

- (ii) promoting public education about conservation of biodiversity;
- (iii) providing animals with captive environments which aim to satisfy their physical, psychological and social needs and their conservation requirements, and providing high standards of veterinary care;
- (iv) preventing escape of animals;
- (vii) preventing pests and vermin in zoos; and
- (viii) keeping up-to-date records of the health, births, deaths and disposal of animals.

The Government's Zoos Forum has already given considerable thought to the detail of how these new provisions should be taken forward in practice. The Secretary of State's Standards for Modern Zoo Practice were revised in 2000 to take into account the new provisions in advance of their becoming law, and the Zoos Forum has been developing guidance for the zoo community on conservation, education and research in zoos, and on what standards and efforts in these areas might be found acceptable to zoo inspectors. This guidance is to be published on the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) website shortly ([www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/index.htm)).

The amendment also sets out the responsibilities of the local authority for the welfare and disposal of zoo animals in cases where zoos have closed and the previous management is no longer capable of dealing properly with these issues. This provides local authorities with the power, and obligation, to direct the future care and disposal of animals under these circumstances.

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*The Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002* (December 2002) Statutory Instruments 2002 No. 3080. Published by The Stationery Office, P O Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN, UK. Price £3.50. Available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare/publications/legislation>.

### **Guidance on amendment to England's Welfare of Animals (Killing or Slaughter) Regulations 1995**

The welfare of livestock at slaughter and killing is regulated by Europe under the EU Council Directive 93/119/EC which was adopted in 1993. Since then there have been various developments in slaughter and killing methods of relevance to welfare. Because there is no indication that the European Commission will be revising the Directive in the near future, the Government has decided to update the legislation in England to take account of this new research. Following consultations with interested parties, the amendment to the regulations is to be published and come into force shortly. Guidance notes have been produced by DEFRA in advance of this.

The guidance notes indicate that the new amendment will make four changes. It will permit the wider use of a new percussive killing device for use when poultry have to be killed for disease reasons; it will end the current ban in England on the bleeding of animals in the sight of others of the same species; it will reduce the maximum time for which turkeys and other poultry may be hung on a shackle line before stunning to 3 min and 2 min, respectively; and it will require suspended or revoked slaughter licences to be surrendered to the Meat Hygiene Service. The guidance notes outline the DEFRA-funded research that underpins the rationale for these changes, which are expected to come into force in April 2003.

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*The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 1995 (WASK '95) 2003: Guidance* (January 2003) Published by the Animal Welfare Division of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK. 3 pp A4. Available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/welfare>.