Officers shall carry out animal health surveillance and seek to improve the health of animals in their respective districts, and be alert to the introduction of new animal diseases to Iceland or to specific quarantine zones.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 172. ⁽²⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 64.

Section II Definitions

■ **Article 4** [*Animal by-products* means entire carcasses, bodies or parts of animals, organs and other products of animal origin which are not fit or not intended for human consumption.]⁽¹⁾

- *Livestock* means horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, fur-bearing animals, rabbits and poultry, as well as farmed fish and other animals kept for utility. In the event of a dispute arising concerning the scope of the term ‘livestock’, [the Minister]⁽²⁾ shall make a ruling.
- *Animal* means any invertebrate or vertebrate animal.
- *Animal disease* means an infectious disease caused by microbes or parasites, a metabolic disorder, a hereditary disorder, a poisoning, or any other disease covered by this Act.
- *Domestic pet* means any animal kept for pleasure.
- *Infectious disease* means a disease or infection capable of being transmitted, directly or indirectly, between animals or between animals and humans.
- *Quarantine zone* means a geographic area demarcated by isolation lines, rivers, lakes, oceans or desert areas which in combination with mandatory monitoring and other precautionary measures hinder or completely block any contact between animals in adjacent zones.
- *Isolation lines* means the borders of quarantine zones, including fence lines, divided into main and auxiliary isolation lines.

⁽¹⁾Act No 143/2009, Article 31. ⁽²⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 172.

Section III Notification requirement and diagnosis

■ **Article 5** Any person who has reason to believe that an animal is suffering from an infectious disease covered by this Act must report this to any veterinarian who can be reached or to the police without delay. The police shall immediately contact a veterinarian. Where the veterinarian deems this appropriate, immediate steps shall be taken to obtain confirmation of the veterinarian’s diagnosis and to prevent the disease from spreading.

□ Where **testing reveals**, or the veterinarian suspects, **the presence of** a [notifiable disease, cf. Regulation issued pursuant to Article 7, paragraph 2],⁽¹⁾ or an infectious disease previously unknown in Iceland, the veterinarian shall immediately inform [the Food and Veterinary Authority].⁽²⁾ The veterinarian shall furthermore take precautionary measures to prevent the spreading of the disease or facilitate its eradication, and shall prevent the animal and any of its products from being distributed, and ensure the isolation of the animal and of other potentially infected animals, as well as of their immediate surroundings. Moreover, the veterinarian shall order the disinfection or destruction of any article or product that has been in contact with the animal, and put down the animal or take other measures considered necessary. Animal owners must provide all necessary assistance in relation to precautionary measures undertaken pursuant to this paragraph.

□ However, if the illness detected is [a **reportable** disease, cf. Regulation issued pursuant to Article 7, paragraph 2],⁽¹⁾ the veterinarian shall arrange for further testing to be carried out and report the matter to the extent necessary.

⁽¹⁾Act No 4/2014, Article 1. ⁽²⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 64.

■ **Article 6** Every person engaged in veterinary activities must follow the instructions given by [the Food and Veterinary Authority]⁽¹⁾ with regard to **the reporting** of animal diseases, and take any measure for the control or eradication of diseases ordered by [the Authority]⁽²⁾ or specified in relevant regulations or notices.

⁽¹⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 64. ⁽²⁾Act No 76/2005, Article 9.

■ **Article 7** [The Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall issue a Regulation⁽²⁾ containing more detailed provisions on precautionary measures which become necessary where there is suspicion of [notifiable infectious diseases, cf. Regulation issued pursuant to paragraph 2],⁽³⁾ or where they have been confirmed, or of new diseases previously unknown in Iceland, including provisions on quarantine and contact with areas where a disease has broken out, the isolation of animals, testing, the killing of animals for testing purposes, sampling, and the destruction of animal carcasses.

□ [The Minister shall issue a Regulation⁽⁴⁾ on the classification of infectious diseases. The Regulation shall specify all notifiable diseases and all reportable diseases. Furthermore, notifiable diseases shall be classified as serious diseases or as other diseases, as appropriate in each case.]⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 172. ⁽²⁾Regulation No 447/2005, cf. No 710/2006. ⁽³⁾Act No 4/2014, Article 2. ⁽⁴⁾Regulation No 52/2014.

Section IV Control measures

■ **Article 8** [The Minister]⁽¹⁾ may, in compliance with this Act and on the proposal of [the Food and Veterinary Authority]⁽²⁾, order the execution of any measure necessary to eradicate or prevent the spreading of [notifiable and reportable diseases, cf. Regulation issued pursuant to Article 7, paragraph 2],⁽³⁾ and to prevent risks and damage caused by the spreading of these diseases. Such measures may include:

1. Animals:
 - a. testing, including the collection of samples for diagnostic purposes;
 - b. treatment for diseases;
 - c. immunisations;
 - d. labelling and isolation;
 - e. surveillance;
 - f. the putting down and destruction of animals;
 - [g. a ban on importation or exportation].⁽⁴⁾
2. Livestock products, feed, farmyard manure and any other contaminated substance which may be infectious:
 - a. testing for potential transmissible agents;
 - b. pasteurisation, disinfection and sterilisation;
 - c. destruction;
 - [d. a ban on importation or exportation].⁽⁴⁾
3. Buildings, work sites, machinery, tools, and vehicles:
 - a. cleaning and disinfecting;
 - b. surveillance and isolation.
4. Owners and keepers of animals, their staff, clothes, and equipment which may carry transmissible agents:
 - a. testing, including the collection of samples for diagnostic purposes;
 - b. cleaning, disinfecting and destruction of clothing.

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 172. ⁽²⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 64. ⁽³⁾Act No 4/2014, Article 3. ⁽⁴⁾Act No 116/2003, Article 9.

Section V Preventive measures

■ **Article 9** [The Minister]⁽¹⁾ may limit or prohibit the keeping of animals in delimited areas which may be reasonably supposed to pose a particular risk to the health of animals as determined by [the Food and Veterinary Authority].⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 172. ⁽²⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 64.

■ **Article 10** [In order to prevent the introduction to Iceland of animal diseases, the importation of the following products shall be prohibited:

- a. raw or lightly salted slaughter products, whether processed or unprocessed, raw eggs, non-disinfected raw furs and hides, farmyard manure and compost mixed with farmyard manure;
- b. meat meal, bone meal, blood meal, as well as fat obtained from the processing of these substances;
- c. hay and straw;

- d. any used packaging material, riding gear, machinery, instruments, tools, and any other article having been in contact with animals, animal products, or animal waste;
- e. any used angling gear.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the first paragraph, the Minister may authorise the importation of products referred to in points a to e, if recommended by the Food and Veterinary Authority, subject to proof that the products in question do not carry any transmissible agents causing animal diseases. The Minister may issue a Regulation providing for an exemption from the provisions of the first paragraph for individual products listed therein, provided that the relevant product is disinfected at the production stage or undergoes a special disinfection process prior to being imported, and that it is accompanied by adequate certificates confirming its origin, method of processing and manner of disinfection. The Minister may issue a Notice prohibiting the importation of specific products where there is a risk of such products carrying transmissible disease agents liable to pose a risk to animal health.

The implementation of this Article is further governed by the provisions of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures contained in Annex 1A of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation.⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 143/2009, Article 32.

■ **Article 11** [The Food and Veterinary Authority]⁽¹⁾ may limit or prohibit the transport of animals, goods or equipment between or within quarantine zones where [it]⁽²⁾ considers this to be a cause, or likely potential cause, of the spreading of diseases among animals.

[[The Minister]⁽³⁾, having consulted with [the Food and Veterinary Authority]⁽¹⁾, may also limit or prohibit the importation and exportation of particular animals and their products, for longer or shorter periods of time, to a particular country or region, where (s)he considers such transports to be a cause, or likely potential cause, of the spreading of diseases.]⁽⁴⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 64. ⁽²⁾Act No 76/2005, Article 9. ⁽³⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 172. ⁽⁴⁾Act No 116/2003, Article 10.

■ **Article 12** [The Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall decide, having received the proposal of [the Food and Veterinary Authority],⁽²⁾ which isolation lines to maintain. Similarly, the Minister may decide to establish new isolation lines where necessary. Fences should be erected in the locations presenting the best natural conditions and in a manner to minimise damage and soil disruption. Sheep grazing associations and individual farms may be prevented from accessing their land if considered necessary, provided that they are compensated for this by providing access to comparable pieces of land, where possible. Where no agreement is reached on the exchange of lands or on compensation for the loss of the use of land, the compensation shall be determined by court-appointed appraisers. The compensation decided upon shall be paid from the Treasury and shall be based on the land's utility value.

[The Minister]⁽¹⁾ shall issue a Notice stipulating the division of isolation lines into main and auxiliary lines, on the proposal of [the Food and Veterinary Authority].⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾Act No 126/2011, Article 172. ⁽²⁾Act No 167/2007, Article 64.

■ **Article 13** [Animal by-products not intended for human consumption shall be treated, stored, transported, processed or disposed of in a manner to avoid any risk of spreading transmissible agents or other harmful substances. Anyone engaged in the handling, storage, transport or processing of animal by-products not classified as waste shall apply to the Food and Veterinary Authority for a licence prior to commencing operations. With regard to animal by-products classified as waste, the operations shall be governed by the provisions of Act No 55/2003 on the treatment of waste.

Processing, storage, biogas and composting plants, as well as intermediate and oleochemical plants, whose role is to process animal by-products not classified as waste,