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If a whole or part of a paragraph has been amended, the date of the amending regulation appears in square brackets at the end of the paragraph. If a whole paragraph or sub-paragraph has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted paragraph or sub-paragraph.

Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No. 959
Adopted 20 December 2005

Welfare Requirements for the Keeping and Training of Sport, Work and Exhibition Animals and Use Thereof in Competitions, Work or Exhibitions

Issued pursuant to
Section 10, Clause 3 of the
Animal Protection Law

I. General Provisions

1. These Regulations prescribe the welfare requirements for the keeping and training of sport, work and exhibition animals (hereinafter – animals) and use thereof in competitions, work or exhibitions.
2. The Food and Veterinary Service and the Nature Protection Board shall supervise and control the conformity with the requirements of these Regulations pursuant to their competence.
3. An organiser of an event shall allow the participation of an animal in a competition or exhibition if conformity with the requirements of these Regulations has been ensured.
4. An owner of an animal may keep, train and use the animal in competitions, work or exhibitions if:
 - 4.1. the feeding, watering and the necessary care for the animal is ensured;
 - 4.2. the animal is provided with training and conditions for the maintenance of the acquired skills; and
 - 4.3. the actions of the animal are being controlled and, if necessary, the owner of the animal is able to stop its attack on a human being or another animal.
5. If an animal is missing, the owner of the animal shall notify the police or local government about it.
6. The former owner of an animal shall make an entry regarding the change in the ownership of the animal in a document confirming the identity of the animal.

7. The owner of an animal has the right to entrust the animal to another person if this person is able to control the actions of the animal and to take care of it pursuant to the requirements of these Regulations.

8. It shall be allowed to train and use wild animals of endangered species in work or exhibitions if they:

8.1. have been born in captivity; or

8.2. have been isolated from natural conditions due to a trauma or conditions that are incompatible with existence.

9. The State Agency “Agricultural Data Centre” (hereinafter – Data Centre) shall:

9.1. create and maintain a data base regarding dogs, which are trained to attack a human being (hereinafter – data base);

9.2. register the information referred to in Paragraphs 19, 20 and 28 of these Regulations in the data base within a time period of five working days after receipt thereof;

9.3. ensure merchants, State institutions which train dogs to attack a human being, and the owners of thus trained dogs with registration sheets of dogs (Annex 1), notification sheets regarding change of the ownership of the dog (Annex 2) and notification sheets regarding an incident involving a dog which is trained to attack a human being (Annex 3);

9.4. issue the information in the data base to State and local governments free of charge; and

9.5. issue the information in the data base to the owner of the dog regarding his or her dog which is trained to attack a human being, free of charge.

10. Before training a dog to attack a human being, the owner of the dog shall pay a State fee for registration of the dog in the data base in accordance with the regulatory enactments regarding the State fee for the registration of such dog which is trained to attack a human being.

[10 March 2008]

11. The database shall include the following information:

11.1. regarding a dog:

11.1.1. the identity number;

11.1.2. the name;

11.1.3. gender;

11.1.4. the date of birth or age;

11.1.5. the address of the place of keeping;

11.1.6. a description of the animal (breed, colour, special markings);

11.2. regarding the owner of the dog:

11.2.1. the given name, surname and personal identity number of a natural person or the type of a legal person, the name and registration number thereof;

11.2.2. telephone number;

11.3. regarding a person who trains the dog:

11.3.1. the given name, surname and personal identity number of a natural person;

11.3.2. the type, name and registration number of a legal person;

11.4. the place of training and the date of commencement of training;

11.5. regarding the new owner of a dog (if the ownership of the dog changes):

11.5.1. the given name, surname and personal identity number of a natural person or the type of a legal person, the name and registration number thereof;

11.5.2. telephone number;

11.5.3. the new address of keeping of the dog;

11.6. information regarding the death or euthanasia of the dog.

12. The Data Centre shall keep the information regarding a dog, the owner thereof and the person who trains the dog to attack a human being in the data base for 25 years, except for cases when the information referred to in Paragraph 19 of these Regulations has been received.

II. Requirements for Keeping of Animals

13. According to the physical load, the owner of an animal shall provide it with:

- 13.1. wholesome nourishment;
- 13.2. freely available water;
- 13.3. freedom of movement corresponding to the species or walks at least once a day;
- 13.4. training conditions, which are the most appropriate for acquisition and maintenance of the necessary skills, without harming the health of the animal; and
- 13.5. wholesome rest (for work horses after every six hours of work – a two-hour rest).

14. The enclosure where an animal is kept shall correspond to the size and physiological requirements of the animal. The enclosure shall be ensured against unfavourable weather conditions (for example, snow), draught, vibration, noise and presence of unauthorised persons.

15. The owner of an animal may not leave the animal if it endangers other animals or human beings or its stay in specific conditions causes threats to the animal itself.

16. An animal, which performs sport or work duties or participates in exhibitions, shall be marked with a micro-chip. The micro-chip shall contain a unique identity number that remains unchanged during the lifetime (hereinafter – identity number) and does not affect the welfare of the animal, and does not harm its health, as well as conforms with Regulation (EC) No. 998/2003 of the European Parliament and the Council of 26 May 2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals and amending Council Directive 92/65/EEC. Marking of the animal shall be performed by a certified veterinarian.

17. An animal need not have a muzzle or another accessory (for example, a collar, bridle) when performing sport or work duties or participating in exhibitions.

18. The owner of an animal shall, at least once a year, ensure the animal with an examination performed by a certified veterinarian.

19. The owner to whom a dog belongs, which is trained to attack a human being, shall send a completed notification sheet regarding an incident involving the dog, which is trained to attack a human being, to the Data Centre within five working days after the death or euthanasia of the dog.

20. If a dog, which is trained to attack a human being, is alienated, the former owner of the dog shall, within five working days after the change of the ownership of the dog, send a completed notification sheet regarding change of the owner of the dog to the Data Centre.

21. Upon the end of the working life of an animal, the owner of the animal shall ensure keeping conditions corresponding to the zoo-psychological and physiological needs of the

animal or alienate the respective animal and give to another person able to ensure the referred to requirements, or shall subject it to euthanasia.

III. Requirements for Training of Animals

22. In training an animal:

22.1. the conformity of the training load to the adaptation abilities of the animal shall be observed;

22.2. such methods shall not be used and such conditions shall not be created, which might harm the health of the animal; and

22.3. corresponding training conditions and training, which gradually develops the necessary skills and ensures the preservation thereof throughout the working life of the animal, shall be ensured.

23. An animal may be trained by a person who has:

23.1. a document confirming education, which is recognised by the State in accordance with the procedures specified in the Education Law and which confirms the knowledge of the person regarding the physiology, zoo-psychology, welfare and training of the animal species to be trained; and

23.2. the knowledge in the use of training equipment.

24. After the end of the training course the owner or holder of an animal shall be able to control the actions of the animal.

25. A person who has trained an animal to perform work functions or has trained a dog to attack a human being shall indicate the following information in the document confirming the identity of the animal:

25.1. his or her given name, surname and personal identity number (natural person) or the type, name and registration number (legal person);

25.2. the type of training; and

25.3. the place of training and the date of the end of the training course.

26. A dog shall be trained to attack a human being by a merchant or State institution which, according to the by-law, is entitled to engage in such activity and has received a written request of the owner of the animal, in which the following information is indicated:

26.1. regarding the dog:

26.1.1. the identity number;

26.1.2. the name;

26.1.3. gender;

26.1.4. the date of birth or age;

26.1.5. the address of the place of keeping;

26.1.6. a description of the animal (breed, colour, special markings);

26.2. regarding the owner:

26.2.1. the given name, surname and personal identity number of a natural person or type of a legal person, the name and registration number thereof;

26.2.2. telephone number.

27. A person who trains a dog to attack a human being shall perform the registration of the trained animals and owners thereof in the register. The information referred to in Paragraph 28 of these Regulations shall be indicated in the register.

28. A person who trains a dog to attack a human being shall send the registration sheet of the dog to the Data Centre before the training course of the dog, containing the following information:

28.1. regarding the dog:

28.1.1. the identity number;

28.1.2. the name;

28.1.3. gender;

28.1.4. the date of birth or age;

28.1.5. the address of the place of keeping;

28.1.6. a description of the animal (breed, colour, special markings);

28.2. regarding the owner:

28.2.1. the given name, surname and personal identity number of a natural person or the type of a legal person, the name and registration number thereof;

28.2.2. telephone number;

28.3. regarding a person who trains the dog:

28.3.1. the given name, surname and personal identity number of a natural person;

28.3.2. the type, name and registration number of a legal person;

28.4. the place of training and the date of commencement of training.

IV. Requirements for the Use of an Animal in Competitions, Work or Exhibitions

29. An animal may be used in competitions, work or exhibitions if it has not suffered an injury and is not sick.

30. During exhibitions or competitions, the owner of an animal, as well as the organiser of an event shall ensure that the animal does not cause a threat to the safety, health and life of other animals and human beings.

V. Closing Provision

31. These Regulations shall come into force on 1 March 2006.

Prime Minister

A. Kalvītis

Acting for the Minister for Agriculture –
Minister for Regional Development
and Local Government

M. Kučinskis

Registration Sheet Regarding a Dog Which is Being Trained to Attack a Human Being

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DOG

Name _____ Identity number _____

_____ years _____ months
Date of birth or age gender M/F

Breed

Colour

Special markings

INFORMATION REGARDING THE OWNER

_____ or registration number (for a legal person)
Personal identity number (for a natural person)

Given name and surname (for a natural person) or type and name (for a legal person)

Telephone number

ADDRESS OF THE KEEPING PLACE OF THE ANIMAL

Address

LV- _____
Code and name of the post office

INFORMATION REGARDING THE PERSON TRAINING THE DOG

Personal identity number (for a natural person) or registration number (for a legal person)

Given name and surname (for a natural person) or type and name (for a legal person)

Date of the commencement of training _____

Training place _____

Date of completion of the document _____

Owner of the dog _____ (signature and full name) Person training the dog _____ (signature and full name)

Acting for the Minister for Agriculture –
Minister for Regional Development
and Local Government

M. Kučinskis

Notification Sheet Regarding Change of the Ownership for a Dog Which is Trained to Attack a Human Being

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DOG

Date of the change of the ownership _____

Name _____

_____ Identity number

INFORMATION REGARDING THE OWNER

Personal identity number (for a natural person)

or registration number (for a legal person)

Given name and surname (for a natural person) or type and name (for a legal person)

INFORMATION REGARDING THE NEW OWNER

Personal identity number (for a natural person)

or registration number (for a legal person)

Given name and surname (for a natural person) or type and name (for a legal person)

Telephone number

NEW ADDRESS OF THE KEEPING PLACE OF THE DOG

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LV- _____
Code and name of the post office

Date of completion of the document _____

Former owner	_____	New owner	_____
	(signature and full name)		(signature and full name)

Acting for the Minister for Agriculture –
Minister for Regional Development
and Local Government

M. Kučinskis

Notification Sheet Regarding an Incident Involving a Dog Which is Trained to Attack a Human Being

Date of the incident _____

Name of the dog _____

_____ Identity number

☐ Euthanasia of the animal

☐ Death of the animal

Notes

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Date of completion of the document _____

Owner of the dog _____
(signature and full name)

Acting for the Minister for Agriculture –
Minister for Regional Development
and Local Government

M. Kučinskis