

Animal Welfare Decree
(396/1996, amendments up to 401/2006 included)

Chapter 1 — Animal premises

Section 1 — General requirements

- (1) Animal premises as well as the fixtures and equipment of the premises must be designed, constructed and maintained so that they are safe to the animals and the risk of fire and of the animal escaping are minimised. The premises must be such that cleanliness and good standard of hygiene can be maintained and the animals can be inspected and cared for without difficulty.
- (2) The animal premises may not harm the animal or risk its health. The premises must provide sufficient shelter against adverse weather conditions as well as excessive cold, heat and humidity.
- (3) The premises must have enough space considering the specific needs of each animal species. The animal must be capable of standing and resting in a natural position as well as moving about in the premises.
- (4) The animal must be capable of standing up from a lying position in a natural way in the premises. Animals kept in the same premises must be capable of lying down at the same time.

Section 2 - Conditions in the premises

- (1) In animal premises sufficient ventilation must be arranged so that harmful gases, dust, draught or excessive humidity do not risk the health or welfare of the animal. There may be no continuous noise that disturbs the animal or causes harm to it.
- (2) The lighting of the premises must be such that it is suitable for satisfying the physiological needs of the animal and that the animal can be duly inspected and cared for.

Section 3 - Walls and floor of an animal shelter

- (1) The structures and materials of the walls and floor of an animal shelter must be such that they are suitable for the animals kept there. The floor of the shelter may not be slippery and it must be easy to keep dry. In a floor with cracks or holes or a wire net floor the sides of the openings must be smooth and the size and share of the openings must be such that they cause no risk of damage to the animal. The animal must have access to a suitable place to lie down.
- (2) An animal shelter referred to in subsection 1 means a cowhouse, pighouse, stable, henhouse or other similar building intended for the keeping of animals or a building or construction intended for the animals as shelter against the weather.

Section 4 - Cleaning and maintenance of the premises

- (1) The animal premises must be kept clean.
- (2) The premises and related equipment on which the health and welfare of animals depends must be inspected at least once a day. Faults which may endanger the health or welfare of animals must be repaired immediately and, if this is not possible, other necessary measures must be taken to ensure the health and welfare of the animals until the faults have been repaired.

Chapter 2 - Outdoor raising of production animals

Section 5 - *Production animals to be raised outdoors*

- (1) Only production animal species and breeds that are suited to outdoor raising may be raised outdoors round the year.
- (2) In subsection 1 production animal refers to an animal which is kept for the production of foodstuffs, wool, skin, feathers or fur as well as an animal which is kept or raised for other agricultural production.

Section 6 - *Outdoor run*

- (1) An outdoor run must be safe for the animal. The ground must be such that the animals cannot hurt themselves or get unnecessarily dirty.
- (2) The structures and materials of the fencing must be suited to the farmed animal species and such that it prevents the animal from escaping.

Section 7 - *Equipment of the outdoor run*

- (1) Animals kept in an outdoor run must have sufficient shelter against adverse weather conditions. The shelter against the weather must have suitable places to lie down for all animals. The outdoor run must have suitable facilities for isolating and care of the animals.

Chapter 3 - **Care of animals**

Section 8 - *Caring for health and welfare*

- (1) The health and general welfare of an animal which is being cared for as well as cleanliness of the animal and other necessary physical care must be taken care of.

Section 9 - *Feeding*

- (1) An animal which is being cared for must receive suitable feed and drink of good quality. The needs of each animal must be taken into account in feeding and it must be ensured that each animal gets enough nutrition.
- (2) Giving feed, drink or other nutrition which is known to be dangerous to the health of the animal to an animal which is being cared for is prohibited, as well as failing to give nutrients the lack of which is known to cause the animal to fall ill.

Section 10 - *Monitoring of welfare*

- (1) If an animal which is being cared for is under immediate control or within reach of humans, the condition and state of health of the animal must be inspected at least once a day and, where necessary, even more frequently. In the inspection special attention must be directed to animals which are about to give birth or have just given birth or which are new-born, ill, in a weak condition or injured.

Section 11 - *Ill or injured animal*

- (1) When an animal falls ill or is injured, appropriate care must be given or provided for to the animal without delay. Where necessary, an animal which is ill or injured must be placed in an appropriate facility separate from other animals. When required due to the nature of the illness or injury, the animal must be killed or slaughtered.

Chapter 4 - **Treatment and handling of animals**

Section 12 - *General requirements*

- (1) An animal must be treated calmly and it may not be unnecessarily frightened or agitated. In the handling of animals efforts must be made to take advantage of the behaviour characteristic to the species, such as herd instinct.
- (2) An animal may not be injured or treated in a violent manner. Kicking or hitting an animal with an instrument which injures the animal for training or other similar purpose is prohibited.
- (3) An animal may not be dragged by the horns, legs, tail or fur or by pulling directly by the head or otherwise handled in a way which causes undue suffering.

Section 13 - *Training and use*

- (1) An animal may not be trained or used in a way which damages its health or welfare. An animal may not be forced to try and exceed its natural ability or strength.
- (2) The provisions of subsection 1 concerning the use of an animal does not apply to the use of a dog or other animal in public authority activities in tasks related to the use of the animal which due to the nature of the task involve the risk that the animal may be injured.

Section 14 - *Inflicting undue distress, pain and suffering*

- (1) Inflicting undue distress, pain and suffering to an animal referred to in section 3(1) of the Animal Welfare Act (247/1996) means:
 - 1) use of live animals as a target in a shooting practice or competition;
 - 2) use of spiked spurs, a spiked collar or a spiked bit;
 - 3) scaling or gutting a live fish or plucking or skinning an animal alive;
 - 4) feeding a live bird or mammal or other vertebrate to an animal which is being cared for, unless this is necessary for returning an animal which is being cared for to the wild or otherwise absolutely necessary for the animal;
 - 5) using human power other than is to be considered reasonable when the animal gives birth for pulling out the foetus;
 - 6) transporting an animal by hanging by some part of the body;
 - 6a) cutting the tail of an animal so that the skin and hypodermic tissue are damaged;
(7.11.2002/910)
 - 7) killing a reindeer or other domestic animal or an animal farmed for production purposes by shooting as in hunting, except for shooting of a reindeer by a reindeer herder or other domestic animal or an animal farmed for production purpose for an acceptable reason which requires the immediate killing of the animal; and
 - 8) other action or measure directed to an animal which causes undue distress, pain or suffering to the animal.

Chapter 5 - **Tying up animals and keeping of certain animals**

Section 15 - *Device or instrument used for tying up*

- (1) If an animal is tied up, the device or instrument used for tying up must be such that it does not cause any injury to the animal. The device or instrument used for tying up must be fitted and adjusted so that it fits to the animal and allows it a necessary and safe freedom of movement.

Section 16 - *Animals on pastures or in outdoor runs*

- (1) The freedom of movement of an animal kept on pasture or in an outdoor run may not be restricted by using weights or other similar instruments which hinder the movement of the animal. The limbs of an animal may not be tied together nor may animals be tied to each other.

Section 17 (7.11.2002/910) - *Pig*

- (1) Pigs may not be kept tied in place by a leash.
- (2) Pigs must be kept in a group, unless there is a veterinary cause or cause relating to hostile behaviour of animals for separating an animal from the group. When the cause has been removed the pig must again be placed to the group. A sow or young sow between first and second litters may, however, be kept separate from the group during a period which starts one week before the expected farrowing and ends four weeks from the service or insemination after the farrowing which leads to pregnancy. In addition, a boar may be kept in an individual where it is able to turn around.
- (3) If a pig must be separated from the group due to a veterinary cause or cause relating to hostile behaviour of animals referred to in subsection 2, it must, notwithstanding a veterinary cause, be capable of turning around easily in an individual pen.

Section 18 - *Bovine*

- (1) A calf which is more than eight weeks old may not be kept in an individual pen, unless there is a veterinary reason for this. A calf means a bovine which is less than six months old.
- (2) A calf may not be kept tied to a stall, pen or other fittings except temporarily for the duration of the feeding or other care of the animal.
- (3) Dairy cows and heifers raised mainly for milk production which are kept tied up must have access to pasture or appropriate exercise yard for the minimum of 60 days during a period which starts on 1 May and ends on 30 September. The surface area of the exercise yard must be at least 6m² per bovine kept in it. However, the total surface area must always be at least 50 m². A heifer means a female bovine of at least 8 months of age which has not calved. (17.3.2005/171)
- (4) The State Provincial Office may grant an exemption from the requirement concerning access to pasture or exercise yard referred to in subsection 3 if the production farm has no suitable pasture available or if other space suitable for exercise cannot be reasonably arranged or if compliance with the requirement is unreasonable due to reasons relating to traffic, terrain or distance. The exemption may be granted for the maximum of three years at a time and it is revoked if the preconditions for granting the exemption cease to exist. In addition, the State Provincial Office may grant an exemption until no later than the end of 2007 if the applicant demonstrates that he or she will give up the keeping of production animals referred to in subsection 3 during this time. (24.5.2006/401)

The wording of subsection 4 as temporarily amended by Decree 401/2006 is in force from 1 June 2006 until 31 December 2007. The earlier wording is:

The State Provincial Office may grant an exemption from the requirement concerning access to pasture or exercise yard referred to in subsection 3 if the production farm has no suitable pasture available or if other space suitable for exercise cannot be reasonably arranged or if compliance with the requirement is unreasonable due to reasons relating to traffic, terrain or distance. The exemption may be granted for the maximum of three years at a time and it is revoked if the preconditions for granting the exemption cease to exist. (17.3.2005/171)

Section 19 (17.3.2005/171) - *Goat and sheep*

- (1) A goat or sheep may not be kept tied up except for a short time during the feeding, milking or other care of the animal.

Section 20 (4.5.2000/425) - *Laying hens*

- (1) As of 1 January 2012 hens of the species *Gallus gallus* which lay eggs intended to be used as foodstuffs may not be kept in unenriched cage systems referred to in Chapter II of Council

Directive 1999/74/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens.
Unenriched cage means a cage in which the hens cannot peck and scratch the litter, lay eggs in a nest and sit on an appropriate roost and whose surface area is less than 750cm² per hen to be kept in the cage.

- (2) Cages referred to in subsection 1 above may not be brought in the service for the first time as of 1 January 2005. (16.9.2004/860)

Section 21 - *Dog*

- (1) Except for temporarily, a dog may be tied in place outside only in the immediate vicinity of an inhabited building.
- (2) A dog which is less than one year old may be kept tied in place outside only temporarily.
- (3) A dog kept tied outside other than temporarily and a dog kept in an outside enclosure must have access to an appropriate doghouse or other appropriate place to rest where it has sufficient shelter against the weather conditions. The breed, size and age of the dog or dogs must be taken into account in the size of the enclosure.
- (4) It must be ensured that the dog's need for exercise is satisfied.

Section 22 - *Keeping an animal in premises which are not suited for this*

- (1) A cat, dog or other animal may be kept in a box or cage intended for transportation or other similar container which is small in size only if required due to the transportation or illness of the animal or other temporary and acceptable reason.

Chapter 6 - **Procedures performed on animals and animal breeding**

Section 23 - *Allowable procedures*

- (1) Notwithstanding section 7(1 and 2) of the Animal Welfare Act, the following procedures performed on animals are allowed:
 - 1) piercing or notching the ears of a pig, bovine, sheep, reindeer, goat and other production animal, tattooing, putting an earmark on or microchip in an animal and marking of the above-mentioned animals in other manner which causes minor pain of short duration by a qualified person;
 - 2) tattooing a horse performed by a veterinarian or subject to a veterinarian's supervision, putting a microchip in a horse performed by a qualified person as well as marking a horse by cold branding performed by a qualified person;
 - 3) tattooing a cat performed by a veterinarian, tattooing a dog performed by a qualified person as well as putting a microchip in a cat or dog performed by a qualified person;
 - 4) marking animals other than those referred to in points 1-3 in a manner which causes minor pain of short duration performed by a qualified person;
 - 5) castration of a piglet aged no more than seven days by open surgery procedure without tearing the tissue performed by a qualified person, burdizzon castration of a sheep aged less than six weeks performed by a qualified person, burdizzon castration of a reindeer performed by a qualified person as well as castration of a goat, horse, bovine, piglet aged more than seven days and sheep aged more than six weeks performed by a veterinarian using appropriate anaesthesia and pain relief; (7.11.2002/919)
 - 6) castration and sterilisation of a cat, dog or other pet or hobby animal performed by a veterinarian using appropriate anaesthesia and pain relief; (7.11.2002/919)
 - 7) dehorning a bovine, sheep and goat by a surgical procedure performed by a veterinarian as well as destroying the horn-producing cells of an animal aged less than four weeks performed by a qualified person;

- 8) if nipple injuries occur in sows in the animal premises concerned, the sharp point of the canines (dens caninus) may be clipped or ground using appropriate nippers or grinding device performed by a qualified person so that the surface of the tooth is sound and smooth; clipping or grinding of canines may not be performed as a routine procedure; before performing the procedure efforts must be made to improve the conditions of keeping piglets and care to prevent the occurrence of nipple injuries; (7.11.2002/910)
 - 8a) shortening the tusks of a boar performed by a qualified person, if necessary to prevent other animals from being injured or due to safety of humans; (7.11.2002/910)
 - 9) putting a nose ring on a bovine performed by a veterinarian; and
 - 10) cutting the toe pointing backward or inward of a cock kept for breeding up to the first joint within the first 72 hours of its life performed by a qualified person.
- (2) A qualified person in subsection 1 means a person who has sufficient knowledge on the technique of performing the procedure and sufficient skills to perform the procedure.
 - (3) The devices and equipment used to perform procedures on animals must be suitable for the purpose, clean and in working order.
 - (4) In addition to the allowable procedures to be performed on animals referred to in subsection 1 above the competent Ministry may grant exceptions to the provisions of section 7 (1 and 2) of the Animal Welfare Act.

Section 24 - *Animal breeding*

- (1) Natural or artificial propagation or a breeding method which causes or may cause distress to an animal or injure it may not be used.
- (2) An animal may not be kept for production purposes unless it can be reasonably assumed on the basis of its phenotype or genotype that it can be kept in a way that keeping the animal does not cause damage to its health or welfare.

Chapter 7 - **Production farms of meat, eggs and breeding animals**

Section 25 (4.5.2000/425) - *Farmed animals*

- (1) Of the wild mammal and bird species found in Finland animals belonging to the following animal species may be farmed for the production of meat or eggs or breeding animals for their production:
 - 1) white-tailed deer, fallow deer, forest reindeer, roe deer, mountain hare, brown hare, mouflon and wild boar; and
 - 2) pheasant, mallard, partridge, capercaillie, black grouse, willow grouse, bean goose, greylag goose and Canada goose.
- (2) In addition to the animal species listed in subsection 1 above, coypu (nutria), sika deer, red deer (elk), water buffalo (*Bubalus bubalus*), American bison (*Bison bison*), ostrich, emu and common rhea (nandu) may be farmed for the production of meat or eggs or breeding animals intended for their production.

Chapter 8 - **Professional or other large-scale keeping of pet or hobby animals**

Section 26 - *Definition of the activity*

- (1) Pet and hobby animals are kept professionally or otherwise on a large scale as referred to in section 24 of the Animal Welfare Act if:
 - 1) dogs, cats or other pet and hobby animals are placed on the market or sold on a regular basis;
 - 2) an owner or possessor of dogs or cats rears at least six breeding females which have whelped at least once;

- 3) dogs and cats are taken into care, keeping or training if at least six dogs or cats aged more than five months are simultaneously and on a regular basis taken into care, keeping or training;
- 4) trotting or riding horses or other similar animals are reared, rented or taken into keeping, care or training or when training is provided in the use and handling of these animals and the total number of full-grown animals is at least six; and
- 5) pets and hobby animals are in another similar manner kept professionally or on a large scale.

Chapter 9 - **Activities subject to notification**

Section 27 - *Content of the notification*

- (1) The notification to the State Provincial Office referred to in section 24 of the Animal Welfare Act must contain:
 - 1) name, address and domicile of the operator;
 - 2) if the operator is a company, cooperative or other corporation or a foundation, a copy of the statutes or by-laws or extract from a register;
 - 3) possible commercial name used in the activity;
 - 4) account of the training and other experience needed in the activity of the person responsible for the care of the animals;
 - 5) where and what kind of activity is to be practised as well as when the activity is to be started;
 - 6) information on animal species and numbers of animals which the activity concerns or will concern;
 - 7) account of the premises to be used and equipment which are being used or will be used; and
 - 8) account of how the care of the animals is to be organised.
- (2) The provisions on the content of the notification in subsection 1 also apply, as appropriate, to making a notification set down in sections 21 and 23 of the Animal Welfare Act.

Section 28 - *Making a notification*

- (1) A notification referred to in sections 21, 23 and 24 of the Animal Welfare Act must be made no less than 30 days before a new activity is started and, when the activity changes in an essential way or is terminated, no less than 14 days before such change takes place.

Section 29 - *Notification obligation of the State Provincial Office*

- (1) The State Provincial Office must notify the municipal veterinarian of an activity referred to in sections 21, 23 and 24 practised within the territory of the municipality.

Chapter 10 - **Killing of animals**

Section 30 - *General requirements*

- (1) An animal may only be killed by a person who knows how to do this. A person who performs the killing must have sufficient knowledge of the method and technique of killing the animal species concerned as well as sufficient skills to perform the procedure.
- (2) An animal to be killed must be held or restrained in another appropriate manner so that an animal is spared all avoidable pain, distress, suffering, injury and bruising in the killing. An animal to be killed may not be hung before killing, nor may its limbs be tied.
- (3) The killing of an animal must be performed so that no undue pain, distress or suffering is inflicted on the animal and the disturbance caused to the other animals is minimised.

- (4) The person who kills an animal must ensure that the animal is dead before undertaking its disposal or any other measures.

Section 31 - *Drowning or suffocating*

- (1) Killing a mammal, bird or reptile that is conscious by drowning or suffocating is prohibited.

Section 32 - *Small-sized pet or hobby animals*

- (1) A cat and dog and other similar small-sized pet or hobby animal may be killed, unless it is killed by a veterinarian by an appropriate anaesthetic or lethal substance, only by shooting into the brain or by using gas which causes immediate loss of consciousness and death. If carbon monoxide is used for killing, it must be appropriately frozen and filtered, and it must contain no irritating substances.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1, a puppy or kitten or the young of other similar pet or hobby animals which are less than three days old may be killed by hitting them on the head so hard that they lose their life immediately.
- (3) Under the supervision of a veterinarian the killing may be performed in a way other than those mentioned in subsections 1 and 2.

Section 33 - *Production animals*

- (1) A production animal of a mammal or bird species, except for a fur animal, may be killed only by shooting or by using electric current or carbon dioxide. In addition, a poultry animal may be killed by cutting the neck swiftly by a sharp instrument or by breaking the neck of an animal which weighs less than three kilograms rapidly and efficiently.
(17.3.2005/171)
- (2) A fur animal kept for production purposes may be killed in a manner to be specified by the competent ministry only by electric current, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, shooting or mechanical instrument which penetrates into the brain.
- (3) In hatcheries hatchlings may only be killed by a mechanical instrument which kills immediately or with carbon dioxide. Unhatched eggs in hatcheries must be treated with the above-mentioned mechanical instrument.
- (4) In addition to the provisions of subsections 1-3, an animal may be killed by a veterinarian using an appropriate anaesthetic. If necessary for combating or diagnosing animal diseases, a production animal may, under a permission and supervision of a veterinarian, be killed by means of a killing method other than set down above in this section.

Section 34 - *Killing in emergency situations*

- (1) In emergency situations, to prevent the prolonging of an animal's distress and if the means referred to in sections 32 or 33 above cannot be used or if the animal cannot be captured, it may also be killed in a manner other than those set down above, provided that no undue distress is inflicted on the animal.

Section 35 - *Transfer of an ill or injured animal to be killed*

- (1) An ill or injured production animal may be transferred elsewhere to be killed or slaughtered only if the transport of the animal or handling it for transfer does not cause any further distress to it.
- (2) A seriously ill or injured horse, bovine or similar larger animal may be transported elsewhere to be killed or slaughtered only under a permission of a veterinarian.

Chapter 11 - **Slaughter and related procedures**

Section 36 - *Slaughterhouse and place of slaughter*

- (1) The fittings and equipment of a slaughterhouse and place of slaughter must be such and the activity in these must be organised so that no undue agitation, pain or distress is inflicted on the animals.
- (2) A slaughterhouse and place of slaughter must have appropriate and sufficient premises for keeping the animals. The premises for keeping the animals must provide sufficient protection against adverse weather conditions and excessive cold, heat and humidity and they must have enough stalls, pens or other places for keeping the animals.

Section 37 - *Keeping of animals to be slaughtered*

- (1) An animal brought for slaughter which is not slaughtered immediately must be taken to a facility for keeping animals without delay, unless it can be kept in an appropriate manner in the means of transport.
- (2) Animals which due to their species, sex, origin or age are hostile or may cause injury to each other must be kept separate from each other.

Section 38 - *Care of animals to be slaughtered*

- (1) Animals kept to be slaughtered, except for poultry, must have access to drinking water at all times.
- (2) If animals are not slaughtered within 12 hours from their arrival at a slaughterhouse or place of slaughter, they must be given enough feed upon their arrival and after this they must be fed at intervals suited to the animal species concerned and milked, where necessary.
- (3) The condition and state of health of animals to be slaughtered must be checked daily in the morning and evening and, where necessary, even more frequently.

Section 39 - *Animals to be slaughtered urgently*

- (1) An animal which is significantly ill, hurt or injured as well as an unweaned animal must be slaughtered without delay, but within no more than two hours from the arrival at the slaughterhouse or place of slaughter. Before the slaughter the above-mentioned animals must be kept separate from the other animals.
- (2) Animals which are brought to a slaughterhouse in a cage, box or other similar transport container must be slaughtered as soon as possible after the arrival at the slaughterhouse.

Section 40 - *Keeping of animals when performing slaughter*

- (1) Animals to be slaughtered may not be kept waiting in a room or premises where the slaughtering is performed.

Section 41 - *Qualifications of the slaughterer and person performing procedures preceding slaughter*

- (1) Staff which performs the care and handling and stunning and bleeding of animals to be slaughtered must have sufficient knowledge and skills for performing the procedures in an appropriate manner.
- (2) Professional slaughter may be performed only by an experienced or trained person who is at least 18 years of age.
- (3) No unauthorised persons may be present at slaughter.

Section 42 - *Stunning*

- (1) When an animal is slaughtered it must be stunned before bleeding rapidly, efficiently and for a sufficiently long time. However, a poultry animal may be slaughtered by cutting its neck rapidly with a sharp instrument.

- (2) An animal to be stunned must be held or restrained in another appropriate manner so that an animal is spared all avoidable pain, distress, suffering, injury and bruising in the stunning. An animal to be stunned may not be hung before stunning, nor may its limbs be tied. A poultry animal or a rabbit may, however, be hung for stunning if the stunning can be performed in an appropriate manner and without delay.
- (3) Stunning must be performed, depending on the animal species and as specified in further detail by the competent ministry, by a mechanical instrument which penetrates into the brain, by electric current or gas which stuns immediately, or by hitting the animal on the head by an appropriate instrument or by shooting an animal in the head.

Section 43 - *Devices and equipment used for stunning*

- (1) Devices and equipment used for stunning must be suitable for the purpose and in working order. To ensure that the devices and equipment are in working order they must be checked and serviced on a regular basis.

Section 44 - *Bleeding*

- (1) Bleeding of a stunned animal must be started immediately after stunning. Bleeding must be rapid, abundant and complete so that the animal does not regain consciousness.
- (2) No other procedures may be performed on the animal before it is dead.

Chapter 12 - **Slaughtering method applied for religious reasons**

Section 45 - *General requirements*

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions set down in section 42(1) above concerning the stunning of an animal before bleeding, if required by religious reasons bleeding may be started simultaneously with stunning, in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.
- (2) An animal may be slaughtered in a way set down in this Chapter only in a slaughterhouse or place of slaughter in the presence of the veterinary officer for meat inspection of the establishment.

Section 46 - *Restraining an animal*

- (1) A bovine must be restrained by a mechanical device which is designed so that the animal is spared all avoidable pain, distress, suffering, injury and bruising. Otherwise the provisions of section 42(2) above apply to restraining an animal.

Section 47 - *Stunning*

- (1) An animal must be stunned by a suitable stunning instrument referred to in section 42(3) simultaneously with the cutting of the jugular veins. However, a poultry animal may be slaughtered by cutting its neck rapidly with a sharp instrument.

Section 48 - *Cutting of jugular veins*

- (1) The cutting of jugular veins may be performed only by an experienced person approved by the religious community concerned.
- (2) Jugular veins must be cut as swiftly as possibly by a suitable sharp instrument.

Chapter 13 - **Miscellaneous provisions**

Section 49 - *Authorisation to issue regulations*

- (1) The competent ministry may issue further regulations on the provisions of this Decree concerning animal premises, outdoor raising, care of animals, handling and treatment of

animals, tying up animals, procedures performed on animals, professional or other large-scale keeping of pet and hobby animals, killing of animals, qualifications of persons performing slaughter and procedures preceding slaughter, premises for handling animals in a slaughterhouse and place of slaughter and slaughter and related procedures.

Section 50 - Entry into force and transitional provisions

- (1) This Decree enters into force on 1 July 1996. However, the entry into force of section 20 is provided for separately.
- (2) By derogation from subsection 1 above, section 18(1) is applied as of 1 January 1998 and section 18(3) as of 1 July 2006. (7.11.2002/910)
- (3) Provisions on giving a notification on an activity referred to in section 21(2), section 23(1) or section 24(1) of the Act upon the entry into force of the Animal Welfare Act are set down in section 67 of the Animal Welfare Act.
- (4) Measures necessary for the implementation of this Decree may be undertaken before the Decree's entry into force.