



Animal Welfare Act.

Animal Welfare Act.

Law | Date: 10/07/2009 | [Ministry of Agriculture and Food](#)

(<http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/lmd/id627/>)

Chapter 1 General requirements

§ 1. Intention

The intention of this Act is to promote good animal welfare and respect for animals.

§ 2. Scope

The Act applies to conditions which affect welfare of or respect for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, decapods, squid, octopi and honey bees. The Act applies equally to the development stages of the animals referred to in cases where the sensory apparatus is equivalent to the developmental level in living animals.

The Act applies, subject to the limitations allowed for by agreement with foreign nations or organisations, to Norwegian land territory, territorial waters, the Norwegian economic zone, aboard Norwegian ships and aircraft, on installations located on the Norwegian continental shelf, and to Svalbard, Jan Mayen and the dependencies. The King may in regulations lay down specific requirements for Svalbard, Jan Mayen and the Norwegian dependencies, taking into regard local conditions.

§ 3. General requirement regarding the treatment of animals

Animals have an intrinsic value which is irrespective of the usable value they may have for man. Animals shall be treated well and be protected from danger of unnecessary stress and strains.

§ 4. Duty to help

Anybody who discovers an animal which is obviously sick, injured, or helpless, shall as far as possible help the animal. If it is impossible to provide adequate help, and the animal is domestic or a large wild mammal, the owner, or the police shall be alerted immediately.

If it is obvious that the animal will not survive or recover, the person who discovered the animal may kill it at once. However, animals from holdings or large wild mammals shall not be killed if it is possible to alert the owner, a veterinarian or the police within reasonable time.

Necessary expenses for action under this Section shall be covered by the state, but the expenses related to helping domestic animals may be recovered from the animal keeper or the owner.

The requirements in the first and second article apply equally for persons who injure animals, but a person responsible for injury to an animal may not claim reimbursement of expenses for action taken.

The King may issue more specific regulations regarding covering of expenses.

§ 5. Duty to alert

Anyone who has reason to believe that an animal is exposed to mistreatment or serious neglect regarding the environment, supervision and care, shall as soon as possible alert the Food Safety Authority or the police. The duty to alert applies subject to the limitations of other legislation.

Anyone who becomes aware that a large number of wild or stray animals are exposed to sickness, injury or other abnormal suffering shall as soon as possible inform the Food Safety Authority or the police.

§ 6. Competence and responsibility

The animal keeper shall ensure that animals are looked after by appropriately competent personnel. Others shall have the competence necessary to carry out the activity they are involved in.

Parents and carers with parental responsibility may not allow children less than 16 years of age to have independent responsibility for animals.

The animal keeper must not transfer animals to people if there is reason to believe that they cannot or will not treat the animal in an appropriate way.

The King may issue specific regulations regarding requirements for education, training and competence, including approval and authorisation of personnel.

§ 7. Requirement for registration or approval

The King may issue specific regulations regarding establishment, placement, development and operation of activities covered by this Act. This includes regulations regarding approvals, withdrawal of approvals, reporting, registration and certification and withdrawal or expiry of certification.

§ 8. Industrial methods, equipment and technical solutions

The animal keeper shall ensure that industrial methods, equipment and technical solutions which are applied to animals are suitable for the purpose of ensuring the animals' welfare. Anybody who markets or trades in new industrial methods, equipment and technical solutions which are used for animals shall ensure that they are tested and found to be suitable, taking into account animal welfare.

The King may issue specific regulations regarding trade and use of certain industrial methods, equipment and technical solutions, including certification and documentation regarding suitability.

§ 9. Medical and surgical treatment

Medical and surgical treatment shall be carried out taking into account the animal's welfare, and protect the animal's ability to function and its quality of life.

Surgical procedures or removal of body parts must not be carried out unless there is a justifiable reason to do so out of consideration for the animal's health. Marking of animals in holdings is nevertheless permitted. The removal of horns and castration is permitted when it is necessary for animal welfare reasons, or other specific reasons.

In the case of painful incision, necessary anaesthetic and pain relief shall be used.

The King may issue specific regulations regarding medical and surgical treatment, including setting specific conditions for or banning certain forms of such treatment and make exceptions from the second article.

§ 10. Identity marking of animals

When marking animals the methods used shall be appropriate and not subject the animal to behavioural limitations or unnecessary stress or strains.

The King may issue specific regulations regarding requirements for marking of animals, including require and forbid marking and marking methods, require that marked animals shall be registered in a register and determine who shall have access to the information in such a register. Specific regulations may also prescribe requirements for re-homing or killing unmarked animals without compensation to the owner.

§ 11. Transportation

Transportation shall take place in such a way as to ensure least possible strain for the animal. Animals shall only be transported when they are in such a condition that it is justifiable to complete the whole journey.

The method of transport shall be suitable with regard to the safety of the animals and the animals' specific character. The animals shall have necessary supervision and care during transportation. The King may issue specific regulations regarding transportation of animals.

§ 12. Killing of animals

Killing of animals, and handling in connection with the killing, shall take place having regard to the animals' welfare. Anyone using equipment for stunning or killing shall ensure that it is suitable for the purpose and maintained.

Animals which are owned or in any way kept by people must be stunned before being killed. The stunning method shall ensure loss of consciousness which lasts from the killing starts until death occurs. The requirement for stunning before killing does not apply if the animal is killed using a method which provides immediate unconsciousness. After the killing of the animal it shall be ensured that the animal is dead.

Killing under emergency circumstances shall take place in compliance with the first and second article if possible.

Animals shall not be killed as an independent form of entertainment or competition.

The King may issue specific regulations regarding requirements for environment, equipment and handling in connection with killing of animals. The King may make exceptions to the provisions in the second article for animals other than terrestrial animals and marine mammals.

§ 13. The use of animals for testing, education and medical activities

In order to breed, keep, trade, kill or use animals for testing purposes, for educational purposes other than education in general care and handling, or in connection with medical activities, both the institution and the person responsible for the relevant activity must be approved by the control authority.

Approvals referred to in the first article cannot be given if the intention can be achieved without the use of animals, or if the animals may be subjected to unnecessary stress or strains. The number of animals used shall be restricted to the number necessary, and the animals should be subjected to least possible strain.

In approvals made under this requirement exceptions can be made from the Act of 15 June 2001 number 75 relating to veterinarians and other animal health personnel § 18 first article nr. 3, in order that persons who are not veterinarians or fish health biologists can carry out complete or local anaesthetisation of the animal.

The King may issue specific regulations regarding the use of animals in testing, education and medical activities, including prohibition of certain types of testing and medical activities, prohibition of the use of certain animal species in testing and medical activities, and regarding approval and exceptions to the requirement for approval.

The King may issue specific regulations regarding exceptions from the provisions in Chapter I and II of this Act for the use of animals in testing.

§ 14. Specific prohibitions

It is forbidden to: