1987 No. 415

WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987

Made . . . . . *4th November 1987*

Coming into operation . . *14th December 1987*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 2(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after consultation with such persons appearing to it to represent any interests concerned as it has considered appropriate, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 and shall come into operation on 14th December 1987.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"operation" includes mutilation but not feather clipping;

"cattle" means all bovine animals;

"poultry" means domestic poultry;

"tail docking" means the removal of any bone or any part of a bone of the tail.

Prohibited operations

3. Subject to regulation 4 a person shall not perform or cause or permit to be performed any of the following operations in relation to livestock for the time being situated on agricultural land—

(*a*) penis amputation and other penial operations;

(*b*) freeze dagging of sheep;

(*c*) tail docking of sheep unless sufficient tail is retained to cover the vulva in the case of female sheep and the anus in the case of male sheep;

(*d*) tail docking of a pig unless the operation is performed by the quick and complete severance of the part of the tail to be removed and either:—

(i) the pig is less than 8 days old, or

(ii) the operation is performed by a veterinary surgeon and the operation is necessary for reasons of health or to prevent injury from the vice of tail biting;

(a) 1972 c. 7 (N.I.)