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FDHA Ordinance on Training in Animal Husbandry and Handling of Animals

(Animal Welfare Training Ordinance, AWTO)¹

of 5 September 2008 (Status as of 1 March 2018)

The Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA)²,

based on Articles 190, paragraphs 3 and 4, 197 paragraph 3, 198 paragraph 3, 202 paragraph 2 and 203 paragraph 1 of the Animal Welfare Ordinance of 23 April 2008³ (AniWO),

decrees:

Chapter 1 Purpose and Scope

Art. 1⁴

¹ This Ordinance contains the criteria for the recognition of specialist training independent of vocational training for:

- a. persons who keep equids commercially;
- b. persons who are responsible for the care of wild animals or who care for animals commercially;
- c. persons who commercially breed or keep fish intended for consumption or stocking purposes or decapods;
- d. persons who supply more than the number of animals stipulated in Article 101 letter c AniWO;
- e. persons who perform hoof care for cattle or equids;
- f. retail specialists in the pet shop trade who are responsible for the care of the animals;

AS 2008 4303

¹ Inserted by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 23 Oct. 2013, in force since 1 Jan. 2014 (AS 2013 3781).

² The name of the administrative unit was modified in accordance with Art. 16 para. 3 of the Publications Ordinance of 17 Nov. 2004 (AS 2004 4937), with effect from 1 Jan. 2013.

³ SR 455.1

⁴ Amended by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 10 Jan. 2018, in force since 1 March 2018 (AS 2018 627).

- g. persons who care for decapods or for fish intended for consumption or stocking purposes or as bait in commercial establishments;
- h. specialised staff involved in animal experiments;
- i. animal transport personnel;
- j. personnel in animal slaughterhouse facilities who handle animals or stun and bleed them; and
- k. trainers of animal keepers.

² It contains the criteria for recognition of training with a certificate of competence for:

- a. keeping and caring for pets and wild animals;
- b. handling fish and decapods;
- c. caring for animals at fixed-term events and in advertising; and
- d. dehorning and castrating lambs, goat kids, calves and piglets.

³ It regulates the form of continuing education and the procedure for carrying out continuing education and training.

⁴ It determines the content and form of training to acquire a cantonal licence to use equipment for therapeutic purposes when handling dogs in accordance with Article 76 paragraph 3 AniWO.

⁵ It contains the examination requirements for the training of:

- a. persons stipulated in paragraph 1;
- b. persons wishing to acquire a cantonal licence to use equipment for therapeutic purposes when handling dogs in accordance with Article 76 paragraph 3 AniWO.

⁶ It does not apply to training with a certificate of competence in handling fish and decapods in accordance with Article 5a of the Ordinance of 24 November 1993⁵ to the Federal Act on Fish.

Chapter 2 Special Training not leading to a Vocational Qualification

Section 1 Care, Breeding and Keeping of Animals⁶

Art. 27 Learning objectives

¹ The objective of training in accordance with Article 31 paragraph 5, 85 paragraph 2, 97 paragraph 2, 102 paragraph 2 or 103 letter e AniWO must be to ensure that animal keepers or persons responsible for their care, handle them with due care,

⁵ SR 923.01

⁶ Amended by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 23 Oct. 2013, in force since 1 Jan. 2014 (AS 2013 3781).

⁷ Amended by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 10 Jan. 2018, in force since 1 March 2018 (AS 2018 627).

house them in a species-appropriate manner, keep them healthy, breed them responsibly and raise healthy young animals.

² The objective of training in accordance with Article 102 paragraph 5 AniWO must be to ensure that persons who perform hoof care for cattle or equids know how to handle the animals with due care.

Art. 3 Form and scope

¹ Training comprises a theoretical part, a practical part and a traineeship with an organisation in accordance with Article 206 AniWO.

² The theoretical part and the practical part together comprise at least 40 hours, of which the theoretical part accounts for at least 20 hours and the practical part at least 10 hours. The traineeship lasts at least three months.

³ At least 10 hours of the theoretical part of training for persons who breed pets or working dogs commercially must deal with the areas described in Article 4 paragraph 2 letters d–g.⁸

Art. 4 Content of the theoretical part

¹ The theoretical part provides basic knowledge of the following aspects relating to the animals being cared for:

- a. animal welfare legislation and other legislation relevant to the specific area;
- b. handling of animals with due care;
- c. hygiene in enclosures and premises, hygiene of material and persons, and prevention of infectious diseases;
- d. responsibilities, obligations and competencies of the persons caring for the animals;
- e. anatomy and physiology of the animal; and
- f. normal behaviour and needs of the animals as well as signs of anxiety, stress and suffering.

² The theoretical part of training in accordance with Article 31 paragraph 5, 85 paragraph 2, 97 paragraph 2, 102 paragraph 2 or 103 letter e AniWO provides in-depth knowledge of the following aspects relating to the animals being cared for:⁹

- a. animal care and the care of sick and injured animals;
- b. feeding, in particular the composition of feed, physiological feed requirements and occupation in the context of feeding;
- c. housing requirements and design of the housing environment to enable species-specific behaviour;

⁸ Amended by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 23 Oct. 2013, in force since 1 Jan. 2014 (AS 2013 3781).

⁹ Amended by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 10 Jan. 2018, in force since 1 March 2018 (AS 2018 627).

- d. rearing animals and normal development of young animals;
- e. course of a normal birth or egg laying and the most common signs of birthing problems or egg binding;
- f. genetic theory, breeding methods and parentage tests; and
- g. breeding objectives and genetic defects.

³ The theoretical part of training in accordance with Article 102 paragraph 5 AniWO provides in-depth knowledge of the following aspects:

- a. animal care and the care of sick and injured animals;
- b. correct handling of animals;
- c. housing conditions that enable species-specific behaviour;
- d. providing the services with due care;
- e. cleaning and disinfection of rooms, enclosures and equipment.¹⁰

Art. 5¹¹ Content of the practical part

¹ The practical part of training in accordance with Article 31 paragraph 5, 85 paragraph 2, 97 paragraph 2, 102 paragraph 2 or 103 letter e AniWO must contain practical exercises in handling the animals, care, observation of behaviour, setting up enclosures and hygiene.¹²

² The practical part of training in accordance with Article 102 paragraph 5 AniWO must contain practical exercises in handling the animals, care, hygiene and carrying out the procedures on the animal associated with the services.

Section 1a¹³ Retail Specialists in the Pet Shop Business

Art. 5a Learning objectives

The objective of training in accordance with Article 103 letter b AniWO must be to ensure that retail specialists house the animals according to their needs and keep them healthy, pass on their knowledge to customers in a suitable form and know what is important for breeding and keeping healthy animals responsibly.

¹⁰ Inserted by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 23 Oct. 2013, in force since 1 Jan. 2014 (AS 2013 3781).

¹¹ Amended by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 23 Oct. 2013, in force since 1 Jan. 2014 (AS 2013 3781).

¹² Amended by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 10 Jan. 2018, in force since 1 March 2018 (AS 2018 627).

¹³ Inserted by No I of the FDHA Ordinance of 10 Jan. 2018, in force since 1 March 2018 (AS 2018 627).

Art. 5b Form and scope

¹ Training consists of a theoretical part and a traineeship with one or more organisations as described in Article 206 AniWO. The traineeship relates to specific animal groups, involving at least four of the animal groups listed in Article 5d paragraph 1.

² The theoretical part comprises at least 90 hours, the traineeship at least 40 working days, of which at least ten working days must be devoted to each of four different animal groups listed in Article 5d.

Art. 5c Content of the theoretical part

¹ The theoretical part provides basic knowledge of the following aspects:

- a. animal welfare legislation and other legislation relevant to the specific area;
- b. handling of animals with due care;
- c. hygiene in enclosures and of material and persons, and prevention of infectious diseases;
- e. anatomy and physiology of the animal; and
- f. normal behaviour and needs of the animals as well as signs of anxiety, stress and suffering.

² It provides in-depth knowledge of the following aspects of commonly traded animals:

- a. animal care and the care of sick and injured animals;
- b. feeding, in particular the composition of feed, physiological feed requirements, occupation in the context of feeding;
- c. housing requirements and design of a housing environment to enable species-specific behaviour;
- d. raising animals; and
- e. correct euthanasia of animals being cared for.

Art. 5d Content of the traineeship

¹ The traineeship covers the following animal groups:

- a. dogs, cats and ferrets;
- b. small mammals, particularly rodents, rabbits and tenrecs;
- c. birds, particularly canaries, estrildid finches and parrot-like birds;
- d. freshwater and saltwater fish;
- e. pond fish;
- f. reptiles, particularly lizards, snakes and tortoises, and amphibians, particularly frogs and salamanders.

² It must contain practical exercises in the handling of animals, care, observation of behaviour, setting up enclosures, hygiene and transport of animals.