

Ordinance of the FSVO on the protection of animals in breeding

of 4 December 2014

The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO),

having regard to Article 29 of the Animal Protection Ordinance of 23 April 2008¹ (AniPO),

decrees:

Article 1 Purpose and scope

¹ This Ordinance regulates the requirements relating to the breeding of healthy animals.

² It does not apply to animals bred in approved laboratory animal facilities.

Article 2 Obligations of breeders

Anyone who breeds animals:

- a. must know the types of strain placed on animals by the extreme expression of characteristics and the known genetic defects of the breeding variety concerned;
- b. must not pursue any breeding objectives which entail pain, suffering or harm for the animals, or major interference with their appearance or abilities.

Article 3 Strain categories

¹ The individual types of strain are classified into four categories:

- a. strain category 0: no strain;
- b. strain category 1: mild strain;
- c. strain category 2: moderate strain;
- d. strain category 3: severe strain.

² Mild strain is present in domestic animals or livestock if a constraining expression of characteristics and symptoms can be compensated by appropriate care, housing or feeding without performing interventions on the animal and without regular medical care.

SR 455.102.4

¹ SR 455.1

Article 4 Classification of an animal in a strain category

¹ The criteria for classification of an animal in a strain category are listed in Annex 1.

² The classification of an animal in a strain category is determined by the most constraining characteristic or symptom.

Article 5 Strain evaluation

¹ Anyone wishing to breed an animal with a characteristic or symptom which may lead to moderate or severe strain in connection with the breeding goal must have a strain evaluation performed in advance.

² The characteristics or symptoms which may lead to moderate or severe strain in connection with the breeding goal are listed in Annex 2.

³ Only hereditary types of strain are taken into consideration in the evaluation.

⁴ Strain evaluations should be performed by persons with a university degree in veterinary medicine, ethology or genetics and the necessary experience in the relevant field.

⁵ The person performing the strain evaluation must record the results in a signed document intended for the breeder. The breeder must present the document to the enforcement authorities on request.

Article 6 Permitted breeding uses

¹ Animals in strain category 0 or 1 may be used in breeding.

² Animals in strain category 2 may be used in breeding if the breeding objective is to reduce the strain on the offspring compared with that on the parent animals.

Article 7 Documentation of breeding activity involving animals in strain category 2

¹ Breeding activity involving animals in strain category 2 must be documented by the breeder.

² The documentation must contain information on the breeding strategy and the hereditary strains suffered by the parent animals and offspring. The breeding strategy must indicate how the breeding goal referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, is to be achieved.

³ The documentation must be dated and kept up-to-date. The breeder must sign to confirm that the information is accurate and complete.

⁴ The documentation must be presented to the enforcement authorities on request.

Art. 8 Information for buyers

¹ Breeders of animals in strain category 1 must inform buyers in writing as to how the offspring should be cared for in order to avoid additional strain.

² Breeders of animals in strain category 2 must inform buyers in writing as to how the offspring should be treated in order to reduce hereditary strain.

Article 9 Prohibited breeding uses

Animals may not be used for breeding if:

- a. the animals come under strain category 3;
- b. the breeding goal results in a category 3 strain for the offspring;
- c. they belong to a breeding variety which, on the basis of physiology or abilities:
 1. cannot be kept in accordance with their needs,
 2. cannot adopt a natural posture,
 3. cannot move in ways appropriate to their species,
 4. cannot feed, or rear their young, without human assistance;
- d. due to their targeted mating, it is not possible to rule out:
 1. sensory losses, especially blindness or deafness, in the offspring, or
 2. difficult births due to anatomical circumstances.

Article 10 Prohibited breeding varieties

The following breeding varieties are prohibited:

- a. dancing mice;
- b. goldfish of the varieties 'bubble eye', 'stargazer' or 'telescope eye';
- c. dwarf dogs weighing less than 1,500 g in adulthood;
- d. cats with exceptionally short forelegs (kangaroo cats);
- e. reptiles with enigma syndrome;
- f. purebred Belgian Blue cattle.

Article 11 Commencement

This Ordinance enters into force on 1 January 2015.

4 December 2014

Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Of-
fice:

Hans Wyss

Annex 1
(Article 4, paragraph 1)

Criteria for classification of an animal in a strain category

	Type of strain	Strain category 2	Strain category 3
1	Pain	Moderate sporadic pain or mild chronic pain which impairs general condition	Moderate chronic or severe pain which severely impairs general condition
2	Harm	Harm leading to functional losses or behavioural abnormalities which impair general condition Deviations from the species-specific development of an animal which disrupt its bodily functions or limit its responsiveness to environmental stimuli	Harm leading to functional losses or behavioural abnormalities which severely impair general condition Deviations from the species-specific development of an animal which severely disrupt its bodily functions or significantly limit its responsiveness to environmental stimuli
3	Suffering	Suffering caused by to pain, harm, anxiety, itching or behavioural abnormalities which impair the quality of life of the animal concerned	Suffering which significantly affects quality of life due to severe pain, extreme itching, overtaxing of the adaptive capacity of bodily functions or prevention of normal behaviour
4	Major interference with the appearance	Changes to the body which are permanent and alter the animal's appearance	Changes to the body which are irreversible and significantly alter the animal's appearance
5	Major interference with the abilities	Deviations from the species-specific development of an animal which disrupt its bodily functions or limit its responsiveness to environmental stimuli	Deviations from the species-specific development of an animal which severely disrupt its bodily functions or significantly limit its responsiveness to environmental stimuli

Annex 2
(Article 5, paragraph 2)

Characteristics or symptoms which may lead to moderate or severe strain in connection with the breeding goal

1 Musculoskeletal and postural system

- 1.1 Skeletal deformities or malformations such as locomotor abnormalities or paralysis.
- 1.2 Degenerative joint changes, spondylosis (stiffening of the spine).

2 Head

- 2.1 Deformities of the skull with impeding effects, such as effects on:
 - 2.1.1 tooth position;
 - 2.1.2 eye position;
 - 2.1.3 respiratory capacity;
 - 2.1.4 birth process.
- 2.2 Open and persistent fontanelles.
- 2.3 Caruncles around the beak or eyes which interfere with breathing or greatly restrict the field of vision.

3 Skin, feathers, scales, claws

- 3.1 Surplus skin causing a constraint, such as:
 - 3.1.1 excessive folds accompanied by chronic skin inflammation;
 - 3.1.2 oversized crest;
 - 3.1.3 growths on the head or nasal septum.
- 3.2 Plumage varieties causing a constraint, such as:
 - 3.2.1 spiky plumage;
 - 3.2.2 shaggy plumage;
 - 3.2.3 excessive plumage, such as:
 - 3.2.3.1 the plumage of the 'feather duster' budgerigar,
 - 3.2.3.2 the plumage of the Parisian frill (posture canary),
 - 3.2.3.3 fan-tails or greatly elongated tail feathers,
 - 3.2.3.4 feathered feet, vulture hocks in chickens,
 - 3.2.3.5 feather crests, rosettes,

- 3.2.3.6 feather beards,
- 3.2.3.7 feather hoods.
- 3.3 Scale varieties causing a constraint, such as calcified, rigid, domed scales, as in the pearlscale goldfish.
- 3.4 Corkscrew claws.
- 3.5 Absence of scales in lizards and snakes.

4 Eyes, auditory system and tactile hairs

- 4.1 Dysfunction of the eyes, such as blindness.
- 4.2 Dysfunction of the auditory system, such as deafness.
- 4.3 Malformations.
- 4.4 Cataracts.
- 4.5 Progressive retinal atrophy (PRA).
- 4.6 Displacement of the eyeball.
- 4.7 Persistent ectropion.
- 4.8 Persistent entropion.

5 Brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves

- 5.1 Coordination or movement disorders.
- 5.2 Paralysis, as in:
 - 5.2.1 prolapsed disc (herniated disc);
 - 5.2.2 cauda equina syndrome;
 - 5.2.3 ‘roaring’ (*Hemiplegia laryngis*);
 - 5.2.4 dermoid cysts in the Rhodesian Ridgeback.
- 5.3 Loss of orientation, e.g. due to an inner ear defect.

6 Behaviour

- 6.1 Trembling neck in pigeons.
- 6.2 Obstruction of reproduction and movement due to an excessive dewlap in geese.
- 6.3 Obstruction of movement due to:
 - 6.3.1 excessive enlargement of the ears;
 - 6.3.2 excessive lengthening of the claws;
 - 6.3.3 excessive enlargement of the fins;
 - 6.3.4 excessive growth of feathers;

- 6.3.5 disrupted flight behaviour with recurring display sequences;
- 6.3.6 excessively compressed body shape causing swimming problems
 in fish.
- 6.4 Difficulties in feeding, for example due to:
 - 6.4.1 dilation of the crop wall;
 - 6.4.2 excessive shortening of the beak.
- 6.5 Difficulties in sexual or brooding behaviour.