

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.

9th Jan., 1974.

The following Bill which has been introduced in the National Assembly is published for general information.

F. A. NARAIN,
Clerk of the National Assembly.



GUYANA

BILL No. 1 of 1974

SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE (CONTROL) BILL 1974

Arrangement of Sections

Section

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5. Powers of entry of veterinary officer and police constable.
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A BILL

Intituled

An Act providing for the control of the slaughter of cattle.

A.D. 1974 Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:—

- Short title.** 1. This Act may be cited as the **Slaughter of Cattle (Control) Act 1974.**
- Interpretation.** 2. In this Act —
 “cattle” means any bull, ox, steer, cow, heifer or calf;
 “veterinary officer” means the Principal Veterinary Officer and includes any veterinary officer of the Department of Agriculture authorised in writing by the Principal Veterinary Officer to perform the functions of the Principal Veterinary Officer.
- Prohibition.** 3. No person shall, without the permission in writing of a veterinary officer, slaughter or caused to be slaughtered —
 (a) any cattle with less than one permanent incisor tooth; or
 (b) any cattle of the female sex.
- Skin and head to be retained.** 4. Where a person slaughters or causes to be slaughtered any cattle he shall retain the skin and head of the cattle for forty-eight hours after it has been slaughtered and during that time he shall, if so required, produce the skin and head to a veterinary officer or a police constable.
- Powers of entry of veterinary officer and police constable.** 5.(1) A veterinary officer or a police constable may, at any time, enter a place where he reasonably believes that there is a carcass or other things in connection with which this Act applies and examine the carcass or other things found therein and take samples thereof.
 (2) A veterinary officer shall be furnished with a prescribed identification card and on entering any place pursuant to subsection (1) shall, if so required, produce the card to the owner or occupier thereof.
 (3) The owner or occupier of a place entered by a veterinary officer or a police constable pursuant to subsection (1) and every person found therein shall give the veterinary officer or a police constable all reasonable assistance in his power and furnish him with such information as he may reasonable require.

6.(1) Whenever a veterinary officer or a police constable believes on reasonable grounds that this Act has been contravened he may seize the carcass and other things in connection with which he reasonably believes the contravention was committed. Seizure and detention of carcass, etc

(2) The carcass and other things seized pursuant to subsection (1) shall not be detained after the expiration of fourteen days from the day of seizure, unless before that time proceedings have been instituted in respect of the contravention in which event, the carcass or other things may be detained until the proceedings are finally determined.

7. Where a veterinary officer or a police constable in exercise of his powers under this Act has taken a sample of any thing and it appears from any examination or investigation by the veterinary officer or the police constable that there has been no contravention of this Act in respect of the sample, the owner of the sample shall be entitled to compensation from the veterinary officer or the police constable for the sample if it cannot be returned to the owner without prejudice to the owner. Compensation to owner.

8. Where a person has been convicted of an offence against this Act, the court may order that the carcass and any other thing in connection with which the offence was committed be forfeited to the State and upon such order being made the carcass and other thing may be disposed of as the Minister may direct. Forfeiture.

9.(1) No person shall obstruct a veterinary officer or a police constable in the exercise of his functions under this Act. Obstruction of veterinary officer and police constable.

(2) No person shall make any false or misleading statement either verbally or in writing to a veterinary officer or a police constable engaged in the exercise of his functions under this Act.

10. Every person who contravenes, or fails to comply with, any of the provisions of this Act is liable on summary conviction, to— Offence and penalty.

- (a) a fine of not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars and to imprisonment for not less nor more than twelve months in the case of a first conviction; and
- (b) a fine of not less nor more than one thousand dollars together with imprisonment for not less

nor more than twelve months, in the case of a second or subsequent conviction.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The indiscriminate slaughter of young and pregnant cattle has posed a grave threat to the cattle industry. Therefore, in order to arrest this threat to the cattle industry this Bill seeks to prohibit and to deter persons from indulging in such indiscriminate slaughter of young cattle.

Clause 3 requires the written permission of a veterinary officer before the slaughter of young cattle or cattle of the female sex.

Clause 4 provides for the retention of the skin and head of slaughtered cattle for a period of forty-eight hours.

Clause 5 empowers a veterinary officer or a police constable to inspect premises if there is a reasonable belief that an offence has been committed.

Clause 6 empowers a veterinary officer or a police constable, if there is reasonable ground that an offence has been committed, to seize and detain carcass and other things.

Clause 7 enables compensation to be paid to the owner of a sample that cannot be returned if it appears after examination or investigation that no offence has been committed.

Clause 8 provides for the forfeiture to the State of the carcass or other thing after conviction.

Clause 9 prohibits the obstruction of a veterinary officer or a police constable in carrying out of his functions.

Clause 10 prescribes the penalty for a contravention of or failure to comply with, the legislation.

P. A. REID,
Minister of National Development
and Agriculture.