



وزارة البيئة والمياه والزراعة
Ministry of Environment, Water & Agriculture
المملكة العربية السعودية



The Cooperation Council
for Arab States of the Gulf
General secretariat

Animal welfare act (system) for the States of Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf



First Edition
2016 - 1437



Animal welfare Act (system)
for the States of Cooperation
Council for Arab States of the Gulf

Article (1)

The following expressions and terms have the intended meanings set out in front of it unless the context requires otherwise.

The council	Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf.
States of the Council	States of Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf.
Supreme council	Supreme council of the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf.
The state	Any member state of the Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf.
Competent authority	The ministry or the authority responsible for agriculture in the state.
Chairman of the competent authority	The minister responsible for agriculture and livestock or veterinary medicinal products or the Chairman of the responsible authority.
Authorize employees	Official employees who are authorized to implement the provisions of this Act and its implementing regulations and have the status of judicial police.
Animal	All kinds of animals including birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish.
Facilities	Any place in which animals are kept or retained or re-produced or raised or slaughtered or treated including public and private places.
Transportation	Any means by which animals are transported including all means of land, marine and air transportations.

Article (2)

The owners of the animals and those who taking care of them should take all precautions that ensure not causing harm or mischief or pain or suffering of animals and in particular they must comply with the following:

- A. Providing suitable facilities and necessary living conditions to shelter animals.
- B. Providing sufficient number of qualified employees who have appropriate capacity, knowledge and professional competence about matters related to animal welfare.
- C. Previewing animals and check up their conditions at least once daily.
- D. Did not release any animal which its survival depends on human and if the desire is to give it up, it must be done in coordination with the competent authorities.
- E. Following up the animals health status and submitting them to the veterinarian to be inspected and treated and take what is necessary in this regard.

Article (3)

- A. Authorized employees have the right to access to any facility for inspection and ensuring the application of the provisions of this act (system) and its implementing regulation, and if the facility is a private house, they must obtain a prior permission from the concerned authority in the state.
- B. Authorized employees have the right to be assisted by whom is seen fit to examine any animals inside the facility, conduct tests and collect samples which are considered necessary.

C. The owner or the person responsible for the animals inside any facility should provide the necessary facilities to the authorized employees, including assistance in securing of animals for examination, collection of samples and providing any documents related to the animals asked from them.

D. Authorized personnel have the right to put distinctive signs on the animals in a way enabling identification of each animal individually, and these signs must not be removed from the animals without prior consent from the competent authority.

Article (4)

Facilities must comply with the hygienic and technical terms specified by the implementing regulations of this act (system).

Article (5)

Animals must be fed with sufficient quantities commensurate to their species and age to keep them in good health.

Article (6)

Animals must be transported by a mean that ensure their safety and not exposed to injury or harm and the implementing regulation of this act (system) determines terms and specifications which must be provided in the means of transportation.

Article (7)

It is prohibited to show or trafficking in any animal showing symptoms of disease or fatigue.

Article (8)

The implementing regulations of this act (system) determines the basics and rules for organization of general exhibitions or competitions or animals shows for commercial purposes or any other purposes.

Article (9)

It is prohibited to leave animals in non allotted place or leave them neglected, and the competent authority have the right to dispose of neglected or loosed animals according to the terms and rules that determined by the implementing regulations of this act (system).

Article (10)

1. It is prohibited to use animals in purposes of scientific experiments unless obtaining a license from the competent authority.
2. The competent authority should have a record to register licenses issued for using animals in purposes of scientific experiments.

Article (11)

The competent authority determines payable fees in accordance with the provisions of this act (system) and its implementing regulations, after the approval of the concerned authorities in the state.

Article (12)

The victim of the decisions issued by application of this act (system) may appeal to the competent authority in accordance with the procedures followed in each state.

Article (13)

The necessary penalties and fines for those who violate the provisions of this act (system) or its implementing regulations are left to be determined by each state.

Article (14)

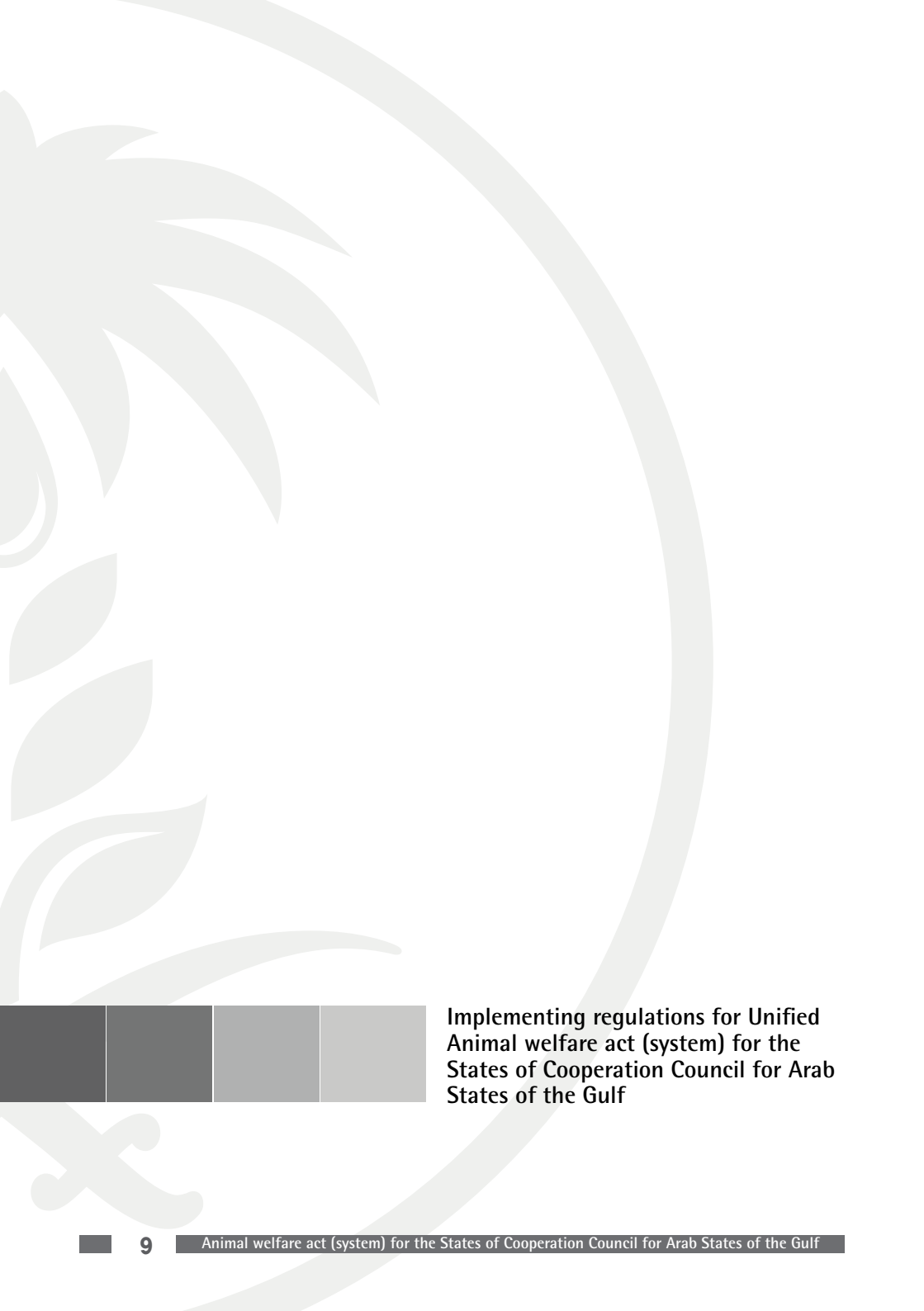
The Agricultural Cooperation Committee mandatory adopted the implementing regulations of this act (system).

Article (15)

The Agricultural Cooperation Committee have the right to interpret and propose amendment of this act (system), and the amendment not take effect unless it is approved by the Supreme Council and its effectiveness comply with the same procedures stipulated in Article (16).

Article (16)

This Act (system) is mandatory in effect after (180) days from its approval by the Supreme Council.



**Implementing regulations for Unified
Animal welfare act (system) for the
States of Cooperation Council for Arab
States of the Gulf**

1st Chapter

Article (1)

Definitions

The following expressions and terms have the intended meanings set out in front of it unless the context requires otherwise.

The Act	The Act (system) of animal welfare for the States of Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf.
Disease	Each change from normal status of the animals leading to malfunction or trouble in any of the normal biological processes of animals which affects the animal health or its husbandry.
Owner of the animal	The owner or who have the effective control on the animal in the form of supervision and guidance.
Animal Supervisor	The scientifically qualified person who takes care of animals, sets and designs caring programs in the facility, writes reports and supervises on the animals observer.
The animal observer	Person who performs the daily programs related to the animal husbandry.
Animal shelter center	General or private facility that contains suitable barns for animals, and the competent authority established it in case it is a general facility and takes care of retained or confiscated animals inside it and supervises it, also, the competent authority supervise it in case it is a private facility.
Sexual abuse	Any illegal use of animals by man for sexual purposes.

2nd Chapter

Animal welfare practice standards

Article (2)

1. The competent authority must issue special decisions for terms and standards of practical practices of animal welfare for all kinds of animals commensurate with their nature and species to be obligatory followed by all public and private bodies and institutions.
2. The competent authority monitor and audit the application of standards in animal facilities and practical practices of animal welfare commensurate with animal's species exist in those facilities.
3. The competent authority must issue a special guide for the practical application of the terms and standards for field practices that set by the competent authority for each animal species separately.

Animal cruelty

Article (3)

Without inconsistent with other laws, dealing with animal by their owner is considered harsh and contrary to the provisions of the Act (system) of animal welfare for the States of Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf and its implementing regulations and he is subjected to the stipulated penalties if he has done any of the following actions:

1. Exposing animals to negligence or malnutrition or abandoned them or leaving them without providing them with sufficient quantities of food and water fit for consumption or not giving them enough rest.
2. Using cruelty during the period of animal's preparation for slaughtering in slaughterhouses or other, such as hitting of head or cutting of ligaments of the joints or decrepitating of eyes or electrocution.
3. Stressing animals at work or races or other regardless their age or health status.
4. Using animals in a way incompatible with their nature to perform entertainment or art shows as in fighting arena and circus.
5. Giving animals any growth promoting drugs or any food or feed additives not permitted by the competent authority or exposing them to harm or death through careless storage of toxins or disinfectants and detergents or any other chemicals.
6. Retaining animals or transporting them by unfit way or mean or mixing different kinds of animals with each other regardless their

sex, age, or species without providing them with necessary food, water or good ventilation.

7. Showing or trafficking in any diseased or infected animal.
8. Lifting animals unable to stand up or dragging them in a painful way causes injuries, bruises or fractures or dislocation to them.
9. Practicing any form of infringement, including sexual abuse of animals.
10. Disposing of diseased animals by inhumane way, such as slow death, or any method causing panic or frighten or severe pain without any justification or providing poison to them intentionally.

3rd Chapter

Duties of animal owner

Article (4)

Animals owner must have the following responsibilities:

1. Providing qualified and sufficient workers for caring of animals according to their species.
2. Providing and preparing suitable place fit for sheltering animals according to their species, numbers and nature.
3. Providing care and treatment of animals on a permanent basis under supervision of a veterinarian.
4. Providing water and food for animals according to their normal needs in quality and quantity commensurate with animal species and their responsiveness to him.

5. Providing appropriate environmental conditions for the animals according to their species.
6. Cleaning animals and their shelters and disinfecting their barns or their cages regularly and providing suitable clean litter.
7. Keep records for genetic origin of animals, feeding, health status, medication, production and maintenance of facilities.

Article (5)

The following matters must be adhered when the animal is urged for movement.

1. It is allowed to use plastic sticks, flags and short whips (Its ends are leather or cloth) without causing exhaustion of the animal.
2. It is prohibited to use urging movement tools, specially electric tools except in cases of self-defense (It is used to cause temporary paralysis for predators in captivity), also it is prohibited to use them for tingling animals in sensitive areas, It is not allowed to be repeatedly used in case of animal not respond or not progress in walking.
3. It is prohibited to use any painful mean such as twisting of tail, nose pliers or pressure on eyes and ears and external genitalia.
4. It is prohibited to use a big stick with sharp or metal end.
5. It is prohibited to use extreme scream or raise strong noise to force them for walking.

Requirements of dealing with animals

Article (6)

The animal owners or workers responsible for caring them must be qualified, experienced and knew how to deal with animals in accordance to their species according to the following:

1. Having experience, qualified and trained in animal caring and husbandry.
2. Having the ability to behave and dealing with animals in normal and emergency situations.
3. Understanding animal behaviors, needs and properties according to their species, age, sex and status.
4. Knowing the general health principles of animal husbandry, including:
 - A. Common symptoms of diseases.
 - B. Some health measures such as trimming of nails and hooves, shearing of wool, haircuts, first aid and general measures for diseases prevention such as cleaning and disinfection and compliance with Bio-security measures.
 - C. Initial signs of birth and abortion.
5. Knowing laws and regulations related to animal welfare.

Requirements for establishing animal facilities

4th Chapter Duties of animal owner

Article (7)

1. The animal owner must provide suitable place for sheltering and housing compatible with animal nature and species in terms of adequate space and favorable climatic conditions for practicing their activities normally.
2. The competent authority determines the specifications and requirements of commercial animal facilities where animals are raised.

Organizing exhibitions, competitions and animal trafficking

Article (8)

1. It is prohibited to organize exhibitions, public or private fare, competitions or animals shows for commercial purposes or any other purposes unless obtaining a license from the concerned authorities in accordance with the terms and regulations stipulated in this Act (System).
2. It is prohibited for the animal owner to submit animal for show or trafficking in case of appearance of any disease symptoms on the animal or signs of fatigue, stress or wasting and incase of non compliance, the competent authority have the right to isolate this

animal at his owner or transferred it to another place for isolation under the supervision of the competent authority and on the expense of his owner to conduct the necessary examinations.

3. Animals that are submitted for show or trafficking must be registered in special records to find out numbers, species, breed, health status and suppliers.
4. Temporary license is given to the activities of temporary animal exhibitions and pet shows, as in the circus.

Conditions for licensing commercial animal establishments

Article (9)

1. A license must be obtained from the competent authority before establishing any animal facility.
2. The application submitted for obtaining a license for showing animals in zoos or bird gardens or children parks or animal rental places or circus must be attached with scheme for the facility site and another detailed one for buildings and different premises with an operating plan including workers.
3. Each commercial animal facility must employ a permanent veterinarian who must be licensed by the competent authority to practice the veterinary medicine profession, with the exception of temporary commercial or recreational facilities where supervision of a veterinarian or veterinary clinic or veterinary hospital is sufficient.
4. The competent authority issued a license for each animal supervisor or observer in any commercial animal facility licensed

by the competent authority after providing the following requirements:

- A. Qualification test in dealing with animals.
 - B. Animal supervisors must provide duly documented equivalent scientific certificates in the field of animal husbandry.
 - C. Animal supervisors must have a duly documented experience of not less than five years in the same field.
 - D. A two years duly documented experience certificate in the same field is sufficient for animal observers.
5. The competent authority issued a temporary license for the new facilities with the following conditions:
- A. The license period shall be according to the kind and size of the facility and not exceeding one year.
 - B. The license is renewed for the same period if the premises and career structure are not completed.
 - C. The facility license is permanently revoked if the premises and career structure were not completed within the period determined by the competent authority.
6. The competent authority determines the period of the permanent license for the facility.
7. The license granted for operating the animal facilities is withdrawn if it is proven that the license holder violate the animal welfare act (system) for the States of Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf or regulations issued by it or if he failed to fulfill the license terms issued by the competent authority.

5th Chapter

Responsibilities and duties of authorized employee

Responsibilities of authorized employee

Article (10)

Authorized employee have the right to access to any facility, whether public or private for inspection and ensuring the application of the provisions of animal welfare Act (system) and this regulation in accordance to the following:

1. They may use the security agencies of the state.
2. Obtaining a prior permission from the concerned judicial body of the state if the facilities are houses.

Duties of authorized employee

Article (11)

1. If it is proven to the authorized employee that, animals are exposed to negligence in care or be at risk they must provide counseling and advice to the animal owner about the requirements of animal welfare in a general guidelines way to correct the situation and to ensure compliance with animal welfare act (system) for the States of Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf or regulations issued by it.

2. If negligence is repeated by the animal owner, the animal will be permanently confiscated according to legal procedures in force in each state.

A. Protect animals from harm and retained them in a hygienic place and secure their welfare requirements.

B. The animal owner bears the expenses of transportation, health and veterinary care of animals for all the retention period.

3. Retention, confiscation and get rid of animals by sale or giving them to other owners or disposing of them humanely under veterinary supervision in case of necessity and if their original owners not appeared or identified is done within a maximum period of 15 days.

6th Chapter

Animals transportation

Article (12)

Animals must not be transported except in transportation means licensed by the competent authority in accordance with the terms, criterion and standards practices of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

7th Chapter

The use of animals for scientific purposes

Article (13)

It is prohibited to use animals for the purposes of scientific experiments unless obtaining a license from the competent authority which should have a special register to record licenses issued for this purpose and the license must not be granted unless fulfillment of the followings:

1. A request shows researches that will be conducted and the scientific justification for this experiment for which animals will be subjected to this experiment.
2. Research plan containing precautions, bio-security measures, biological materials and tools used.
3. Names of researchers and participants and their qualifications.
4. Imported animals for the purpose of scientific research must be subjected to veterinary supervision in the country of origin.
5. The importer must obtain an importing license from the competent authority.
6. Animals may not be used in more than experiment, except if it is necessary, and after taking a written consent from the competent authority.
7. All research institutions that use animals in scientific experiments should form an internal committee to monitor the use of these animals with the provision of health and medical care by a specialist veterinarian and workers have the same competencies stipulated in article (6) of this implementing regulation.

8. Approval from the competent authority to supervise the implementation steps of the research and follow-up research results.

9. The quality policy of the institution which used animals in experiments must include the following policies:

- Reducing the number of animals used in the experiment.
- Improving the methods used in the experiments as much as possible.
- Dispensing of animals to find alternative ways if it is possible.
- Complying with the basic requirements of animal welfare mentioned in this implementing regulations.
- Informing employees of the institution with these policies to be complied by them at all work stages.
- Disposing of carcasses of dead animal and its wastes if it is necessary in accordance with laws relating to hygiene and environmental safety.

8th Chapter

Disposing of animals

Article (14)

1. It is prohibited to dispose of animals except in cases of extreme necessity, such as a epidemic disease or disability that prevents animal from continuing its life normally.
2. If necessary to dispose of animals, as in cases of disease control, take into account the slaughtering method or any other humane method and the process of disposing must be done under the supervision of a specialist veterinarian to ensure its effectiveness and complying with terms of animal welfare and safety of workers and public safety.
3. When disposing animals by slaughtering or elimination, the dead animal carcasses and remains, must be disposed if it is necessary according to the act and legislation concerning the animal health. Also provision labors for animals dispose by slaughtering or dispose according to principles of animal welfare.
4. Animals must be rested and watered before slaughtering them and don't let them to see the tools used to dispose of them or spilled blood or any other executed or slaughtered animal in front of them.
5. The applied measures must be suitable with the special circumstances surrounding the site; also it must pay attention to safety of the workers, bio-safety and matters related to the environment and animal comfort.
7. Reduce the likelihood of disease spread as maximum extent as possible and disposing of animal is done in the same infected site if possible.

8. It must provide the equipments necessary for lifting, putting down and disposing of animal carcasses.
9. Disposal process must be completed as soon as possible after restricting animal movement by taking the decision for it from the competent authority.
10. Catching of animals and transporting them from one place to another must be limited to the minimum.
11. It is prohibited to fasten animals at slaughtering or disposing, also It is prohibited to break legs or cut tendons or blind animals or cut spinal cord, also It is prohibited to suspend animals from their legs or feet (Except bird in the last case).
12. Slaughterhouses intended for slaughtering animals must meet international requirements mentioned by the Code of the World Organization for Animal Health in this regard.
13. It is prohibited to push animals intended for slaughtering to move more quickly than its normal movement so as not exposed to injury.
14. Animals must be fastened by a suitable method that facilitate the disposal process and complied with the principles of animal comfort and safety of workers.
15. The method used for disposing of animals must cause quick death of animals or loss of consciousness (In this case, animals must be left without waken till death) and the method used must be non-violent and do not cause pain to animals or fear or suffering before slaughtering.
16. In case of epidemic diseases that require disposal of infected animals, infected animals must be disposed firstly, followed by contact animals, then finally the remaining animals, after obtaining consent from the competent authority.

17. The disposal process must be done away from crowding as possible to reduce terrorizing of animals.

16. If the slaughtering method is not used, the disposing methods must be complied with standards and regulations stipulated in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in accordance with standards for each method and according to the available equipments.

18. At the end of disposing process, the competent veterinarian must prepare a detailed report for the whole disposing process that has been done under his supervision and the reasons which necessitated that, to be reviewed by the competent authorities at any time.

9th Chapter

Final Provisions

Article (15)

Without prejudice to any severer penalty provided by another law, the competent authority must issue a list of administrative measures for punishment anyone violates any provision of this act (system) and its regulations.

Article (16)

The Minister has the right to propose amendments on the implementing regulations and submit them to the Committee of Agriculture Cooperation for its adoption.

Article (17)

This implementing regulations shall be mandatory after 6 months from the adoption of the Act (system) of animal welfare by the Supreme Council.

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Ministry of Environment Water & Agriculture

المملكة العربية السعودية Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Designed and implemented by
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture
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General Administration of animal Wealt