

## **Federal Law No. 16**

Issued on 4/9/2007

Corresponding to 22 Sha'aban 1428 H.

### **CONCERNING ANIMAL PROTECTION**

Amended by

**Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016**

We, Khlaifah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates State,

Pursuant to the perusal of the Constitution; and

Federal Law no. 1 of 1972, regarding the Jurisdiction of Ministries and the Powers of Ministers and the amending laws thereof; and

Federal Law no. 6 of 1979 regarding the Veterinary Quarantine and the amending laws thereof; and

Federal Decree-Law no. 9 of 1983 regulating the Hunting of Birds and Animals; and

The Penal Code promulgated by Federal Law no. 3 of 1987 and the amending laws thereof; and

The Code of Criminal Procedures promulgated by Federal Law no. 35 of 1992 and the amending laws thereof; and

Federal Law no. 7 of 1993 constituting the Federal Committee for the Environment and the amending laws thereof; and

Federal Law no. 10 of 2002 regarding the Practice of the Veterinary Medicine; and

Federal Law no. 11 of 2002 Regulating and Controlling the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; and

Acting upon the proposal of the Minister of Environment and Water, the approval of both the Council of Ministers and the Federal National Council and the ratification of the Federal Supreme Council,

#### **Article 1 – Definitions**

**The provisions of Article 1 were replaced by virtue of Article 1 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, to read as follows:**

In application of the provisions of this Law the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each unless the context requires otherwise:

State: United Arab Emirates

Ministry: Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

Minister: Minister of Climate Change and Environment

Competent Department: the concerned department at the Ministry.

Competent Authority: the local authorities concerned with animal issues.

Authorised Persons: vets who report to the Ministry or the competent authority.

Vet: the person having obtained a certified Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and licensed by the Ministry.

Specialist: the person who is academically qualified in the field of veterinary medicine or laboratories.

Animals: All types of animals including poultries, reptiles, amphibians, fish, mammals, and wild, stray and captive animals.

Stray Animal: Owned animal that moves around freely without restriction and supervision of its possessor even if it knows how to come back to the place of his possession or its owner.

Captive Animal: Owned animal placed in a specific location, being dependent on others and subject to the control and care of the possessor.

Facilities: any place where animals are kept, confined, bred, raised, slaughtered or treated. They comprise public parks, private spaces, ships, planes, trucks and other means of transport as well as the institutions of the scientific research where animals are kept.

Animal Care Provider: the keeper of the animal, who has effective control over the animal, whether such keeper is the owner or someone else.

## **Article 2**

**The provisions of Article 2 were replaced by virtue of Article 1 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, to read as follows:**

The owners of the animals and the care providers, as the case may be, shall take preventive actions in order to keep them away from any damage or harm, or in order to avoid causing them any pain or suffering, and they shall in particular:

1- Take into consideration the animals' species, their development rate, adaptability, domestication, and their needs in conformity with experience and scientific knowledge.

2- Not to release any animal in their care whose normal surviving depends on them; and should they wish to abandon it, they shall have to hand it to the competent department, or to the competent authority.

3- Provide a sufficient number of workers having the appropriate experience, knowledge, and professional qualifications required for the animals in their care and under their supervision.

4- Inspect the animals which are in their care and under their supervision at least once a day, and check on their conditions.

5- Provide health care to the animals and make sure they are checked by a vet to inspect their condition, treat them and take the measures required in this regard.

### **Article 3 - The authorized persons**

1- The authorized persons and accompanying specialist shall be entitled to:

a- Enter any facility if they think that the animals in it are subject to sufferance, harassment and sickness or are bred in a way contradicting the provisions of this Law and its implementing regulations.

They shall have to show their identity to the owner; if the facilities are private houses, they shall have to get a prior authorization from the Public Prosecution.

b- Examine any animal in the facilities, carry out tests, or take samples deemed necessary. They shall have to give a part of the sample or an identical sample to the owner or to the persons in charge if they request so.

c- Put distinct marks on the animals that shall identify each one of them, the said marks shall not be removed except after the approval of the competent administration or the competent authority.

d- Be cautious as for animals suspected to be affected by a disease and transport such to another place for treatment.

2- The owner or the persons in charge of the animals inside the facilities shall have to offer assistance to the authorized persons and the accompanying specialist, including helping them tie the animals to examine them when possible, and taking samples and submitting any required document regarding the animals.

### **Article 4 - The right for the animals to move freely**

The animals shall be provided with enough space to fulfill their needs when their movements are either permanently or temporarily limited in conformity with what is stated in the regulations and decisions issued by the Ministry.

### **Article 5 - The constructions and the animals accommodations**

1- Materials used in the construction of the facilities, especially the barns, cages, and stables and the tools that the animals shall be in contact with shall not be harmful, but free from any source of pollution, easy to clean and to disinfect completely.

2- Animals that are not raised in constructions shall be provided with shelter from weather change, predatory animals, from any danger threatening their health; they should have access to an adequate sleeping place with adequate system of waste disposal.

**New provisions were added under no. "5 Bis" by virtue of Article 2 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, as follows:**

#### **Article 5 Bis**

The Facilities shall be subject to the health and technical conditions as set in the implementing regulation to the present Law.

The Competent Authority may prescribe additional conditions in accordance with the provisions hereof.

#### **Article 6 - Animals feeding**

Without prejudice to the implementing regulation of this Law, regarding the materials allowed to be added to the animals' feed, the animals shall be fed with the fodder suitable for their age and species and in sufficient quantities to keep them in good health and fulfilling their needs for food. They shall be either enabled to reach constantly the appropriate source of water, or provided with their needs of pure water on a daily basis.

#### **Article 7 - Animals transportation**

The animals shall be transported in a way that ensures their safety; furthermore, they shall not be exposed to injuries or harm. The implementing regulation of this Law states the conditions and specifications to be met when loading, transporting, unloading, and feeding the animals during their transportation, in addition to other conditions regarding the means of transport.

#### **Article 8 - Animals' treatment**

1- Should the treatment of the animal cause pain, fear, or irritation, then the vet or the specialist shall interfere.

2- All the surgeries that the animals shall undergo, shall be carried out under general or local anesthesia and in a place fully equipped for the kind of surgery.

### **Article 9 - Returning the animal to its owner**

An animal that has been attended, and transported for treatment shall not be returned to its owner except after its recovery and the fulfillment of one of these two conditions:

- 1- To be certain that the owner shall not neglect it once more.
- 2- Settle the transportation and treatment fees should the neglect recur.

### **Article 10 - Interdictions**

It shall be forbidden to carry out the following acts:

- 1- Animal's sexual abuse.
- 2- Mingling animal species during the exhibition or the selling.
- 3- Exposing, selling or trading any animal when sick, injured, or weak and before its complete recovery.

### **Article 11 - Organizing animals' fairs**

It shall be forbidden to organize animals' fairs, competitions, and shows for a trade purpose or any other purpose, including advertisements, or ornament objects without getting a prior written authorization from the competent administration or competent authority.

### **Article 12 - Using animals for scientific purposes**

- 1- It shall be forbidden to use animals for scientific purposes before getting an authorization from the competent administration or the competent authority.
- 2- The Ministry shall gather a database regarding the use of animals for scientific purposes in the State.

### **Article 13 - The abandoned animals**

The competent administration or the competent authority – according to the cases- shall be entitled to do as follows when finding an abandoned animal:

- 1- Confine it if it constitutes a danger, or if it suffers from pain or annoyance.
- 2- Take the advice of the vet as to its suffering from pain and annoyance, when not being able to identify its owner or how to contact him, and to act accordingly.
- 3- Oblige its owner to pay the expenses, should he be reached.

## **Article 14 - Penalties**

**The provisions of Article 14 were replaced by virtue of Article 1 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, to read as follows:**

Imprisonment for a period of no more than one year and a fine of no more than AED 200000, or either one of those penalties shall be imposed on whoever:

- 1- Sexually abuses the animal.
- 2- Releases an infected animal while being aware of that.
- 3- Causes damage or harm to pain or annoying to the animals.
- 4- Exposes or trades in any diseased or injured animal.

**New provisions were added under no. "14 Bis 1" by virtue of Article 2 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, as follows:**

### **Article 14 Bis 1**

Imprisonment for a period of no more than one year and a fine or no less than AED 50000 and no more than AED 200000, or either one of those penalties, shall be imposed on whoever uses the animals for scientific experiments without obtaining a licence from the Competent Department or the Competent Authority.

**New provisions were added under no. "14 Bis 2" by virtue of Article 2 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, as follows:**

### **Article 14 Bis 2**

A fine of no more than AED 100000 shall be imposed on whoever violates the other obligations prescribed under the provisions of the present Law, and those prescribed in the regulations and decisions issued for its implementation.

**New provisions were added under no. "14 Bis 3" by virtue of Article 2 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, as follows:**

### **Article 14 Bis 3**

1- No criminal lawsuit may be instituted for the offences committed as stated in Article (14) Bis (2), unless by virtue of a written request from the Ministry or the Competent Authority.

2- Conciliation may be applied for the offences committed as stated in Article (14) Bis (2), before referral of the case to the competent court, in return for an amount not exceeding AED 80000 for each offence.

3- The Cabinet shall issue a decision wherein it shall set the conciliation controls and the financial return for conciliation with respect to every offence referred to in the present Article.

**New provisions were added under no. "14 Bis 4" by virtue of Article 2 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, as follows:**

#### **Article 14 Bis 4**

The Ministry or the Competent Authority may impose any of the following administrative penalties, in case of violation of any provision of the present Law and its implementing regulation:

- 1- Warning.
- 2- Closing the Facility for a period of no more than 6 months.
- 3- Permanently closing the Facility.
- 4- Cancelling the licence.

### **FINAL PROVISIONS**

#### **Article 15**

The Minister shall issue in coordination with the competent authority the decisions specifying the required measures to protect the health and safety of the animals against harmful practices.

#### **Article 16**

Employees appointed by virtue of a decision issued by the Minister of Justice and in agreement with the Minister and the competent authority shall acquire the title of officers of law, in controlling crimes and contraventions violating the provisions of this Law, and its implementing regulations and decisions; the competent authority shall make it easy to these employees to achieve their work.

**New provisions were added under no. "16 Bis" by virtue of Article 2 of Federal Law no. 18 dated 1/11/2016, as follows:**

#### **Article 16 Bis**

The Cabinet shall issue a decision determining the fees prescribed according to the provisions hereof.

#### **Article 17**

The Minister shall issue the regulations and decisions to implement the provisions of this Law.

## **Article 18**

Any text in contradiction with the provisions of this Law is hereby repealed.

## **Article 19**

This Law shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall come into force six months after the date of its promulgation.

Promulgated by Us at the Presidential  
Palace in Abu Dhabi

On 22 Sha'aban 1428H.

Corresponding to 4 September 2007

**Khalifah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**  
**President of the United Arab Emirates State**

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