1974. No. 303

WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Animal Boarding Establishments

REGULATIONS, DATED 29TH NOVEMBER 1974, MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 11 OF THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1972.

The Department of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 11 of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(**a**) 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 Animal Boarding Establishments Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1974 and shall come into operation on 16th December 1974.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"animal" means a cat or a dog except in condition 13 in the Schedule where it means any species of animal;

"Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"licence holder" means a person to whom a licence to keep an animal boarding establishment has been granted by the Department;

"pen" means a cage, kennel or any shelter in which an animal is confined.

Conditions for keeping an animal boarding establishment

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) a licence holder shall in relation to the premises in which he keeps an animal boarding establishment comply with the conditions set out in the Schedule.

(2) The Department may by notice in writing exempt any person from complying with the first condition in the Schedule for such period as shall be specified in the notice.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 29th day of November 1974.

(L.S.) *J. C. Chalmers,*
Assistant Secretary.

(a) 1972. c. 7 (N.I.).

SCHEDULE

Conditions for keeping animal boarding establishments

1. After 1st June 1975—
   (*a*) Pens shall be constructed of durable material.
   (*b*) Internal walls shall be hard, impervious and smooth finished with all corners coved.
   (*c*) Floors shall be hard and impervious and shall be so laid as to facilitate cleansing and disinfection and permit adequate drainage.
   (*d*) Doors and gates shall be of metal construction, or otherwise capable of being adequately cleansed and disinfected.

2. Each animal shall be accommodated in a pen of dimensions appropriate to its size and species, provided that—
   (*a*) where 2 animals belonging to one owner are normally penned together they may be kept in a single pen during the boarding period; and
   (*b*) an animal and her young may be kept in a single pen.

   In each case the pen used should be one that is appropriate to the size and species of the animals concerned.

3. Animals shall not be subjected to extremes of temperature or exposed continually to direct sunlight.

4. All pens shall be provided with adequate ventilation and lighting.

5. Animals shall be supplied with food suitable to their needs and clean drinking water shall be provided for them at all times.

6. Separate feeding vessels shall be provided for each pen and shall be thoroughly cleansed after each occasion of use.

7. Adequate clean bedding shall be provided for each animal and shall be renewed when soiled.

8. Each animal shall be given such daily exercise as may be required to maintain it in healthy condition.

9. Pens and exercise areas located in the premises shall be cleansed at least once daily.

10. All reasonable precautions shall be taken to prevent and control the spread of infectious or contagious diseases among the animals, including the provision of adequate isolation facilities in which animals found to be sick must immediately be placed and retained pending treatment. If an outbreak of infectious disease occurs on the premises all reasonable steps shall be taken forthwith to advise all owners of animals on the premises.

11. Appropriate steps shall be taken for the protection of animals in the case of fire or other emergency.

12. Attendants sufficiently experienced to maintain the safety and welfare of animals shall be available on the premises at all times.

13. Neither the licence holder nor any attendant in the establishment shall be under a current disqualification for an offence of cruelty affecting animals.

14. The licence holder shall keep a register containing information as follows:
   (i) description of each animal received into the establishment;
   (ii) date of the animal's arrival and departure;

(iii) name and address of the owner;

(iv) details of any illness suffered by the animal during its stay in the establishment and the treatment given;

(v) name and address of any veterinary surgeon who attended the animal during such illness.

The register shall be available for inspection at all reasonable times by an authorised officer who shall be entitled to make a copy of any entries therein.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.*)

These regulations make provision for the safety, health and welfare of animals in an animal boarding establishment.