



Isle of Man

Ellan Vannin

AT 4 of 1980

**WILD ANIMALS (RESTRICTION ON
IMPORTATION, ETC.) ACT 1980**



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**Isle of Man***Ellan Vannin*

WILD ANIMALS (RESTRICTION ON IMPORTATION, ETC.) ACT 1980

Received Royal Assent: 13 February 1980
Passed: 18 March 1980
Commenced: 1 June 1980

AN ACT to restrict the importation and keeping of certain animals, and for connected purposes.

GENERAL NOTE: The maximum fines in this Act are as increased by the *Fines Act 1986* and by the *Criminal Justice (Penalties, Etc.) Act 1993 s 1*.

1 Restriction on importation of certain animals

[P1976/72/1 (1) and (2); 1976/21/3(3); 1976/21/3(4)]

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), the importation of any animal specified in the Schedule (in this Act referred to as a “**scheduled wild animal**”) is hereby prohibited.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the importation of a scheduled wild animal under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence issued by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (in this Act referred to as “the Department”), but no such licence shall be granted except for the purpose of a circus or of a zoological garden or for such other purpose as the Department may by order prescribe.¹
- (2A) An order under subsection (2) shall not come into operation unless it is approved by Tynwald.²
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) shall have effect in relation to the removal to the Island from the United Kingdom of a scheduled wild animal as they apply to the importation of such an animal.
- (4) Any person who causes or attempts to cause any scheduled wild animal to be removed to the Island from the United Kingdom in contravention of this section shall be deemed to have had that animal in his possession in contravention of section 4(1).

1A Escape of wild animals

- (1) Any person who has possession or control of a scheduled wild animal shall take appropriate steps to ensure that it does not escape from captivity.
- (2) Where a scheduled wild animal escapes from captivity, any expense which is reasonably incurred by any person in capturing the animal or destroying it shall be recoverable as a civil debt from the person who had possession or control of the animal at the time of its escape.³

2 Licence to import, etc

[P1976/72/1(4)(c), (5), (7) and (8)]

- (1) A licence issued under section 1(2) shall, unless sooner revoked, be valid for such period as is stated in the licence.
- (2) The Department may charge for the issue of a licence under section 1(2) such sum (if any) as is for the time being prescribed by order of the Department, but no such order shall have effect until it has been approved by Tynwald.⁴
- (3) Where a licence is issued under section 1(2) and, for the purpose of obtaining its issue, a person commits an offence under section 4(3), the licence shall be void.
- (4) Where any scheduled wild animal is being or has been imported, a person authorised by the Treasury may require any person possessing or having control of the animal to furnish proof that its importation is or was not unlawful by virtue of section 1; and, if such proof is not furnished to the satisfaction of the Treasury, the animal shall be liable to forfeiture under the Customs and Excise Management Act.⁵
- (5) Subsection (4) shall have effect in relation to scheduled wild animals removed or being removed to the Island as if —
 - (a) for the references to the Treasury there were substituted references to the Department; and⁶
 - (b) for the words from “under” onwards there were substituted the words “and shall be disposed of as the Department may direct.”⁷

3 Power to modify Schedule

[P1976/38/8]

- (1) The Department may, after consultation with the Wildlife Committee, by order amend the Schedule if it is satisfied that the scope of this Act should be —
 - (a) extended so as to include animals of a kind which is not, for the time being, included in the Schedule; or

- (b) diminished so as to exclude animals of a kind which is, for the time being, included in the Schedule.⁸
- (2) No order under subsection (1) shall have effect until it has been approved by Tynwald.

4 Offences

[P1976/72/1(6); P1976/72/4(8)]

- (1) Any person who has in his possession or under his control any scheduled wild animal shall be guilty of an offence unless he satisfies the court that the animal —
 - (a) is in his possession or under his control under and in accordance with the conditions of a licence issued under section 1(2) or by virtue of an approval in writing of the Department given under subsection (2); or⁹
 - (b) was imported or removed into the Island before the commencement of this Act or, as the case may be, before the animal became a scheduled wild animal.
- (2) Any person who, having imported or removed into the Island a scheduled wild animal under a licence issued under section 1(2), transfers the possession or control of that animal, or causes it to be so transferred, without the prior approval in writing of the Department, shall be guilty of an offence.¹⁰
- (3) Any person who, for the purpose of obtaining whether for himself or another, the issue of a licence under section 1(2) or of the giving of an approval under subsection (2) of this section —
 - (a) makes a statement or representation which he knows to be false in a material particular; or
 - (b) furnishes a document or information which he knows to be false in a material particular; or
 - (c) recklessly makes a statement or representation which is false in a material particular; or
 - (d) recklessly furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular,shall be guilty of an offence.
- (4) Any person guilty of an offence under subsection (1), (2) or (3) shall be liable —
 - (a) on conviction on information, to a fine;
 - (b) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £5,000.
- (5) For the purposes of any proceedings under section 47 or 178 of the Customs and Excise Management Act (penalties for improper importation and evasion of restriction on importation) for an offence in connection

with the importation of anything contrary to section 1, this section shall not be taken expressly to provide a penalty for that offence.¹¹

5 Offences by corporations

[P1976/72/8]

Where an offence under this Act which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate, shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

6 Expenses

Any expenses incurred by the Department in the operation of this Act shall be defrayed out of money provided by Tynwald.¹²

7 Interpretation

[P1976/38/7 (4) and (5)]

(1) In this Act —

“**the Board**” [Repealed]¹³

“**circus**” means any place where performing animals are kept or introduced wholly or mainly for the purpose of the entertainment of members of the public for gain;

“**the Customs and Excise Management Act**” means the *Customs and Excise Management Act 1986*;¹⁴

“**the Department**” has the meaning given by section 1(2);¹⁵

“**scheduled wild animal**” has the meaning assigned to it by section 1(1);

“**the Wildlife Committee**” means the Wildlife Committee established under section 1(2) of the *Endangered Species Act 2010*;¹⁶

“**zoological garden**” means any place, other than a circus, where animals not living in their natural surroundings are kept for the purpose of being regularly exhibited to members of the public for gain.

(2) The second column of the Schedule is included by way of explanation only; in the event of any dispute or proceedings, only the first column is to be taken into account.

8 Amendment of the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1963

[Amends sections 1, 5 and 10 of the *Destructive Imported Animals Act 1963*.]

9 Short title and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Wild Animals (Restriction on Importation, Etc.) Act 1980.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on such day as the Board may by order appoint, but no day shall be so appointed before the expiration of a period of one month beginning with the date on which this Act is passed.¹⁷

SCHEDULE¹⁸

SCHEDULED WILD ANIMALS

Sections 1(1) and 3(1)

PART 1

MAMMALS

Scientific name of kind	Common name or names
	Marsupials
<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i> , <i>Macropus giganteus</i> , <i>Macropus rufus</i> , <i>Macropus robustus</i>	Western and Eastern grey kangaroos, wallaroo, red kangaroo
<i>Sarcophilus lanianarius</i>	Tasmanian devil
	Artiodactyla (even-toed ungulates)
<i>Alces</i> and <i>Rangifer</i> except the domestic form of <i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Moose, elk caribou, reindeer except domestic reindeer
<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	Pronghorn
Bovidae except domestic forms of <i>Bos</i> , <i>Bubalus</i> , <i>Capra</i> , <i>Ovis</i>	Antelopes, bison, buffalo, gazelles, goats and sheep, except domestic cattle, buffalo, goats and sheep
<i>Camelus</i>	Camels
Giraffidae	Giraffe and okapi
Hippopotamidae	Hippos
Suidae except domestic forms of <i>Sus scrofa</i>	Old world pigs, including wild boar and warthog, except the domestic pig
Tayassuidae	Peccaries
	Carnivora
Ailuridae; <i>Ailurus fulgens</i>	Red panda
Canidae, with the exception of all types of the species <i>Canis familiaris</i> other than the following — (a) any dog of the type known as the Pit Bull Terrier; (b) any dog of the type known as Japanese Tosa (or Tosa);	All dogs including the wild dog, wolf, jackal, coyote, fennec and fox, except that the domestic dog (with the exception of the Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro or XL Bully), is specifically excluded ²⁰

(c) any dog of the type known as Dogo Argentino;	
(d) any dog of the type known as Fila Brasileiro; and	
(e) any dog of the type known as XL Bully. ¹⁹	
<i>Civetticus, Viverra & Cryptoprocta ferox</i>	African civet, large spotted, Malay and Indian civets and fossa
Felidae, except the species <i>Felis sylvestris catus</i>	All cats, including the lynx, caracal, serval, bobcat, cheetah, lion, tiger, leopard, panther, jaguar, puma, cougar and ocelot, except the domestic cat.
Herpestidae	Mongoose
Hyaenidae except <i>Proteles cristata</i>	Hyaenas except the aardwolf
Mustelid genera as follows: <i>Amblonyx, Arctonyx, Aonyx, Enhydra, Lontra, Meles, Melogale, Mydaus, Pteronura, Taxidea, Lutra</i> ; and species <i>Eira barbara, Gulo gulo, Martes pennanti, Mellivora capensis</i>	Badgers, otters, tayra, wolverine, fisher, ratel/honey badger
Odobenidae	Walrus
Otariidae	Eared seals
Phocidae except <i>Phoca vitulina</i> and <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	True/earless seals except common and grey seals
Ursidae	This kind includes the polar bear, grizzly bear and giant panda
	Cetacea (whales and dolphins)
Cetacea	Whales and dolphins
	Cingulata (armadillos)
<i>Priodontes maximus</i>	Giant armadillo
	Pilosa (anteaters, sloths)
<i>Myrmecophaga tridactyla</i>	Giant anteater
	Primates
Primates except <i>Homo</i>	This kind includes monkeys, lemurs, gibbons, apes, with the exception of humans
	Perissodactyla (odd-toed ungulates)
Equidae except <i>Equus asinus</i> and <i>Equus caballus</i>	Asses, horses and zebras except the donkey and domestic horse

Rhinocerotidae	Rhinoceroses
Tapiridae	Tapirs
	Proboscidea
Elephantidae	Elephants
	Tubulidentata
<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	Aardvark
	Mammal hybrids
Any hybrid of a kind of animal specified in the foregoing provisions of this column where at least one parent is of a kind so specified, and (except in the case of Felidae) any animal of which at least one parent is such a hybrid. Hybrids of kinds of <i>Canis familiaris</i> , where all parents and grandparents are <i>Canis familiaris</i> , are not included.	Any mammalian hybrids with at least one parent of a specified kind, and (except for cats) any animal of which at least one parent is such a hybrid. Domestic dogs with only domestic dog parents and grandparents are not included.

PART 2

BIRDS

Scientific name of kind	Common name or names
Casuariidae	Cassowaries
Dromaiidae	Emu
Rheidae	Rheas
Struthionidae	Ostriches

PART 3

REPTILES

Scientific name of kind	Common name or names
	Crocodiles and their relatives
Crocodylia	This kind includes the alligators, crocodiles, gharial, false gharial and caimans
	Snakes

Atractaspididae	Burrowing asps/mole vipers & stiletto snakes
Colubridae of genera <i>Malpolon</i> & <i>Thelotornis</i> , and species <i>Dispholidus typus</i> , <i>Rhabdophis subminiatus</i> , <i>Rhabdophus tigrinus</i> , <i>Elapomorphus lemniscatus</i> , <i>Philodryas olfersii</i> , <i>Tachymenis peruviana</i> & <i>Xenodon severus</i>	Rear-fanged venomous snakes, Montpellier snakes & African vine snakes, bomslang, red-necked keelback, yamakagashi/Japanese tiger snake, Argentine black-headed snake, South American green racer, Peruvian races and Amazon false viper
Elapidae	Certain front-fanged venomous snakes, including the cobra, krait, mamba, coral snake and death adder
Hydrophiidae	Sea snakes
Viperidae (including Crotalinae)	Vipers and pit vipers, including adders, rattlesnakes, the bushmaster, fer de lance, water moccasin and copperhead
	Lizards
Helodermatidae	Gila monster and Mexican bearded lizard
<i>Varanus komodoensis</i>	Komodo dragon

PART 4

INVERTEBRATES

Scientific name of kind	Common name or names
	Spiders
Ctenidae genus <i>Phoneutria</i> only	Brazilian wandering spiders
Hexathelidae genus <i>Atrax</i>	Sydney funnel web spider and close relatives
Sicariidae genus <i>Loxosceles</i>	Brown recluse/violin spiders
Theridiidae genus <i>Latrodectus</i>	Widow spiders and close relatives
	Scorpions
Buthidae	Buthid scorpions
Hemioscorpiidae species <i>Hemiscorpus lepturus</i>	Middle-eastern thin-tailed scorpion

ENDNOTES

Table of Legislation History

Legislation	Year and No	Commencement

Table of Renumbered Provisions

Original	Current

Table of Endnote References

¹ Subs (2) amended by GC121/86, by Agriculture and Fisheries (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1998 s 4 and by SD155/10 Sch 3.

² Subs (2A) inserted by Agriculture and Fisheries (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1998 s 4.

³ S 1A inserted by Agriculture and Fisheries (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1998 s 4.

⁴ Subs (2) amended by GC121/86.

⁵ Subs (4) amended by Wildlife Act 1990 s 39.

⁶ Para (a) amended by GC121/86 and by Wildlife Act 1990 s 39.

⁷ Para (b) amended by GC121/86.

⁸ Subs (1) amended by GC121/86 and by Endangered Species Act 2010 Sch 4.

⁹ Para (a) amended by GC121/86.

¹⁰ Subs (2) amended by GC121/86.

¹¹ Subs (5) amended by Wildlife Act 1990 s 39.

¹² S 6 amended by GC121/86.

¹³ Definition of “the Board” repealed by GC121/86.

¹⁴ Definition of “the Customs and Excise Management Act” substituted by Wildlife Act 1990 s 39.

¹⁵ Definition of “the Department” inserted by GC121/86.

¹⁶ Definition of “the Wildlife Committee”, previously “the Scientific Advisory Committee”, substituted by Endangered Species Act 2010 Sch 4.

¹⁷ ADO (whole Act) 1/6/1980 (GC147/80).

¹⁸ Sch substituted by SD420/13.

¹⁹ Entry substituted by SD2023/0311.

²⁰ Entry substituted by SD2023/0311.

