

L.N. 207 of 2025

**ANIMAL WELFARE ACT
(CAP. 439)**

Surgical Operations on Animals (Amendment) Regulations, 2025

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by article 9(2) of the Animal Welfare Act, the Minister responsible for veterinary services has made the following regulations:-

1. (1) The title of these regulations is the Surgical Operations on Animals (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 and these regulations shall be read and construed as one with the Surgical Operations on Animals Regulations, hereinafter referred to as the "principal regulations".

Citation and scope.

S.L. 439.18.

(2) The scope of these regulations is to partially transpose the provisions of Council Directive 2008/120/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of pigs.

2. Regulation 2 of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

Amends regulation 2 of the principal regulations.

(a) the definition of "Director" shall be substituted by the following new definition:

" "Director" means the Director for Animal Welfare;"

(b) the definition "identification document" shall be substituted by the following new definition:

" "identification document" means an official passport in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003, Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for in Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Implementing Regulation

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(EU) 2015/262 of 17 February 2015 laying down rules pursuant to Council Directives 90/427/EEC and 2009/156/EC as regards the methods for the identification of equidae (Equine Passport Regulation), and with respect to other species, unless there are other rules regulating the registration of the type of animal concerned, a document issued by a warranted veterinary surgeon;".

Amends
regulation 4 of
the principal
regulations.

3. Paragraph (a) of sub-regulation (3) of regulation 4 of the principal regulation shall be substituted by the following new paragraph:

"(a) licensed pig farmers and breeders may:

(i) perform uniform reductions of corner teeth of piglets by grinding or clipping not later than the seventh day of life leaving an intact smooth surface;

(ii) perform reductions of boars' tusks in length when necessary to prevent injuries to other animals or for safety reasons;

(iii) dock pigs' tails;

(iv) castrate male piglets without tearing of tissue; and

(v) perform nose-ringing only when the animals are kept in outdoor husbandry systems:

Provided that neither tail-docking nor reduction of corner teeth shall be carried out routinely but only where there is evidence that injuries to sows' teats or to other pigs' ears or tails has occurred;".