



Appendix AM.1

Summary of Scheme Requirements for Common Veterinary Operations

The table below provides a summary of the legal requirements concerning common veterinary operations. The full legal requirements are stated in Animal Welfare Act 2006 (as amended), the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) England Regulations 2007 (as amended), the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (as amended) and the Protection of Animals (Anaesthetics Act 1954) (as amended).

Note that the requirements in ***bold italics*** below are above the legal requirement. These are based on recommendations by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC).

CATTLE				
Operation	Age	Conditions/ Method	Operator	Anaesthetic
Castration	1st week of life only	Rubber ring/ blood constricting device	Competent stock person	Without
	Up to 2 months	Other than above (e.g. clamp castration)	Competent stock person	Without
	2 months and over	Other than a rubber ring or blood constricting device	Veterinary Surgeon*	With
Dehorning	Up to 5 months of age	Not specified	Competent stock person	With
	Over 5 Months of age	Not Specified	<i>Veterinary Surgeon*</i>	With
Disbudding	1st week of life only	Chemical cauterisation	Competent stock person	Without
	<i>Up to 2 months of age</i>	Other method than above	Competent stock person	With
Removal of Supernumerary Teats	Up to 3 months	Not specified	Competent stock person	<i>With</i>
	3 months and over	Not specified	Veterinary Surgeon *	With

*The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 as amended, permits veterinary nurses to carry out the operations marked if the nurse is qualified to carry out that surgery and is acting under the direction of a veterinarian who, for the time being, has care of the animal(s).



Appendix AM.1 (continued)

Summary of Scheme Requirements for Common Veterinary Operations

SHEEP				
Operation	Age	Conditions/ Method	Operator	Anaesthetic
Castration	1st week of life only	Rubber ring/ blood constricting device	Competent stock person	Without
	Up to 3 months	Other than above e.g. clamp castration	Competent stock person	Without
	3 months and over	Other than rubber ring/ blood constricting device	Veterinary Surgeon *	With
Tail Docking	1st week of life	Rubber Ring/ blood constricting device	Competent stock person	Without
	Any age	Other than above**	Competent stock person	With
Dehorning and Disbudding	Any age	Not specified	Veterinary Surgeon *	With
	Any age	Trimming of the insensitive tip of an in-growing horn	Competent stock person ***	Without****

* The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 as amended, permits veterinary nurses to carry out the operations marked if the nurse is qualified to carry out that surgery and is acting under the direction of a veterinarian who, for the time being, has care of the animal(s).

**Sufficient tail to cover the vulva (females) the anus (males) must be left. Any shorter than this must only be in the case of emergency, disease or injury following consultation with a Vet, and carried out with anaesthetic.

***Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, as amended, only a veterinary surgeon may dehorn or disbud a sheep, apart from trimming the insensitive tip of an in-growing horn which, if left untreated, could cause pain or distress.

**** If there is any doubt about hitting sensitive tissues whilst trimming the insensitive tip of an in-growing horn of a sheep, veterinary advice should be sought.