

# **PERFORMING ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT NO 24 OF 1935**

(ASSENTED TO 29 APRIL, 1935)

(DATE OF COMENCEMENT: 8 MAY, 1935)

*(Signed by the Governor-General in Afrikaans)*

As amended by

General Law Amendment Act, No. 62 of 1955  
{with effect from 6 July, 1955 – see title General Law Amendment Acts}  
Animals Protection Amendment Act, No. 7 of 1972  
Animals Protection Amendment Act No. 54 of 1983  
Animals Protection Amendment Act, No. 20 of 1985  
Protection of Animals Amendment Act, No.7 of 1991  
Performing Animals Protection Amendment Act, No. 4 of 2016

## **ACT**

To regulate the exhibition and training of performing animals and the use of animals for safeguarding.

[Long title substituted by s. 11 of Act No. 7 of 1991]

[The principal Act has been amended by s. 10 of Act 4 of 2016 by the substitution for the expression “a dog for safeguarding”, “any dog for safeguarding” or “dogs for safeguarding” wherever it occurs, of the relevant expression of “an animal for safeguarding”, “any animal for safeguarding” or “animal for safeguarding”.]

### **Restriction on exhibition and training of performing animals and use of animals for safeguarding.**

1. No person shall exhibit or train or cause or permit to be exhibited or trained for exhibition any animal of which he is the owner or has the lawful custody or use any animals for safeguarding unless such person is the holder of a licence.

[Section 2 deleted by s. 1 of Act 4 of 2016.]

[Section 3 deleted by s. 2 of Act 4 of 2016]

### **Designation of National Licensing Officer**

3A. The Minister must designate a National Licensing Officer who is an officer of the Department to exercise the powers and perform the duties in terms of section 3C of this Act.

### **Qualification of National Licensing Officer**

3B. The officer designated in terms of section 3A must be—  
(a) an Animal Scientist; or  
(b) a Veterinarian.

## **Functions of National Licensing Officer**

3C. (1) The National Licensing Officer may, in a manner that is not inconsistent with this Act or the regulations—

- (a) grant a licence;
- (b) refuse a licence;
- (c) amend a licence;
- (d) suspend a licence;
- (e) reinstate a licence;
- (f) cancel a licence;
- (g) withdraw a licence;
- (h) attach terms, conditions or limitations to a licence, additional to those provided for in any regulation made under this Act; or
- (i) request from any person or organisation, subject to the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act No. 2 of 2000), any information that may be required to enable the National Licensing Officer to consider an application for a licence.

(2) The National Licensing Officer may, in respect of a licence granted in terms of subsection (1)(a) –

- (a) suspend, for such period as it may determine, or cancel a licence for non-compliance with this Act or any regulations made under this Act, or with any terms, conditions or limitations attached to a licence in terms of section 3C(1)(h): Provided that the licence holder has been informed of the non-compliance and given a reasonable opportunity to rectify the non-compliance.\
- (b) declare such licence to be subject to such conditions as contained in this Act and the regulations made under this Act, and further conditions specific to the application concerned; or
- (c) withdraw the suspension of such licence or of any right or privilege that is attached thereto, subject to such conditions as contained in this Act and the regulations made under this Act.

(3) The National Licensing Officer must perform such other functions as may be assigned to him or her in terms of this Act.

## **Appointment of experts**

3D. The Director-General may, at the request of the National Licensing Officer, and subject to the laws regulating the public service, appoint such experts or other persons as may be necessary to implement this Act.

## **Delegation of powers and functions**

3E. (1) The National Licensing Officer may delegate any of his or her functions under this –

- (a) an officer, in consultation with the relevant head of department; or
- (b) an expert or other person appointed in terms of section 3D.

(2) A delegation in terms of subsection (1) must –

- (a) be in writing; and
- (b) state the nature and extent of the delegation.

(3) A person contemplated in subsection (1) must comply with the qualifications set out in section 3B.

## **Application for licence**

- 3F. (1) Any person who—
- (a) intends to exhibit an animal;
  - (b) trains an animal to be exhibited; or
  - (c) uses an animal for safeguarding,

must apply to the National Licensing Officer for the district in which the permanent address of the applicant is situated and must pay the prescribed fee.

(2) An application for a licence in terms of this Act must be in writing and must include the following information:

- (a) a detailed description of the animal that the applicant intends to exhibit or train for exhibition or use for safeguarding;
- (b) a detailed description of the general nature of the performances in which the animal is intended to be exhibited or trained to be exhibited;
- (c) a detailed description of the general nature of the safeguarding in which the animal is intended to be used;
- (d) a detailed description of the type of living quarters that will be provided to the animal when performing or not performing, being exhibited or trained to be exhibited or for safeguarding;
- (e) meal plans and general practices that the applicant will follow to maintain and ensure the health and wellbeing of the animal;
- (f) the number of hours per day that the animal will be required to perform, be exhibited, trained to be exhibited or safeguarded;
- (g) written motivation for the granting of the licence;
- (h) information as to whether the applicant has ever held or been refused a certificate or licence in the past; and
- (i) proof of payment of the prescribed fee.

(3) The National Licensing Officer may, with the consent of the applicant, visit the premises under the lawful control of the applicant to assess the suitability thereof for the intended exhibition, training or safeguarding of animals.

## **Consideration and granting of applications for licences by National Licensing Officer**

3G. (1) The National Licensing Officer may grant an application for any licence if he or she is satisfied –

- (a) with the information furnished by the applicant as contemplated by section 3F(2); and
- (b) that the premises, accommodation, equipment and facilities that are utilised for the training, exhibition or performance of the animal are safe and will not cause harm to the animal.

(2) The National Licensing Officer must consider and decide on an application within 45 days after receipt of the application.

## **Hearing of applications**

3H. (1) The National Licensing Officer may make a determination whether to grant, refuse, or amend a licence on the basis of the documents submitted by the applicant.

(2) If the National Licensing Officer cannot make a determination on the documents submitted by the applicant he or she may convene a hearing to consider any application on such date, time and place as determined by him or her.

(3) The applicant and any interested person that the National Licensing Officer may request to be present at the hearing must be notified of the date, time and place of the hearing, in writing, at least 10 days before the date of the hearing.

(4) The National Licensing Officer may permit the applicant and any interested person to make further oral or written representations as to whether a licence should be granted, refused or amended.

### **Issuing of licence**

3I. The National Licensing Officer must, within 7 days after making a decision, inform the applicant in writing of the granting, refusal or amendment of a licence and notify the applicant of the date, time and place for collection of such licence.

### **Duration of licence**

3J. A licence is valid for a period of 12 calendar months from the date of issue thereof.

### **Validity of licence**

3K. A licence is valid for use anywhere within the Republic of South Africa, unless the exhibition, training for exhibition of any animal or use of an animal for safeguarding is specifically prohibited in terms of any Provincial law or Municipal by-law in force within that specific jurisdiction.

### **Suspension, withdrawal or amendment of licence**

3L. (1) The National Licensing Officer may suspend, withdraw or amend licence if the applicant no longer complies with any condition subject to which the licence was issued.

(2) The National Licensing Officer may not suspend, withdraw or amend a licence, unless the licence holder in question has been—

- (a) informed of the intended suspension, withdrawal or amendment and the grounds upon which it is based; and
- (b) afforded a reasonable opportunity to make written representations or to rectify any deficiency within the period specified by the National Licensing Officer.

(3) If a licence is refused, suspended, cancelled or withdrawn, an applicant must cease the training, exhibition or use of an animal for safeguarding.

### **Right to appeal**

3M. A person who feels aggrieved by any decision or action by the National Licensing Officer in terms of this Act may appeal in the prescribed manner to the Minister against such decision or action.

### **Appeal Board, composition and membership**

3N. (1) The Minister may constitute a board known as the Appeal Board to investigate and consider any appeal referred to it in terms of section 3O(1).

- (2) The Board must consist of at least three members appointed by the Minister, of whom—
  - (a) one person must be appointed on account of his or her knowledge in the relevant fields of the law; and
  - (b) two or more persons must have expert knowledge of the subject of the appeal.
- (3) The person referred to in subsection 2(a) must be designated as the chairperson.
- (4) The remuneration of a member of the Board must be prescribed.
- (5) Any person appointed in terms of subsection (2) must recuse himself or herself as a member of the Board if he or she has any direct or indirect personal interest in the outcome of the appeal.

### **Investigation and consideration by Board**

3O. (1) The Minister may refer an appeal to the Board.

- (2) An appeal must be heard on the date, time and place determined by the chairperson.
- (3) The chairperson must inform the appellant and any other party that has an interest in the appeal in writing of the date, time and place of the hearing.
- (4) The chairperson may, for the purposes of the hearing of an appeal—
  - (a) summon any person who may have material information concerning the subject of the hearing or who has in his or her possession or custody or under his or her control and document which has any bearing upon the subject of the hearing, to appear before the Board at a date, time and place specified in the summons, to be questioned or to produce that document, and the chairperson may retain for examination any document so produced; and
  - (b) administer an oath to or accept an affirmation from any person called as a witness at the hearing.
- (5) A person who appeals in terms of section 3M and the National Licensing Officer may be represented.
- (6) If a member of the Board—
  - (a) dies during the investigation of the appeal or so soon before the commencement of the investigation that the vacancy cannot be filled in time;
  - (b) is unable to act and another person cannot be appointed in time; or
  - (c) is, after the investigation has commenced, unable to continue therewith, the parties may agree that the investigation be continued by the remaining members of the Board.
- (7) Where the member of the Board who has died or has become incapacitated as envisaged in subsection (6) was or is the chairperson of the Board, the Minister must designate one of the remaining members of the Board to act as chairperson.

### **Consideration of appeal by Minister**

3P. (1) Where the Minister has referred an appeal to the Board in terms of section 3O (1), he or she may –

- (a) confirm or set aside the recommendations of the Board; and

- (b) order the National Licensing Officer to execute the decision in connection therewith.
- (2) Where the Minister considers an appeal, he or she may –
  - (a) confirm, set aside or vary the decision of the National Licensing Officer; and
  - (b) order the National Licensing Officer to execute the decision in connection therewith.
- (3) The decision of the Minister must be in writing and a copy thereof must be furnished to the National Licensing Officer, appellant and any other party that has an interest in the appeal.
- (4) If the Minister –
  - (a) sets aside any decision or action by the National Licensing Officer, the prescribed fee paid by the appellant in respect of the appeal must be refunded to him or her; or
  - (b) varies any decision or action by the National Licensing Officer, the Minister may direct that the whole or any part of such fee, be refunded to the appellant.

[Section 3A – 3P inserted by s. 3 of Act 4 of 2016]

### **Right of entry**

- 4. In addition to the powers conferred by any other law, any police officer may –
  - (a) at any reasonable time enter upon any premises, place or vehicle in which animals are maintained, or kept or confined for the purposes of exhibition or of being trained or of being transported or in which animals used for safeguarding are maintained, kept, confined or conveyed;
  - (b) inspect any such animals, premises, places or vehicles and may fully enquire into the measures and methods by which such animals are controlled, restrained, trained or used and the course of feeding such animals; and
  - (c) during any exhibition of trained animals, or during the use of animals for safeguarding, or at any other time, enter upon any premises, place or vehicle or portion thereof used in connection with such exhibition or use in order to inspect such premises, place or vehicle, the animals present therein and the conditions under which such animals are maintained, controlled and fed during such exhibition or use and at other times.

[Section 4 substituted by s. 4 of Act 7 of 1991 and s. 4 of Act 4 of 2016]

### **Obstruction of police officer**

- 5. Any person who wilfully obstructs, delays or otherwise interferes with a police officer in the exercise of the powers herein granted, or who conceals any animal with intent to defeat the exercise of such powers, or otherwise hampers or impedes the exercise of such powers, is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding R20 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years in addition to any other penalty imposed for the contravention of any provision of this Act or any regulation made thereunder.

[Section 5 substituted by s. 2 of Act 20 of 1985, s. 5 of Act 7 of 1991 and s. 5 of Act 4 of 2016]

- 6. **Jurisdiction of magistrate's court** - For the purpose of this Act a magistrate's court shall have jurisdiction and shall have the powers conferred by the Animals Protection Act, 196 (Act No. 71 of 1962).

[Section 6 substituted by s. 3 of Act No. 7 of 1972]

## **Regulations**

7. The Minister may, in addition to any other power specially given herein, make regulations not inconsistent with this Act for prescribing any or all of the following matters:

- (a) The form of application, information to be supplied and the fee to be paid upon application for the granting of a licence;
- (b) (i) the form of licence which must be issued in respect of licensed animals and the form of amendments which may be made on such licences;  
(ii) the information to be supplied for the issuing of a licence referred to in subparagraph (i), which includes the manner of identification of an animal;
- (c) the method and form of confinement and accommodation of any animal class, species or variety of animals in respect of which licence has been issued, whether travelling, or being transported or stationary;
- (d) any other reasonable requirement which may be necessary to prevent cruelty or suffering in the exhibition, training, maintenance, use or travelling of animals in respect of which a licence has been granted;
- (dA) the manner in which a person may appeal against a decision or action taken by the National Licensing Officer;
- (dB) the fee to be paid by a person who appeals a decision or action taken by the National Licensing Officer;
- (dC) the remuneration to be paid to a member of the Board; and
- (e) a penalty of a fine not exceeding R20 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years for a contravention of any regulation, and generally for the better carrying out of the objects and purposes of this Act.

[Section 7 substituted by s. 5 of Act 7 of 1972, s. 2 of Act 54 of 1983, s. 4 of Act 20 of 1985, s. 7 of Act 7 of 1991 and s. 6 of Act 4 of 2016]

## **Penalty**

8. (1) Any person contravening the provisions of this Act or any regulation made thereunder for which a penalty has not been prescribed or any condition of a licence is guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding R20 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years.

[Section 8 substituted by s. 5 of Act 7 of 1972, s. 2 of Act 54 of 1983, s. 4 of Act 20 of 1985, s. 7 of Act 7 of 1991 and s. 7 of Act 4 of 2016]

## **Saving**

9. Nothing in this Act shall apply to the confinement or training of animals for military, police or sporting purposes or the purposes of an agricultural show, horse show, dog show, caged bird show or any public zoological gardens, or to the exhibition of animals at a military or police tournament or at a gymkhana, or at any such show or in any such gardens or to the use of an animal for safeguarding by the South African Defence Force, the South African Police or the Prisons Service.

**10. Act to be read with Act 71 of 1962.** - This Act shall be read as one with the Animals Protection Act, 1962 (Act No. 71 of 1962), and the powers herein granted unless the contrary intention appears shall be in addition to any powers granted by that Act.

[Section 10 substituted by s. 6 of Act no. 7 of 1972]

**11. Interpretation of terms.** - For the purposes of this Act and any regulations made thereunder, unless the contrary intention appears the following terms have the meaning respectively assigned to them:

‘animal’ means any equine, bovine, sheep, goat, pig, fowl, ostrich, dog, cat or other domestic animal or bird, or any wild animal or wild bird which is in captivity or under the control of a person.

[Definition of “animal” substituted by s. 7

‘Animal Scientist’ means a person registered as a professional natural scientist in the field of Animal Science in terms of section 20(3)(a) of the Natural Scientific Professions Act, 2003 (Act No. 27 of 2003);

‘Board’ means the board referred to in section 3N(1);

"exhibit" means to expose for show at any entertainment to which the public are admitted whether for payment of money or otherwise;

‘head of department’ means a head of department as defined in the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation 103 of 1994);”.

"license" means a license granted and in force under this Act;

"licenseholder or licensee" means the person to whom a license has been granted;

"Minister" means the Minister to whom the administration of this Act has been assigned;

‘National Licensing Officer’ means the officer designated in terms of section 3A;

‘officer’ means a person appointed in terms of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Proclamation 103 of 1994), and employed in a national or provincial department.

"police officer" has the meaning assigned to it by the Animals Protection Act, 1962, and includes a person authorised under section 8 of the said Act;

"train" means train for the purpose of exhibiting or of use for safeguarding;

‘use for safeguarding’ means the training, use or placing at disposal for gain, or the letting, of an animal, with a view to or for the protection of persons and property;

‘Veterinarian’ means a person registered in terms of the Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (Act No. 19 of 1982), to practise a veterinary profession as defined in section 1 of that Act.

[Section 11 amended by s. 7 of Act 7 of 1972, s. 9 of Act 7 of 1991 and s. 8 of Act 4 of 2016]



### **Transitional arrangements**

11B. (1) A licence issued in terms of the repealed section 2 of this Act or a certificate issued in terms of the repealed section 3 of this Act is deemed to have been issued in terms of section 3I of this Act and remains valid until the licence or certificate expires or is suspended, cancelled, withdrawn or amended by the National Licensing Officer.

(2) Anything done or any decision taken in terms of the repealed section 2 or 3 of this Act is deemed to have been done or taken by the National Licensing Officer.

(3) Any application for a licence or certificate made before the commencement of the Performing Animals Protection Amendment Act, 2016, must be processed by the National Licensing Officer in accordance with any criteria contained in the repealed sections 2 and 3 of this Act.

(4) Any investigation conducted or criminal proceedings pending before a court before the commencement of the Performing Animals Protection Amendment Act, 2016, must be processed and finalised as if sections 2 and 3 of this Act had not been repealed.

[Section 11B inserted by s. 9 of Act 4 of 2016]

**12. Short title.** - This Act may be cited as the Performing Animals Protection Act, 1935.