L.N. 268 of 2003

ANIMAL WELFARE ACT
ACT NO. XXV OF 2001

Inspection of Holdings (Farm Animals) Regulations 2003

IN exercise of the powers conferred by articles 7(2) and 9(2) of the Animal Welfare Act, 2001, the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment has made the following regulations:-

Title.

1. (1) The title of these regulations is the Inspection of Holdings (Farm Animals) Regulations, 2003.

Scope.

2. (1) The scope of these regulations is to implement the provisions set out under European Union Commission Decision 2000/50/EC concerning minimum requirements for the inspection of holdings on which animals are kept for farming purposes.

(2) For the purposes of these regulations "trading partner" shall have the same meaning as given in article 2 of the Veterinary Services Act and shall include Member States of the European Union.

Presentation of report.

3. (1) The Malta Veterinary Services will submit a report including the results of the inspections carried out in the field of the protection of animals kept for farming purposes. This report will be addressed to the Trading Partners and to the European Commission.

(2) In the light of the provisions of article 6(3) of European Union Council Directive 98/58/EC, the report will have to comply with the information specified in the Schedule.

(3) The report will have to be presented every two years, by the last working day in April.

SCHEDULE

1. Species or category of animals

(a) Calves
(b) Pigs
(c) Laying hens.

2. Table concerning the information requested for each species and category of animals based on the Annex of European Union Council Directive 98/58/EC

Information requested for each species and category of animals

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Territory of Malta</td><td colspan="3">Year:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Species and category of animal:
Calves
Pigs
Laying Hens</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Number of holdings:</td><td colspan="3">Number of inspections/ average:
.....</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Kind and number of infringements:</td><td colspan="3">Number of legal actions taken in consequence:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Requirement</td><td>Definition (according to European Union Council Directive 98/58/EC)</td><td>Total number</td><td>Advice</td><td>Other sanctions</td></tr>
<tr><td>Staffing</td><td>Animal shall be cared by an appropriate number of staff who possesses the appropriate knowledge</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Inspection</td><td>Animal shall be inspected at least once a day.
Adequate light shall be available to enable the animals to be thoroughly inspected at any time.
Animal which appears to be ill or injured must be cared for appropriately without delay.
Where necessary sick or injured animals shall be isolated in suitable accommodation.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Record keeping</td><td>The owner or keeper shall maintain a record of any medicinal treatment given and of the number of mortalities found at each inspection.
For a period of at least three years.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Freedom of movement</td><td>The animal must not be restricted in such a way as to cause it unnecessary suffering or injury.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Buildings</td><td>Materials and equipment with which the animals may come into contact must not be harmful to the animals.
No sharp edges or protrusions.
Air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentration must be kept in limits which are not harmful to the animals.
Animals kept in buildings must not be kept in permanent darkness or without an appropriate period of rest.</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Equipment</td><td>Where the health and well-being of the animals is dependent on an artificial ventilation system, provision must be made for an appropriate backup system to guarantee sufficient air renewal to preserve the health</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

	and well-being of the animals in the event of failure of the system, and an alarm system must be provided to give warning of breakdown.			
Feeding and other substances	No other substance, with the exception of those given for therapeutic, or prophylactic purposes or for the purposes of zootechnical treatment as defined in article 1(2)(c) of European Union Council Directive 96/ 22/EC must be administered to an animal unless it has been demonstrated by scientific studies of animal welfare or established experience that the effect of that substance is not detrimental to the health or welfare of the animal.			
Mutilations	Reference to national legislation.			
Breeding procedures	Natural or artificial breeding or breeding procedures which cause or are likely to cause suffering or injury to any of the animals concerned must not be practised. This provision shall not preclude the use of certain procedures likely to cause minimal or momentary suffering or injury, or which might necessitate interventions which would not cause lasting injury, where these are allowed by national provisions.			

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