

Sec.

- (b) Wrongful use of confidential information prohibited.
- (c) Penalties.
- (d) Recovery of damages by injured person; costs; attorney's fee.
- (e) Other rights and remedies.
- 2158. Protection of pets.
 - (a) Holding period.
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- 2159. Authority to apply for injunctions.
 - (a) Request.
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CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in title 16 section 1374.

§ 2131. Congressional statement of policy

The Congress finds that animals and activities which are regulated under this chapter are either in interstate or foreign commerce or substantially affect such commerce or the free flow thereof, and that regulation of animals and activities as provided in this chapter is necessary to prevent and eliminate burdens upon such commerce and to effectively regulate such commerce, in order—

- (1) to insure that animals intended for use in research facilities or for exhibition purposes or for use as pets are provided humane care and treatment;
- (2) to assure the humane treatment of animals during transportation in commerce; and
- (3) to protect the owners of animals from the theft of their animals by preventing the sale or use of animals which have been stolen.

The Congress further finds that it is essential to regulate, as provided in this chapter, the transportation, purchase, sale, housing, care, handling, and treatment of animals by carriers or by persons or organizations engaged in using them for research or experimental purposes or for exhibition purposes or holding them for sale as pets or for any such purpose or use.

(Pub. L. 89-544, §1(b), formerly §1, Aug. 24, 1966, 80 Stat. 350; Pub. L. 91-579, §2, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1560; renumbered and amended Pub. L. 94-279, §2, Apr. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 417.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-279 restated and expanded objectives of this chapter to include regulation of animals and activities in, or substantially affecting, interstate or foreign commerce in order to prevent and eliminate burdens on such commerce and to assure the humane treatment of animals during transportation.

1970—Pub. L. 91-579 restated objectives to include all animals as defined instead of only cats and dogs and expanded coverage to regulate animals intended for use for exhibition purposes or for use as pets.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, §1759, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1650, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle F (§§1751-1759), enacting section 2157 of this title, amending sections 2132, 2143 to 2146, and 2149 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 1985].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Section 23 of Pub. L. 91-579 provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [enacting section 2155 of

this title, amending this section and sections 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2149, and 2150 of this title, repealing section 2148 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] shall take effect one year after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 24, 1970], except for the amendments to sections 16, 17, 19, and 20 of the Act of August 24, 1966 [sections 2146, 2147, 2149, and 2150 of this title], which shall become effective thirty days after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 24, 1970].”

SHORT TITLE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 94-279 provided: “That this Act [enacting section 2156 of this title, amending this section, sections 2132, 2134, 2136, 2139 to 2146, 2149, 2153 to 2155 of this title, and section 3001 of Title 39, Postal Service, repealing section 2150 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] may be cited as the ‘Animal Welfare Act Amendments of 1976.’”

SHORT TITLE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Section 1 of Pub. L. 91-579 provided: “That this Act [enacting section 2155 of this title, amending this section and sections 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2149, and 2150 of this title, repealing section 2148 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] may be cited as the ‘Animal Welfare Act of 1970.’”

SHORT TITLE

Section 1(a) of Pub. L. 89-544, as added by section 2 of Pub. L. 94-279, provided: “That this Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Animal Welfare Act.’”

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS FOR 1985 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, subtitle F (§§1751-1759), §1751, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1645, provided that: “For the purposes of this subtitle [see Effective Date of 1985 Amendment note above], the Congress finds that—

“(1) the use of animals is instrumental in certain research and education for advancing knowledge of cures and treatment for diseases and injuries which afflict both humans and animals;

“(2) methods of testing that do not use animals are being and continue to be developed which are faster, less expensive, and more accurate than traditional animal experiments for some purposes and further opportunities exist for the development of these methods of testing;

“(3) measures which eliminate or minimize the unnecessary duplication of experiments on animals can result in more productive use of Federal funds; and

“(4) measures which help meet the public concern for laboratory animal care and treatment are important in assuring that research will continue to progress.”

EXTENDED DEFINITION OF “ANIMAL”

Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, 1756(b), Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1650, provided that: “For purposes of this Act [see Tables for classification], the term ‘animal’ shall have the same meaning as defined in section 2(g) of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2132(g)).”

§ 2132. Definitions

When used in this chapter—

(a) The term “person” includes any individual, partnership, firm, joint stock company, corporation, association, trust, estate, or other legal entity;

(b) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or his representative who shall be an employee of the United States Department of Agriculture;

(c) The term “commerce” means trade, traffic, transportation, or other commerce—

(1) between a place in a State and any place outside of such State, or between points within the same State but through any place outside thereof, or within any territory, possession, or the District of Columbia;

(2) which affects trade, traffic, transportation, or other commerce described in paragraph (1).

(d) The term “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or any other territory or possession of the United States;

(e) The term “research facility” means any school (except an elementary or secondary school), institution, or organization, or person that uses or intends to use live animals in research, tests, or experiments, and that (1) purchases or transports live animals in commerce, or (2) receives funds under a grant, award, loan, or contract from a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States for the purpose of carrying out research, tests, or experiments: *Provided*, That the Secretary may exempt, by regulation, any such school, institution, organization, or person that does not use or intend to use live dogs or cats, except those schools, institutions, organizations, or persons, which use substantial numbers (as determined by the Secretary) of live animals the principal function of which schools, institutions, organizations, or persons, is biomedical research or testing, when in the judgment of the Secretary, any such exemption does not vitiate the purpose of this chapter;

(f) The term “dealer” means any person who, in commerce, for compensation or profit, delivers for transportation, or transports, except as a carrier, buys, or sells, or negotiates the purchase or sale of, (1) any dog or other animal whether alive or dead for research, teaching, exhibition, or use as a pet, or (2) any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes, except that this term does not include—

(i) a retail pet store except such store which sells any animals to a research facility, an exhibitor, or a dealer; or

(ii) any person who does not sell, or negotiate the purchase or sale of any wild animal, dog, or cat, and who derives no more than \$500 gross income from the sale of other animals during any calendar year;

(g) The term “animal” means any live or dead dog, cat, monkey (nonhuman primate mammal), guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or such other warm-blooded animal, as the Secretary may determine is being used, or is intended for use, for research, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet; but such term excludes horses not used for research purposes and other farm animals, such as, but not limited to livestock or poultry, used or intended for use as food or fiber, or livestock or poultry used or intended for use for improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, or production efficiency, or for improving the quality of food or fiber. With respect to a dog, the term means all dogs including those used for hunting, security, or breeding purposes;

(h) The term “exhibitor” means any person (public or private) exhibiting any animals,

which were purchased in commerce or the intended distribution of which affects commerce, or will affect commerce, to the public for compensation, as determined by the Secretary, and such term includes carnivals, circuses, and zoos exhibiting such animals whether operated for profit or not; but such term excludes retail pet stores, organizations sponsoring and all persons participating in State and country fairs, livestock shows, rodeos, purebred dog and cat shows, and any other fairs or exhibitions intended to advance agricultural arts and sciences, as may be determined by the Secretary;

(i) The term “intermediate handler” means any person including a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States or of any State or local government (other than a dealer, research facility, exhibitor, any person excluded from the definition of a dealer, research facility, or exhibitor, an operator of an auction sale, or a carrier) who is engaged in any business in which he receives custody of animals in connection with their transportation in commerce;

(j) The term “carrier” means the operator of any airline, railroad, motor carrier, shipping line, or other enterprise, which is engaged in the business of transporting any animals for hire;

(k) The term “Federal agency” means an Executive agency as such term is defined in section 105 of title 5, and with respect to any research facility means the agency from which the research facility receives a Federal award for the conduct of research, experimentation, or testing, involving the use of animals;

(l) The term “Federal award for the conduct of research, experimentation, or testing, involving the use of animals” means any mechanism (including a grant, award, loan, contract, or cooperative agreement) under which Federal funds are provided to support the conduct of such research.¹

(m) The term “quorum” means a majority of the Committee members;

(n) The term “Committee” means the Institutional Animal Committee established under section 2143(b) of this title; and

(o) The term “Federal research facility” means each department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States which uses live animals for research or experimentation.

(Pub. L. 89-544, §2, Aug. 24, 1966, 80 Stat. 350; Pub. L. 91-579, §3, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1560; Pub. L. 94-279, §§3, 4, Apr. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 417, 418; Pub. L. 99-198, title XVII, §1756(a), Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1650.)

AMENDMENTS

1985—Subsecs. (k) to (o). Pub. L. 99-198 added subsecs. (k) to (o).

1976—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94-279, §3(1), made changes in phraseology, restructured subsection and expanded definition of “commerce” by making it applicable to any activity affecting interstate commerce.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 94-279, §3(1), substituted definition of “State” for definition of “affecting commerce”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 94-279, §3(2), substituted “in commerce” for “affecting commerce”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 94-279, §3(2), (3), made changes in phraseology, restructured subsection and expanded definition of “dealer” to include persons who negotiate the purchase or sale of protected animals.

¹ So in original. The period probably should be a semicolon.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 94-279, §3(4), expanded definition of “animal” to include dogs used for hunting, security, or breeding purposes.

Subsecs. (i), (j). Pub. L. 94-279, §4, added subsecs. (i) and (j).

1970—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 91-579, §3(1), inserted “of the United States or his representative who shall be an employee of the United States Department of Agriculture” after “Secretary of Agriculture”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 91-579, §3(2), substituted “trade, traffic, commerce, transportation among the several States, or between any State” for “commerce between any State”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 91-579, §3(3), substituted definition of “affecting commerce” for definition of “dog”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 91-579, §3(3), struck out definition of “cat” and substituted for it a definition of “research facility” formerly set out in subsec. (f), and, in such definition as transferred from former subsec. (f), extended the term’s meaning to include those using “animals” rather than only dogs and cats and allowed exemptions of schools, organizations, institutions, or persons which do not use live dogs or cats, with such exemption to be inapplicable in the case of schools, organizations, institutions, and persons in biomedical research using a substantial number of live animals.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 91-579, §3(3), substituted definition of “dealer” formerly contained in subsec. (g) for definition of “research facility” and in such definition of “dealer” as thus transferred inserted provisions extending meaning to include live or dead animals rather than only dogs and cats, adding teaching and exhibition purposes or uses as pets, and exempting retail pet stores unless such stores sell animals to a research facility, an exhibitor, or a dealer. Definition of “research facility” transferred to subsec. (e) and amended.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 91-579, §3(3), substituted definition of “animal” formerly contained in subsec. (h) for definition of “dealer” and in such definition of “animal” as thus transferred inserted stipulation “live or dead” to the species already covered, and inserted provisions to include such warm-blooded animals as may be determined by the Secretary but to exclude specific animals used for research, food and fiber, and the improvement of animal breeding, nutrition, management, or production efficiency. Definition of “dealer” transferred to subsec. (f) and amended.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 91-579, §3(3), substituted definition of “exhibitor” for definition of “animal”. Definition of “animal” transferred to subsec. (g) and amended.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-198 effective one year after Dec. 23, 1985, see section 1759 of Pub. L. 99-198, set out as a note under section 2131 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-579 effective one year after Dec. 24, 1970, see section 23 of Pub. L. 91-579, set out as a note under section 2131 of this title.

§ 2133. Licensing of dealers and exhibitors

The Secretary shall issue licenses to dealers and exhibitors upon application therefor in such form and manner as he may prescribe and upon payment of such fee established pursuant to 2153 of this title: *Provided*, That no such license shall be issued until the dealer or exhibitor shall have demonstrated that his facilities comply with the standards promulgated by the Secretary pursuant to section 2143 of this title: *Provided, however*, That any retail pet store or other person who derives less than a substantial portion of his income (as determined by the Secretary) from the breeding and raising of dogs or cats on his own premises and sells any such dog or cat

to a dealer or research facility shall not be required to obtain a license as a dealer or exhibitor under this chapter. The Secretary is further authorized to license, as dealers or exhibitors, persons who do not qualify as dealers or exhibitors within the meaning of this chapter upon such persons’ complying with the requirements specified above and agreeing, in writing, to comply with all the requirements of this chapter and the regulations promulgated by the Secretary hereunder.

(Pub. L. 89-544, §3, Aug. 24, 1966, 80 Stat. 351; Pub. L. 91-579, §4, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1561.)

AMENDMENTS

1970—Pub. L. 91-579 inserted references to exhibitors and retail pet stores.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-579 effective one year after Dec. 24, 1970, see section 23 of Pub. L. 91-579, set out as a note under section 2131 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139 of this title.

§ 2134. Valid license for dealers and exhibitors required

No dealer or exhibitor shall sell or offer to sell or transport or offer for transportation, in commerce, to any research facility or for exhibition or for use as a pet any animal, or buy, sell, offer to buy or sell, transport or offer for transportation, in commerce, to or from another dealer or exhibitor under this chapter any animals, unless and until such dealer or exhibitor shall have obtained a license from the Secretary and such license shall not have been suspended or revoked.

(Pub. L. 89-544, §4, Aug. 24, 1966, 80 Stat. 351; Pub. L. 91-579, §5, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1561; Pub. L. 94-279, §5, Apr. 22, 1976, 90 Stat. 418.)

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-279 substituted “in commerce” for “affecting commerce” in two places.

1970—Pub. L. 91-579 inserted references to exhibitors, offers to sell, and offers to transport, and substituted references to animals for references to dogs and cats.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-579 effective one year after Dec. 24, 1970, see section 23 of Pub. L. 91-579, set out as a note under section 2131 of this title.

§ 2135. Time period for disposal of dogs or cats by dealers or exhibitors

No dealer or exhibitor shall sell or otherwise dispose of any dog or cat within a period of five business days after the acquisition of such animal or within such other period as may be specified by the Secretary: *Provided*, That operators of auction sales subject to section 2142 of this title shall not be required to comply with the provisions of this section.

(Pub. L. 89-544, §5, Aug. 24, 1966, 80 Stat. 351; Pub. L. 91-579, §6, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1561.)

AMENDMENTS

1970—Pub. L. 91-579 inserted references to exhibitors and inserted proviso that operators of auction sales