1980 No. 121

WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Riding Establishments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980

Made	*3rd April 1980*
Coming into operation . . .	*12th May 1980*

The Department(a) of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 11(1) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(b) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Riding Establishments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980 and shall come into operation on 12th May 1980.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"Act" means the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972;

"horse" means any member other than a zebra of the equine species;

"licence-holder" means a person to whom under section 8 of the Act a licence to keep a riding establishment has been granted by the Department;

"register" means a register, in whatever form, in which is entered detailed information about a horse kept or maintained in a riding establishment which is sufficient readily to identify that horse.

Obligations of a licence-holder

3. A licence-holder shall comply with the requirements set out in regulations 4 and 5.

Management and supervision requirements

4.—(1) A riding establishment shall be managed and supervised by a licence-holder or a person of 16 or more years of age who to the satisfaction of the Department is qualified or experienced in the management of horses and has not been convicted of any offence for which a penalty is provided under the Act.

(2) A licence-holder shall enter in a register information regarding each horse kept at a riding establishment.

(3) A licence-holder shall if required by an authorised officer produce to him at all reasonable times such register for inspection.

(4) A horse kept at a riding establishment shall not be let out on hire for a purpose mentioned in regulation 5(2) unless the licence-holder is satisfied that the person for whom it is intended that the horse be hired is competent to ride it without supervision.

(5) A horse kept at a riding establishment shall not be used for providing instruction in riding unless such instruction is supervised either by the manager of the riding establishment or by a person of 16 or more years of age who is authorised by the manager to supervise such instruction.

(a) Formerly Ministry: *see* 1973 c. 36 s. 40 and Sch. 5 para. 8(1)
(b) 1972 c. 7 (N.I.)

Health, safety and welfare requirements

5. In relation to a riding establishment a licence-holder shall ensure that:

(1) a horse maintained there is available for inspection at all reasonable times by an authorised officer;

(2) a horse kept there for the purpose of being let out on hire for riding or for use in providing, in return for payment, instruction in riding is suitable for that purpose;

(3) a horse maintained there is in good health and physically fit in all respects;

(4) when a horse is in such a condition that its being ridden would be likely to cause suffering to it that horse is not used for a purpose mentioned in paragraph (2);

(5) a horse aged less than 4 years, a mare heavy with foal or a mare within 3 months after it has cast a foal is not used for a purpose mentioned in paragraph (2);

(6) where, on inspection of the riding establishment by an authorised officer, a horse is found to need veterinary attention that horse is not used for a purpose mentioned in paragraph (2) until it has been certified as fit for work by a veterinary surgeon;

(7) a sick or injured horse kept for a purpose mentioned in paragraph (2) shall receive curative care and attention;

(8) all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent and control the spread among horses maintained there of any infectious or contagious disease;

(9) veterinary first-aid equipment and medicines are provided and maintained there and that a loose-box is available for the isolation of a sick or injured horse;

(10) the feet of a horse are properly trimmed and, if shod, that its shoes are properly fitted and in good condition;

(11) there is available there at all times sheltered accommodation for horses suitable for the number of occupant horses in construction, size, lighting, ventilation, drainage and cleanliness;

(12) for a horse maintained at grass there is available for it at all times during which it is so maintained adequate pasture, shelter and water and that supplementary feeds for it are provided as and when required by it;

(13) a horse is adequately supplied with suitable food, drink and (except in the case of a horse maintained at grass so long as it is so maintained) bedding material, and that at regular intervals it is adequately exercised, groomed, rested and visited;

(14) adequate accommodation is provided for forage, bedding, stabling equipment and saddlery;

(15) equipment supplied for a horse used for a purpose mentioned in paragraph (2) is not defective in a manner which is likely to cause suffering to that horse;

(16) all appropriate, suitable and necessary steps are taken for the protection of horses maintained there against their injury by fire and for their safe extrication in the case of an outbreak of fire;

(17) his name, address and telephone number are kept constantly displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the riding establishment;

(18) instructions as to action to be taken in the event of an outbreak of fire, with particular reference to the safe extrication of horses maintained there, are kept constantly displayed in a prominent position on the outside of the riding establishment.