

ACT

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CHAPTER 14

ANIMALS (CONTROL OF EXPERIMENTS) ACT

An Act to provide for the control of experiments on living animals.

[4th October, 1958.]

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Animals (Control of Experiments) Act.

2. Interpretation

In this Act—

“animal” means a living vertebrate animal;

“experiment” means any experiment performed on an animal and calculated to give pain;

“licensee” means a person licensed under section 7.

3. Experiments to be performed only by licensed persons

(1) No person except a licensee shall perform any experiment.

(2) No licensee shall perform any experiment except in accordance with the terms of his licence and subject to the restrictions imposed by this Act.

4. Experiments not to be performed for purposes of attaining manual skill

No licensee shall perform any experiment for the purpose of attaining manual skill.

5. Prohibition of performance of experiments for illustration of lectures except subject to certain conditions

No licensee shall perform any experiment for the purpose of illustrating any lecture at any university, university college, hospital, medical school, agricultural college, farm school or any other academic institution unless he or she is the holder of a teaching permit under this Act, and unless the experiment is of a class specified in such permit and is performed in accordance with the terms of such permit.

6. Restrictions upon performance of experiments by licensee

(1) Except as otherwise provided in section 5, no licensee shall perform any experiment except—

(a)

for the purpose of the advancement by new discovery of physiological knowledge, or of any knowledge which will be useful for saving or prolonging life, or alleviating suffering, or for combating any disease whether of human beings, animals or plants;

(b)

for the purpose of testing any former discovery alleged to have been made for the advancement of the types of knowledge referred to in paragraph (a);

(c)

by the order in writing of any Judge in any case where the Judge is satisfied that it is essential for the purpose of justice in a criminal case to make such experiment.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3), no licensee shall perform any experiment unless—

(a)

throughout the whole of the experiment the animal is under the influence of some anaesthetic of sufficient power to prevent the animal feeling pain; and

(b)

if the pain is likely to continue after the effect of the anaesthetic has ceased, or if any serious injury has been inflicted on the animal, the animal is killed before it recovers from the influence of the anaesthetic which has been administered.

(3) The provisions of subsection (2) shall not apply to any licensee who is the holder of a special permit granted under section 9 in relation to any experiment specified in the special permit.

7. Grant of licence

(1) The Minister may grant a licence to any person to perform any experiment for any purpose specified in the licence during such period and subject to such conditions in addition to the conditions specified in this Act as he or she may think fit.

(2) It shall be a condition of any licence granted under subsection (1) that any experiment performed pursuant to the licence shall be performed at such place as may be specified in the licence.

8. Teaching permits

(1) Where the Minister is satisfied that it is absolutely necessary for the due instruction of persons attending any course of lectures for the purpose of acquiring physiological knowledge or any knowledge which will be used for saving or prolonging life, or alleviating suffering, or for combating any disease whether of human beings, animals or plants, for any such lecture to be illustrated by the performance of any experiment, the Minister may grant to the licensee a teaching permit to perform any experiment specified in such licence for the purposes of illustrating such lecture.

(2) Every teaching permit under this section shall be subject to such conditions in addition to any condition specified in this Act as may be specified in the permit, and such permit shall remain in force for twelve months from the date on which it is granted.

9. Special permits

(1) Where the Minister is satisfied that the object of any experiment permitted to be performed by a licensee under this Act would necessarily be frustrated—

(a)

by the performance of such experiment under any anaesthetic; or

(b)

by killing the animal on which such experiment is performed before it recovers from the influence of any anaesthetic,

he or she may grant a special permit authorising the licensee to perform such experiment without administering any anaesthetic to the animal or without killing the animal before it recovers from the influence of such anaesthetic, as the case may be.

(2) A special permit under this section shall specify the period for which it shall remain in force.

10. Records and inspections

(1) Every licensee shall keep, in such form as may be prescribed, records of all painful experiments performed by him or her.

(2) Every licensee shall permit any person authorised in writing by the Minister to inspect any records kept by him or her at any time between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day other than a Sunday or public holiday.

(3) Every licensee shall permit any person authorised in writing by the Minister to enter and inspect, for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of this Act, any place specified in such licensee's licence for the performance of experiments.

11. Returns

Every licensee shall render to the Minister in such form and such time as may be prescribed such returns as may be required in relation to any experiments performed by him or her.

12. Regulations

(1) The Minister may make regulations generally for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

(2) Regulations made under this section may without prejudice to the generality of the power conferred by subsection (1) provide for the keeping of records of, and the rendering of returns in relation to, all experiments performed by a licensee.

13. Revocation of licence or permit

It shall be a condition of every licence or permit granted under this Act that such licence or permit may be revoked at any time by the person granting it on his or her being satisfied that such licence or permit ought to be revoked.

14. Offences and penalty

Every person who acts in contravention of any of the provisions of this Act or of any condition of any licence or permit granted under this Act shall be guilty of an offence and, on summary conviction, liable to a fine of three thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

15. Restriction on prosecution of licensee

A prosecution under this Act against a licensee shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions.