

Wednesday 30th October 2024

Key Animal Welfare Legislation Passed Since 2012

Primary Legislation

- Created an offence of dog or cat abduction.
 - *Pet Abduction Act 2024, Implemented August 2024.*
- Banned the export of certain livestock from Great Britain for fattening or slaughter.
 - *Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) 2024, Implemented May 2024.*
- Banned the sale and advertising of activities abroad which involve low standards of animal welfare.
 - *Animals (Low Welfare Activities Abroad) Act 2023, Implemented November 2023.*
- Banned the import and export of shark fins and make provisions relating to the removal of fins from sharks.
 - *Shark Fins Act 2023, Implemented August 2023.*
- Tougher sentences and improved powers to tackle hare coursing.
 - *Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, Implemented June 2022*
- Banned the use of glue traps.
 - *Glue Traps (Offences) Act 2022, Implemented April 2024.*
- Inclusion of cephalopods and decapod crustaceans as recognised as sentient beings.
 - *Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022, Implemented April 2022.*
- Increased sanctions for offences related to animals and animal products.
 - *Animals (Penalty Notices) Act 2022, Implemented June 2022.*
- Banned the dealing of elephant ivory.
 - *Ivory Act 2018, Implemented June 2022.*

Secondary Legislation

- Laid out the provisions for the enforcement of the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act 2024.
 - *Animal Welfare (livestock Export) Enforcement Regulations 2024, Implementation date January 2025.*
- Increased sanctions regarding elephant ivory trade and extended ivory bans to include four other species (hippopotamus, narwhal, orca whale and sperm whale).
 - ☞ *Ivory Act 2018 (Meaning of Ivory and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024, Implemented November 2024.*
- Made a step towards banning the private keeping of primates in the UK by enforcing primate licencing.
 - *Animal Welfare (Primate License) Regulations 2024, Implementation date April 2026.*
- Increased maximum sentences for animal cruelty offences from 6 months to 5 years imprisonment.
 - *Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021 (Amended section 32 of Animal Welfare Act 2006), Implemented June 2021.*
- Banned wild animals in travelling circuses
 - *Wild Animals in Circuses Act 2019, Implemented January 2020.*
- Protection of the unnecessary suffering of service animals.

- *Animal Welfare (Service Animals) Act 2019 (Amended section 4 and 61 of Animal Welfare Act 2006), Implemented June 2019.*
- Prevention of fly-grazing and abandonment of horses.
 - *Control of Horses Act 2015, Implemented May 2015.*
- Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 - 2013 amendment to protect “*all living vertebrates (other than man) and living cephalopods*”
- Mandatory microchipping for dogs and cats.
 - *The Microchipping of Cats and Dogs (England) Regulations 2023, Implemented 2015 (dog), and due to be implemented April 2024 (cat)*
- Banned third-party puppy and kitten sales and other measures...
 - *Licensing of Activities Involving Animals (England) Regulations 2018*
- Minimum standards for meat chickens:
 - *Updated Broiler (meat) chicken Code of Recommendations and Guidance, March 2018*
- Mandatory CCTV in Slaughterhouses in England
 - *The Mandatory Use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses (England) Regulations 2018, Implemented November 2018*
- Banned the use of conventional battery cages for chickens
 - *EU directive 1999/74/EC, January 2012*