

ORDINANCE NO. 32 OF 1957.
ANIMALS (CONTROL OF EXPERIMENTS) ORDINANCE, 1957.

I assent.

F. D. JAKEWAY,

Officer Administering
the Government.

11th July, 1957

Arrangement of Sections

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AN ORDINANCE to regulate the practice of experiments on living animals, and matters in connection therewith.

[13th July, 1957.]

A.D. 1957.

Enacted by the Legislature of British Guiana:—

Short title.

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Animals (Control of Experiments) Ordinance, 1957.

Interpretation.

2. In this Ordinance —

“animal” means a living vertebrate animal;

“experiment” means any experiment performed on an animal and calculated to give pain;

“licensee” means a person licensed under section 7 of this Ordinance.

Experiments only to be performed by licensed persons.

3. (1) No person except a licensee shall perform any experiment

(2) No licensee shall perform any experiment except in accordance with the terms of his licence and subject to the restrictions imposed by this Ordinance.

4. No licensee shall perform any experiment for the purpose of attaining manual skill.

Experiments not to be performed for purposes of attaining manual skill.

5. No licensee shall perform any experiment for the purpose of illustrating any lecture at any university, university college, hospital, medical school, agricultural college, farm school or any other academic institution unless he is the holder of a teaching permit under this Ordinance, and unless the experiment is of a class specified in such permit and is performed in accordance with the terms of such permit.

Prohibition of performance of experiments for illustration of lectures subject to certain conditions.

6. (1) Except as otherwise provided in section 5 of this Ordinance, no licensee shall perform any experiment except —

Restrictions upon performances of experiments by licensee.

- (a) for the purpose of the advancement of new discovery of physiological knowledge, or of any knowledge which will be useful for saving or prolonging life, or alleviating suffering, or for combating any disease whether of human beings, animals or plants;
- (b) for the purpose of testing any former discovery alleged to have been made for the advancement of the types of knowledge referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection;
- (c) by the order in writing of any Judge of the Supreme Court in any case where such Judge is satisfied that it is essential for the purpose of justice in a criminal case to make such experiment.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, no licensee shall perform any experiment unless —

- (a) throughout the whole of the experiment the animal is under the influence of some anaesthetic of sufficient power to prevent the animal feeling pain; and
- (b) if the pain is likely to continue after the effect of the anaesthetic has ceased, or if any serious injury has been inflicted on the animal, the animal is killed before it recovers from the influence of the anaesthetic which has been administered.

(3) The provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply to any licensee who is the holder of a special permit granted under section 9 of this Ordinance in relation to any experiment specified in such special permit.

7. (1) The Governor in Council may grant a licence to any person to perform any experiment for any purpose specified in such licence during such period and subject to such conditions in addition to the conditions specified in this Ordinance as he may think fit.

Grant of licence.

(2) It shall be a condition of any licence granted under subsection (1) of this section, that any experiment performed pursuant to such licence shall be performed at such place as may be specified in such licence.

Permits.

8. (1) Where the Director of Medical Services is satisfied that it is absolutely necessary for the due instruction of persons attending any course of lectures for the purpose of acquiring physiological knowledge or any knowledge which will be used for saving or prolonging life, or alleviating suffering, or for combating any disease whether of human beings, animals or plants, for any such lecture to be illustrated by the performance of any experiment, the Director of Medical Services may grant to a licensee under this Ordinance a teaching permit to perform any experiment specified in such licence for the purpose of illustrating such lecture.

(2) Every teaching permit under this section shall be subject to such conditions in addition to any conditions specified in this Ordinance as may be specified in such permit, and such permit shall remain in force for twelve months from the date on which it is granted.

Special permits.

9. (1) Where the Director of Medical Services is satisfied that the object of any experiment permitted to be performed by a licensee under this Ordinance would necessarily be frustrated—

- (a) by the performance of such experiment under any anaesthetic; or
- (b) by killing the animal on which such experiment is performed before it recovers from the influence of any anaesthetic,

he may grant a special permit authorising the licensee to perform such experiment without administering any anaesthetic to the animal or without killing the animal before it recovers from the influence of such anaesthetic as the case may be.

(2) Any special permit under this section shall specify the period for which it shall remain in force.

Records and inspections.

10. (1) Every licensee under this Ordinance shall keep, in such form as may be prescribed, records of all experiments performed by **him**.

(2) Every licensee under this Ordinance shall permit any person authorised in writing by the Director of Medical Services to inspect any records kept by him at any time between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. on any day other than a Sunday or public holiday.

(3) Every licensee under this Ordinance shall permit any person authorised in writing as aforesaid to enter and inspect, for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance, any place specified in such licensee's licence for the performance of experiments.

Returns.

11. Every licensee shall render to the Director of Medical Services in such form and at such time as may be prescribed such returns as may be required in relation to any experiments performed by **him**.

Regulations.

12. (1) The Governor in Council may make regulations generally for the better carrying out of the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) Regulations made under this section may without prejudice to the generality of the power conferred by subsection

(1) of this section provide for the keeping of records of all experiments performed by any licensee under this Ordinance and for the rendering of returns in relation to any experiments performed under this Ordinance.

13. It shall be a condition of every licence or permit granted under this Ordinance that such licence or permit may be revoked at any time by the person granting it on his being satisfied that such licence or permit ought to be revoked.

**Revocation
of licence or
permit.**

14. Every person who acts in contravention of any of the provisions of this Ordinance or of any condition of any licence or permit granted under this Ordinance shall be guilty of a summary offence and upon conviction thereof shall be liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred and forty dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

Penalty.

15. A prosecution under this Ordinance against a licensee shall not be instituted except by or with the consent of the Attorney General.

**Restriction
on prosecution
of
licensee.**