

Translated from Icelandic:

Legal Gazette, A, no. 54/1990

**ACT**  
*governing the import of animals*

**The President of Iceland**

*makes known:* The Althing has passed this Act and I ratify it with my consent:

**Art. 1**

The definitions in this Act are as follows:

*Livestock:* any kind of animals kept and raised for the purpose of utilisation.

*Animal Husbandry Committee:* committee, cf. Art. 5 of the Act on animal husbandry, no. 84, 30 May 1989.

*Animals:* any living terrestrial animals, including vertebrates, invertebrates and aquatic animals, partly or fully living in fresh water.

*Quarantine station:* quarantine facilities for fur-bearing animals, fowl and fish.

*Genetic substances:* any substances storing the genetic characteristics of animals, for example, embryos (impregnated eggs or embryos at the initial stage), eggs or sperm.

*Isolation veterinarian:* the head of an isolation station to which animals have been moved in accordance with this Act.

*Isolation station:* a facility where animals and genetic substances are stored during testing on whether they have contagious diseases

*Control veterinarian:* any veterinarian appointed to maintain control because of imports according to this Act.

**Art. 2**

Importing any animals, broken or wild, as well as their genetic substances, into the country is prohibited.

The Minister of Agriculture, upon recommendation by the Chief Veterinary Officer, may deviate from the ban specified in paragraph 1, allowing the import of animals and genetic substances, provided that the instructions entailed in this Act and the regulations that will be implemented according to this Act are strictly observed.

Animals, imported without permit, shall be immediately put down and the carcasses destroyed to prevent hazard. Eggs, sperm and embryos shall likewise be destroyed, as well as the animals that may have been artificially inseminated or used as surrogate mothers, and the offspring which may have been born after such illegal import.

**Art. 3**

When the Chief Veterinary Officer recommends the import of animals and genetic substances, he shall present a well-grounded report on the health situation in the

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TRANSLATED BY: ELLEN INGVAÐÓTTIR

relevant country or region, and his recommendation shall be accompanied by certificates from the relevant health authorities on the animals not having shown any signs of diseases that need to be specially feared in Iceland.

When a permit is requested for the import of livestock, the Minister shall appoint a committee of three veterinarians to act as consultants to the Chief Veterinary Officer: one shall be suggested by the University of Iceland's Institute for Experimental Pathology, one by the Chief Veterinary Officer and one shall be directly appointed.

#### **Art. 4**

Before granting an import permit for livestock or its genetic substances, the Minister shall seek the opinion of the Animal Husbandry Committee in the relevant field of livestock farming. The Committee shall consider the need or the possible gains by such import for Icelandic livestock breeding. The Committee shall present proposals on the breed and type to be imported, as well as on how and from which country the import should take place.

The Committee may propose a different format of import than requested by the applicant if it finds this to be safer and in support of recommending the application.

#### **Art. 5**

Before granting a permit for the import of new animal species or foreign breeds of species that already exist in Iceland, the Minister of Agriculture shall obtain the opinion of the Iceland Nature Conservation Council.

#### **Art. 6**

The Ministry of Agriculture shall arrange and be responsible for the import of livestock which may be authorised according to this Act. Furthermore, the Ministry shall handle the continuous breeding which will be imported, however, the Minister of Agriculture is authorised to request individual farming or breeding societies to handle this, upon the recommendation of the Chief Veterinary Officer and the relevant Animal Husbandry Committee. The relevant party shall then prove his capability of satisfying all the requirements made concerning preventive measures and facilities, and that he is capable of fully financing the continuous breeding. Such transfer shall always be subject to one import permit with specified time limits.

#### **Art. 7**

An isolation station shall either exist or be built at a suitable location in light of the import of animals and genetic substances under this Act. All facilities for isolation and preventive measures shall satisfy the requirements deemed necessary by the Chief Veterinary Officer and which will be further specified in regulations.

#### **Art. 8**

When an animal or a genetic substance is chosen for import, each individual animal to be imported, a male animal intended as a potential sperm donor, and parents, who have provided fertilised eggs, shall be subject to health inspection by an official veterinarian, and the certificates and other necessary information shall be available before the importation takes place. Embryos, eggs or sperm shall only be imported from acknowledged breeding stations, where the health of the parents or parent has

been monitored for a sufficient period of time in the opinion of the Chief Veterinary Officer. The Minister of Agriculture implements regulations upon recommendation by the Chief Veterinary Officer regarding the requirements for any kind of information and certificates that need to be available before such importation is permitted.

#### **Art. 9**

All imported animals and genetic substances shall be isolated at an isolation station for as long as deemed necessary and shall be subject to constant monitoring by the isolation veterinarian at the station.

An isolation station's isolation veterinarian shall be hired by the Minister of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the Chief Veterinary Officer and he shall be given a special letter of appointment. The isolation veterinarian shall be a veterinarian with special knowledge and training in egg implantation and livestock insemination. The isolation veterinarian is not permitted to practise veterinary medicine outside the isolation station.

Upon the recommendations of the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Minister of Agriculture implements regulations on all matters relating to the operation of isolation and quarantine stations, and to safety measures regarding potential threat of contagion from the said stations, including strict provisions concerning the traffic of persons, the handling of fertilisers, any kind of waste and products from the stations. The personnel of such stations shall receive special letters of appointment, and the isolation veterinarian shall be responsible for the observation of all safety regulations.

#### **Art. 10**

Imported animals or animals which have been raised from imported genetic substances must never be taken away from an isolation station.

When it has been ensured that no genetic defects or contagious diseases dangerous to Icelandic animals have been brought in with importation and when a certain period of time has passed, which will be further determined in regulations, from the latest import of animals or genetic substances, the Chief Veterinary Officer may authorise the transfer of animals or genetic substances, other than as specified in paragraph 1, from an isolation station.

#### **Art. 11**

Pure breeding of imported stock and their mixing with local livestock shall be under the supervision of the relevant Animal Husbandry Committees, which operate under the Act of animal husbandry.

#### **Art. 12**

Icelandic animals that are taken for mixing with imported livestock or used as surrogate mothers for the importation of embryos shall be selected by the consultants of the Agricultural Society of Iceland in the relevant field of livestock breeding, and the Chief Veterinary Officer or his representative shall ensure that they are not suspected of or having contagious diseases. Breeding of Icelandic animal breeds with imported breeds shall not take place until it has been found out how the stocks mix and

that cross breeding with the Icelandic stock does not result in serious birth difficulties or defects in temperament.

Effort shall be made to ensure that the qualities of Icelandic livestock are not lost in the mixing with imported stock. Regulations may contain provisions stating that the imported stock shall only be used for cross breeding if the consultant of the Agricultural Society of Iceland and/or the relevant Animal Husbandry Committee deem this as appropriate.

#### **Art. 13**

Despite the provisions of Art. 9 of this Act, the Minister of Agriculture is permitted to authorise the import of fur-bearing animals kept in cages, fertilised poultry eggs from acknowledged breeding farms, and fish and their genetic substances to quarantine stations subject to the surveillance of a control veterinarian. Such a permit shall only be granted, however, subject to the recommendations of the Chief Veterinary Officer. The transfer of animals from a quarantine station to a farm shall only be permitted if the farm satisfies the provisions set by the Chief Veterinary Officer to prevent the threat of contagion and subject to the acknowledgement of the relevant Animal Husbandry Committee. Animals must not be transferred from a quarantine station until they have been isolated for as long a period of time as deemed necessary to ensure, in the opinion of the Chief Veterinary Officer, that they do not have any contagious disease.

#### **Art. 14**

The Minister of Agriculture is authorised, upon the recommendations of the Chief Veterinary Officer, to deviate from the provisions of Art. 10 of this Act and to grant a permit for domestic animals that are not hooved or cloven hooved species to be transferred from an isolation station. Such transfer shall not take place until the animals have been in isolation for an adequate period of time to ensure, in the opinion of the Chief Veterinary Officer, that the animals do not have any contagious diseases. Conditions may be attached to such permits to the effect that a veterinarian shall maintain regular monitoring of the animals' health at the cost of the owners for as long as deemed necessary by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

#### **Art. 15**

In the event of a serious contagious disease surfacing at an isolation or quarantine station, every effort considered necessary shall be made to prevent it from spreading, including putting down animals if necessary and stopping the distribution of genetic substances from the station in question. All costs of such measures shall be borne by the operating party, who have the duty to fully abide by the instructions of the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Owners have the duty to abide by the instructions of the Chief Veterinary Officer on the destruction of the animals at the stations and they do not have a right for compensation for animals that need to be destroyed as a part of such measures.

#### **Art. 16**

Deep-frozen sperm or embryos may be stored outside isolation stations, subject to the authorisation and instructions of the Chief Veterinary Officer. An isolation

veterinarian shall maintain a detailed record of all the animals brought to his station or which are born there, as well as of sperm and embryos taken and transported from the station, and their use. The isolation veterinarian shall abide by the instructions of the relevant Animal Husbandry Committee regarding the testing of animals and record-keeping.

#### **Art. 17**

If the Chief Veterinary Officer is of the opinion that it has been ensured that the import of Galloway cattle to Hrísey Island has not brought any dangerous diseases to the country, he may authorise genetic substances to be transferred over to the mainland. The breeding of Galloway cattle in the country shall be subject to the Act on animal husbandry.

#### **Art. 18**

If a decision is made to close an isolation station that has been in operation and if, in the opinion of the relevant Animal Husbandry Committee, it is not considered appropriate to further use the genetic substances stored at the station in question, the substances shall be destroyed as a precautionary measure or other measures shall be taken to prevent the threat of contagion. The animals at such a station shall be put down if their transfer from isolation has not been authorised under this Act.

#### **Art. 19**

Violations of this Act and the regulations issued on the grounds of the Act shall be subject to fines payable to the State Treasury. In the event of a disease being brought to a station due to negligence, the negligent party may be subject to dismissal or imprisonment if the charges are of a serious nature.

If living animals, embryos, eggs or other genetic substances of animals are transferred to the mainland without authorisation, cf. Art. 2, the owner is subject to fines, as well as the captain or the air pilot of the vehicle used to transport the animals and the genetic substances, if it is considered that the said persons knew what was being transported.

#### **Art. 20**

The Minister of Agriculture sets regulations on the further execution of this Act, upon receiving recommendations from the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Agricultural Society of Iceland.

The operation of the isolation station at Hrísey is subject to this Act.

#### **Art. 21**

This Act goes into effect immediately. Act number 74, 28 April 1962, on the import of livestock is furthermore rescinded, as well Act number 49, 11 May 1989, on the amendment of the said Act, Articles number 48-52 of the Livestock Act number 31, 24 April 1973, and Art. 3 of Act on the husbandry of fur-bearing animals, number 53, 29 May 1981.

Done in Reykjavík, 16 May 1990

**Vigdís Finnbogadóttir**  
(L.S.)

Steingrímur J. Sigfússon

PLACE AND DATE: *Reykjavík, 4 Jan. 1996*  
TRANSLATED BY: ELLEN INGVAÐÓTTIR  
AUTHORIZED TRANSLATOR  
AND  
COURT INTERPRETER *Ellen Ingvad.*