1969. No. 299 [NC]

DISEASES OF ANIMALS

Anthrax

ORDER, DATED 31ST OCTOBER 1969, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1958.

The Ministry of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Sections 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 53 of the Diseases of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following Order:

Citation and Commencement

1. This Order, which may be cited as the Anthrax Order (Northern Ireland) 1969, shall come into operation on the 1st December 1969.

Revocation

2. The Anthrax (Northern Ireland) Order of 1932(b) is hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In this Order

"Animals" means cattle, sheep, goats, all other ruminating animals, swine, dogs, horses, asses and mules.

"Carcase" means the carcase of an animal and includes part of a carcase and the meat, bones, hide, skin, hair, hooves, offal or other part of an animal separately or otherwise or any portion thereof.

"Disease" means Anthrax.

"Approved disinfectant" means a five per cent. solution of standard phenol or any other disinfectant approved by the Ministry for the purposes of the Animals Disinfection (Northern Ireland) Order 1927, Amendment Order 1931(c).

"Constable" means any member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

"Milk" includes skim milk, separated milk, buttermilk and cream.

"Poultry" means domestic fowl, guinea fowl, turkeys, ducks, geese and pigeons.

Notice of Disease

4.—(1) Every person having or having had in his possession or under his charge a diseased or suspected animal or carcase shall:—

(*a*) so far as practicable isolate the animal or carcase from contact with other animals, persons or things;

(*b*) forthwith give notice of the fact of the animal or carcase being so affected to the Divisional Veterinary Office of the Ministry in the area concerned or to a Constable; and

(*c*) retain on the premises all milk from the diseased or suspected animal until instructions on its disposal are received from a Veterinary Inspector.

(a) 1958. c. 13.
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1932, No. 64.
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1931, No. 15.

(2) A Veterinary Surgeon who on examination of any animal or carcase finds or suspects disease shall forthwith give notice of the disease or suspicion of the disease to the Divisional Veterinary Office of the Ministry in the area concerned or to a Constable.

(3) A Constable receiving such notice shall immediately inform the Divisional Veterinary Office of the Ministry in the area concerned.

Investigation of Suspected Disease

5.—(1) A Veterinary Inspector who has reason to suspect the existence of disease at any premises shall forthwith carry out an examination of the diseased or suspected animals or carcases to confirm or negative the presence of disease.

(2) Pending the outcome of the Veterinary Inspector's examination the owner or occupier of the premises and the owner or person in charge of the animal or carcase suspected of being diseased shall comply with all reasonable requests made by the Veterinary Inspector for the purpose of limiting the spread of disease.

Confirmation of Disease

6.—(1) Where a Veterinary Inspector has confirmed the presence of disease he shall forthwith:—

(*a*) notify the Medical Officer of Health for the area in which the disease has been confirmed;

(*b*) declare the premises containing the diseased animal or carcase to be an infected place by serving on the owner or occupier a notice in the Form A prescribed in the Schedule and he may if he considers it necessary declare any other premises on which the diseased animal or carcase was within the week immediately preceding confirmation of the disease to be affected by disease by serving a notice on the owner or occupier; and

(*c*) arrange for the disposal of the carcase, the disposal or treatment of other infective material and the disinfection of the premises in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

(2) A notice in Form A defining premises as an Infected Place to which the provisions of Article 7 shall apply may be varied by notice in writing served by a Veterinary Inspector for the purpose of altering the limits of the Infected Place or the provisions which apply thereto and Form A with or without variation shall remain in force until withdrawn by a further notice in the Form B prescribed in the Schedule.

Rules to be observed on an Infected Place

7. The following Rules shall be observed on land or premises declared to be an Infected Place by the service of a notice in Form A:—

RULE 1

The occupier of an Infected Place shall—

(i) prevent access of animals or poultry to the diseased animal or carcase or to any part of the land or premises which has or may have been exposed to infection;

(ii) detain on the land or premises carcases, animals, poultry, litter, dung, fodder, utensils, pens, hurdles or other things which are or have been in the same building, yard or field as the diseased animal or carcase or are or have been in any part of the land or premises contaminated by any dung or discharge from the diseased animal or carcase; and

(iii) provide such facilities as the Veterinary Inspector may reasonably require in connection with the disinfection of the premises and the movement and disposal of the carcase and other infective material.

RULE 2

There shall be no movement of animals or poultry into or out of an Infected Place except as authorised by a Veterinary Inspector.

RULE 3

Carcases, litter, dung, broken fodder, utensils, pens, hurdles or other things shall not be removed from an Infected Place except with the authority of a Veterinary Inspector.

RULE 4

The milk produced by all animals within the Infected Place or any milk in which such milk is mixed shall before use or removal from the premises be boiled for a minimum period of 1 hour or otherwise sterilised and any utensil in which such milk is placed before being so treated shall be thoroughly sterilised before any other milk is placed therein.

RULE 5

The skin of a diseased or suspected carcase shall not be cut nor shall anything be done to cause the effusion of blood except by a Veterinary Inspector or by a Veterinary Surgeon acting on behalf of the owner of the carcase and in either case so far only as may be necessary for the purpose of obtaining suitable material for microscopical or cultural examination.

Disposal of Carcases

8.—(1) A diseased carcase and any other carcase required by this Order to be destroyed shall be disposed of by the Ministry—

(*a*) by exposure to a high temperature or chemical agent; or

(*b*) by burial as prescribed in Paragraph (3).

Where practicable the place of disposal shall be the farm or premises upon which the animal died or was slaughtered.

(2) Before such a carcase is moved for burial or destruction all the natural openings shall be plugged with suitable material soaked in an approved disinfectant and a carcase which is to be moved along a public highway shall be wrapped in impervious material and conveyed in a leak-proof container by a route which shall be notified to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health.

(3) Where such a carcase is being disposed of by burial the Veterinary Inspector in consultation with an authorised officer of the Health Authority shall select a site to which animals will not have access and which is removed from any dwelling-house and at such distance from any source of water supply as will preclude any risk of the contamination of the water therein and shall cause the carcase to be buried at a depth of not less than 6 ft. below the surface of the earth.

Cleansing and Disinfection

9.—(1) The Ministry shall cause to be cleansed and disinfected under the direction of a Veterinary Inspector and in the manner prescribed by this Article—

(*a*) all those parts of any building, field or other place in which a diseased animal has died or been slaughtered, or has been kept at the date of such death or slaughter;