



Animal Rights Act 2020

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National Parliament of the Commonwealth of Essexia.

Laid before Parliament: XXV.III.MMXX

The Liberal Socialist and Cooperative Party makes the following regulations and reforms in the exercise of the powers conferred by decree of the Constitution.

1. In this Act, “animal” means a vertebrate other than man.
2. Nothing in this Act applies to an animal while it is in its foetal or embryonic form.
3. Certain animals shall become protected.
 - a. An animal is a “protected animal” for the purposes of this Act if—
 - i. it is of a kind which is commonly domesticated in the British Isles, (e.g. domesticated dog)
 - ii. it is under the control of man whether on a permanent or temporary basis, or it is not living in a wild state.
4. Animals shall be protected from unnecessary suffering.
 - a. A person commits an offence if—
 - i. an act of his, or a failure of his to act, causes an animal to suffer,
 - ii. he knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act, or failure to act, would have that effect or be likely to do so,
 - iii. The animal is a protected animal, and the suffering is unnecessary.
 - iv. he is responsible for an animal,
 - v. an act, or failure to act, of another person causes the animal to suffer,
 - vi. he permitted that to happen or failed to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as were reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent that happening, and the suffering is unnecessary.
 - b. The considerations to which it is relevant to have regard when determining for the purposes of this section whether suffering is unnecessary include—



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- i. whether the suffering could reasonably have been avoided or reduced;
 - ii. whether the conduct which caused the suffering was for a legitimate purpose, such as—
 - 1. the purpose of benefiting the animal, or the purpose of protecting a person, property or another animal;
 - 2. whether the suffering was proportionate to the purpose of the conduct concerned;
 - 3. whether the conduct concerned was in all the circumstances that of a reasonably competent and humane person.
 - c. Suffering can be defined as an instance in which an animal undergoes pain, distress, or hardship; including acts of bestiality and torture.
 - d. Nothing in this section applies to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.
5. Mutilation
- a. A person commits an offence if—
 - i. he carries out a cruel procedure on a protected animal;
 - ii. he causes such a procedure to be carried out on such an animal.
 - b. A person commits an offence if—
 - i. he is responsible for an animal,
 - ii. another person carries out a prohibited procedure on the animal, and
 - iii. he permitted that to happen or failed to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as were reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent that happening.
 - c. Cruel procedures on an animal are to the carrying out of a procedure which involves interference with the sensitive tissues or bone structure of the animal, otherwise than for the purpose of its medical treatment.
6. Docking of dogs' tails
- a. A person commits an offence if—
 - i. he removes the whole or any part of a dog's tail, otherwise than for the purpose of its medical treatment;
 - ii. he causes the whole or any part of a dog's tail to be removed by another person, otherwise than for the purpose of its medical treatment.
 - b. A person commits an offence if—
 - i. he is responsible for a dog,
 - ii. another person removes the whole or any part of the dog's tail, otherwise than for the purpose of its medical treatment, and
 - iii. he permitted that to happen or failed to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as were reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent that happening.
7. Administration of poisons etc.



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- a. A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he—
 - i. administers any poisonous or injurious drug or substance to a protected animal, knowing it to be poisonous or injurious, or
 - ii. causes any poisonous or injurious drug or substance to be taken by a protected animal, knowing it to be poisonous or injurious.
 - b. A person commits an offence if—
 - i. he is responsible for an animal,
 - ii. without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, another person administers a poisonous or injurious drug or substance to the animal or causes the animal to take such a drug or substance, and he permitted that to happen or, knowing the drug or substance to be poisonous or injurious, he failed to take such steps (whether by way of supervising the other person or otherwise) as were reasonable in all the circumstances to prevent that happening.
 - c. A poisonous or injurious drug or substance includes a drug or substance which, by virtue of the quantity or manner in which it is administered or taken, has the effect of a poisonous or injurious drug or substance.
8. Fighting
- a. A person commits an offence if he—
 - i. causes an animal fight to take place, or attempts to do so;
 - ii. knowingly receives money for admission to an animal fight;
 - iii. knowingly publicises a proposed animal fight;
 - iv. provides information about an animal fight to another with the intention of enabling or encouraging attendance at the fight;
 - v. makes or accepts a bet on the outcome of an animal fight or on the likelihood of anything occurring or not occurring in the course of an animal fight;
 - vi. takes part in an animal fight;
 - vii. has in his possession anything designed or adapted for use in connection with an animal fight with the intention of its being so used;
 - viii. keeps or trains an animal for use for in connection with an animal fight;
 - ix. keeps any premises for use for an animal fight.
 - x. A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he is present at an animal fight.
 - b. A person commits an offence if, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, he—
 - i. knowingly supplies a video recording of an animal fight,
 - ii. knowingly publishes a video recording of an animal fight,
 - iii. knowingly shows a video recording of an animal fight to another, or
 - iv. possesses a video recording of an animal fight, knowing it to be such a recording, with the intention of supplying it.
 - 1. does not apply if the video recording is of an animal fight that took place outside of the territory of the Commonwealth of Essexia



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- c. In this section “animal fight” means an occasion on which a protected animal is placed with an animal, or with a human, for the purpose of fighting, wrestling or baiting;
 - 9. Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare
 - a. A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice.
 - b. For the purposes of this Act, an animal's needs shall be taken to include—
 - i. its need for a suitable environment,
 - ii. its need for a suitable diet,
 - iii. its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns,
 - iv. any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.
 - c. Nothing in this section applies to the destruction of an animal in an appropriate and humane manner.
 - 10. A person commits an offence if he sells an animal to a person whom he has reasonable cause to believe to be under the age of 16 years.
 - a. For the purposes of subsection, selling an animal includes transferring, or agreeing to transfer, ownership of the animal.
 - 11. Powers in relation to animals in distress
 - a. If a court or other authority reasonably believes that a protected animal is suffering, they may take, or arrange for the taking of, such steps as appear to them to be immediately necessary to alleviate the animal's suffering.
 - i. This may include alerting relevant British authorities of the suffering.
 - ii. This does not authorise destruction of an animal.
 - b. If a veterinary surgeon certifies that the condition of a protected animal is such that it should in its own interests be destroyed, a court or other authority may—
 - i. destroy the animal where it is or take it to another place and destroy it there, or arrange for the doing of any of the things mentioned in paragraph (a).
 - 12. Essexian authorities, such as the Parliament, has a duty to report to relevant British authorities if it is aware than an animal;
 - a. is suffering
 - b. is likely to suffer if its circumstances do not change.