1983 No. 308

WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Welfare of Livestock (Prohibited Operations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983

Made . . . . . *3rd October 1983*

Coming into operation . . . *14th November 1983*

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) 1983 and shall come into operation on 14th November 1983.

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 the provisions of regulation 4 the following operations shall be prohibited 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 annus 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 that the operation is necessary for reasons of health or to prevent injury from the vice of tail biting;

(*e*) tail docking of cattle;

(*f*) tongue amputation in calves;

(*g*) hot branding of cattle;

(*h*) devoicing of cockerels;

(*i*) castration of poultry by a method involving surgery;

(*j*) any operation on poultry with the object or effect of impeding flight;

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