

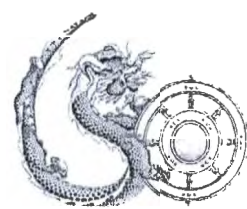


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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

Thimphu : Bhutan



སློན་པོ།

MINISTER

BAFRA/MoAF/5-1/1026

May 22, 2017

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION

Sub: Livestock Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2017

In exercise of the authority granted by Section 36.1 of the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests is pleased to issue the Livestock Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2017 to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001. The Rules and Regulations will come into enforcement with effect from 1st June 2017 and shall supersede the Livestock Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2008 and all previous orders and any amendments issued till now.

The concerned Agencies as mentioned in the Livestock Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2017 of Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001 shall be responsible for the implementation of this Rules and Regulations.

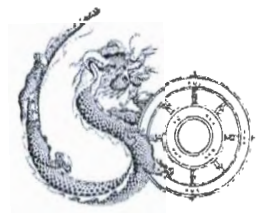

Yeshe Dorji
MINISTER

Ministry of Agriculture & Forests
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu, Bhutan

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2. The Hon'ble Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Bhutan, Thimphu
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11. The Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thimphu
12. The Hon'ble Chairman, National Council of Bhutan, Thimphu
13. The Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Thimphu



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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Thimphu : Bhutan



14. The Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Thimphu
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16. The Hon'ble Secretary, National Environment Commission, Thimphu
17. The Attorney General, Office of Attorney General, Thimphu
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19. The Chairman, Royal Civil Service Commission, Thimphu
20. The Chairperson, Anti Corruption Commission, Thimphu
21. The Secretary General, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Thimphu
22. The Chief Operations Officer, Royal Bhutan Army, Langtenphu
23. The Commandant, Royal Body Guard, Dechenchoeling
24. The Chief of Police, Royal Bhutan Police, Thimphu
25. The Director General, Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority, MoAF, Thimphu
26. The Director General, Department of Livestock, MoAF, Thimphu
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28. The Director, Department of Forests and Park Services, MoAF, Thimphu
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30. The Director Department of Public Health, MoH, Thimphu
31. The Director, Department of Trade, MoEA, Thimphu
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LIVESTOCK RULES AND REGULATIONS OF BHUTAN 2017

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In exercise of the authority granted by Section 36.1 of the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests hereby formulates and adopts the Livestock Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2017 to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001.

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY

Title and commencement

1. This Rules and Regulations is called the Livestock Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2017.
2. It shall come into force from the date specified in the notification issued by the Minister for Agriculture and Forests for implementation of this Rules.

Revocation

3. This Rules and Regulations shall supersede the Livestock Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2008 and all previous regulatory notifications including executive orders issued by the Ministry for the implementation of Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001.

CHAPTER II

BREEDING, ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION AND EMBRYO TRANSFER

Demand, supply and placement of breeding stock

4. Pursuant to section 4.3 of the Act, a demand for breeding stock for the community shall be subject to the proposal being approved by the Gewog Tshogde or Dzongkhag Tshogdu and supply shall be made based on the “Guidelines for Management of Breeding Stock” developed by the Technical Department.
5. A breeding stock supplied free of cost by the Government shall be a government property. The placement of breeding stock shall be done based on the “Guidelines for Management of Breeding Stock”.
6. The members of the community and the Gewog Administration shall draw-up an internal agreement following “Guidelines for Management of Breeding Stock” developed by the Technical Department.

Use of breeding stock

7. All livestock to be used for breeding purposes shall be certified by an authorized government veterinarian as to their fitness for breeding and freedom from diseases prior to its distribution to the field.
8. Government supplied breeding stock to farmers shall be used only for breeding purposes and the breeding of livestock is subject to the “Livestock Breeding Guidelines” prescribed by the Technical Department.
9. The Gewog Livestock Staff shall be responsible to monitor and ensure that the breeding stock is maintained in accordance with the “Guidelines for Management of Breeding Stock” developed by the Technical Department.
10. Breeding inputs such as breeding bulls, semen, and embryo shall be used in the field in line with “Livestock Breeding Guidelines” developed by the Technical Department.
11. Approval of a breeding stock shall be based on relevant “Breeding Fitness Assessment” carried out by the Technical Department based on the pedigree history, health status and breeding soundness.
12. Supply of breeding stock for a community is subject to an agreement to sterilize all unsuitable male breedable stock in the area.
13. Any breeding stock supplied for breeding purpose should not be castrated without the prior approval from the Technical Department.
14. Any breeding stock stationed in particular area with their progenies of breedable age shall be transferred or exchanged to avoid inbreeding.

15. A breeding stock is subject to health inspection or sampling for disease screening at least once in every six months which shall be the responsibility of Gewog Livestock Office.

Contract breeding

16. Contract breeding for livestock production shall be subject to compliance with the “Livestock Breeding Guidelines” developed by the Technical Department and strict adherence to the “terms and conditions for contract breeder”.

Artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer

17. Pursuant to sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.6 of the Act, establishment of artificial insemination out-reach centre, laboratory for semen or embryo production, and storage of semen or embryo shall be established after assessing the feasibility based on the standards developed by the Technical Department.
18. The Technical Department in collaboration with the Regulatory Authority shall accord approval for establishment of artificial insemination out-reach centre, laboratory for semen or embryo production, storage of semen or embryo only after assessing the feasibility and standards as per the “Standards of Laboratory for Collection and Processing of Semen” developed by the Technical Department.
19. To obtain registration of the establishment, the applicant should acquire the administrative approval from Local Government. The Technical Department shall upon being satisfied of compliance with the requirements register the establishment for operation.
20. Establishments specified under section 17 of this Rules shall comply with the “Standards of Laboratory for Collection and Processing of Semen”.

Certification and screening of livestock for embryo or semen production and AI

21. Livestock used for semen and embryo production shall be certified by the authorized government veterinarian for breeding fitness as per section 11 of this Rules.
22. Import of livestock for breeding or semen and embryo production shall comply with “Bhutan Animal Health Code for Import of Animals” prescribed by the Ministry with complete pedigree history.

Inspection of premises

23. Pursuant to section 5.6 of the Act, an inspector or a duly authorized government veterinarian or official shall have the authority to enter the premises at any reasonable time as may be required for the purpose of inspection and certification to verify and ensure that all such establishments comply with the standards and requirements.

24. An inspector or duly authorized government veterinarian shall monitor and carry out technical auditing and verification of all such premises for compliance with the standards and requirements at least once in six months.

Seizure of semen and embryos

25. An inspector shall confiscate and dispose off semen and embryos not fulfilling the requirements as per this Rules without payment of compensation.

Establishment of designated farms

26. Pursuant to sections 6.1 and 7.1 of the Act, the Technical Department or any private individual or agency may establish farms for the genetic improvement, conservation of livestock or for commercial purpose.
27. The Technical Department upon receiving the proposal for establishment of designated farm shall scrutinize the proposal and conduct the feasibility study in collaboration with the Regulatory Authority and may accord technical approval. The applicant shall also acquire clearance from different agencies such as local authorities or communities, National Environment Commission and Department of Forests and Park Services.
28. The applicant shall seek administrative approval for the establishment of designated farm from the respective Local Government upon fulfilment of the requirements specified in section 27 of this Rule.
29. The designated farm shall be established and registered with the Technical Department upon fulfilling the requirement specified in sections 27 and 28 of this Rules and the “Guidelines for Construction and Operation of Designated Farms” developed by the Technical Department with intimation to the Regulatory Authority.

Operation of designated farms

30. Pursuant to sections 6.2, 6.3 and 7.3 of the Act, operation of designated farms shall comply with the following:
- (1) bio-security measures as specified in “In-country Livestock Biosecurity Guidelines” and “Implementation strategy for livestock farm biosecurity” developed by the Ministry;
 - (2) the general disease control measures in these farms shall be in accordance with the requirements of control of notifiable diseases provided under Chapter IV of this Rules and specific disease prevention and control plans;
 - (3) facilitate the Regulatory Authority officials to inspect and monitor compliance with bio-security measures and other prescribed standards;
 - (4) adhere to the improvement notices or suspend the operation of the farm based on the severity of breach in bio-security measures as notified by the inspectors; and

(5) abide by the standards set by the Technical Department in operating the farm including the infrastructure design.

Fees

31. Registration fee and annual renewal fee for designated commercial farms shall be subject to a fee as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.

CHAPTER III IMPORT OF ANIMALS, SEMEN AND EMBRYO

Import of animals

32. Pursuant to sections 4.1, 4.2, 5.5 and 8.2 of the Act, import of animals, poultry, semen and embryo shall be regulated as per the procedure prescribed by the Technical Department.
33. Import of animal and animal products including animal semen, embryo, fertilized fish eggs, fingerlings, honey bees, hatching eggs, fish, meat, milk and animal feeds and ingredients for any purpose shall be subject to prior import permit issued by the Regulatory Authority.
34. Import of live animals shall be made in accordance with the “Bhutan Animal Health Code for Import of Animals” prescribed by the Ministry.
35. Import of animal products shall be permitted only from a firm that is jointly recognized by the Regulatory Authority and the Technical Department.
36. Import of day-old chicks and hatching eggs shall be only from the hatcheries recognized and approved by the Regulatory Authority in consultation with the Technical Department.
37. Import risk assessment shall be undertaken by the Regulatory Authority in collaboration with the Technical Department prior to issuance of import authorization for import of animals by the Regulatory Authority.
38. An individual, group, organization or entity shall not import animals of any kind for the purpose of *Tshethar*.
39. Pursuant to section 4 of the Act, import of animal, poultry, semen, embryo and animal genetic materials for research shall not be permitted if the research activity is prohibited by the Ministry.

Import of semen, embryo and livestock for research

40. Import of semen and embryo of livestock, and livestock for research activities not prohibited by the Ministry shall be subject to prior approval of the Technical Department.
41. Prior to the import of livestock and poultry for research purpose, the applicants shall fulfill among others, the following conditions:
 - (1) purpose and specific research to be conducted;
 - (2) particular species and exact number of livestock to be imported;
 - (3) original area from where to be imported;
 - (4) disease free certificate from the country of origin; and

- (5) place of research to be conducted.

Procedure for issuance of import permits

42. The importation procedures shall be as follows:

- (1) An application requesting for import permit for import of animals and animal products is submitted to the Regulatory Authority at least two weeks prior to importation.
- (2) The Regulatory Authority shall issue import permit with the requirement to comply with import health standards and conditions to be met for particular risk goods.
- (3) Import of live animals including dogs, cats and other pet animals shall meet the “Bhutan Animal Health Code for Import of Animals” and other requirements prescribed by the Ministry.
- (4) Failure on the part of the importer to meet the prescribed conditions in the import permit shall result in the returning of the consignment to exporting country at the importer’s expense, or destruction or disposal without payment of compensation.

Certification by the exporting country

43. The imported commodities shall be accompanied by veterinary and other relevant certificates in compliance with the import requirements that are duly signed by an authorized government veterinarian of the exporting country.

44. The requirements for certification shall be as follows:

- (1) certificates issued for the particular risk goods by authorized official of the exporting country shall be consistent with the national requirements or the relevant OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code or Aquatic Animal Health Code in effect;
- (2) only certificate written in English, Dzongkha or translated in either of the two languages shall be accepted;
- (3) imported animals shall be clearly identified with approved methods of identification marks or identification number; and
- (4) only original certificates shall be accepted.

Fees

45. Import of animal and animal products for commercial purpose is subject to a fee as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.

46. Import of animal and animal products by government agencies and institutions is subject to a fee as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.

47. Import of animal and animal products for personal purpose is subject to a fee as prescribed in schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.

CHAPTER IV
QUARANTINE, NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND CONTROLLED DISEASES

Quarantine Facilities

48. Pursuant to sections 8.3, 8.4, and 36.5 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall be responsible for designating official entry points and identifying competent laboratory for screening of diseases in the imported animals.

49. For the purpose of this rules, the official entry points for animals are identified as follows:

(1) Entry by land:

- (a) Phuentsholing;
- (b) Gelephu;
- (c) Samdrupjongkhar
- (d) Samtse
- (e) Nganglam

(2) Entry by air:

- (a) Paro International Airport.

50. The Regulatory Authority may designate additional entry points as and when deemed necessary through a public notification.

51. The Regulatory Authority shall establish appropriate quarantine facilities for different species of animals at official entry points and at any other locations as deemed necessary to prevent incursion of diseases into the country.

52. The quarantine facilities shall be managed according to the “Animal Quarantine Station Operation Manual” developed by the Regulatory Authority.

53. Animals in the Quarantine Station shall be subjected to detailed health examination and screening against notifiable or exotic diseases in line with the procedure prescribed in the “Bhutan Animal Health Code for Import of Animals”.

Cleansing and disinfection

54. Under the supervision of the Inspector, it shall be the duty of the person in-charge of the vehicle, container or air craft, after unloading the imported animal and before any other cargo is loaded, to ensure that:

- (1) every part of the vehicle, container or aircraft in which the animal or their droppings or other excreta have been in contact, and every apparatus, equipment or material used in connection with the carriage or unloading of the animals is effectively cleansed and disinfected using appropriate cleansing and disinfecting agents as prescribed in the “Animal Quarantine Station Operation Manual” ; and

(2) such cleansing and disinfection shall be carried out in a manner and to such an extent as may be specified by the supervising Inspector as prescribed in the “Animal Quarantine Station Operation Manual” .

55. In the event of an outbreak of a significant notifiable or exotic disease in the neighboring country presenting a high risk to livestock, poultry and public health, all vehicles, risk goods and potential vectors originating or passing through the affected area of that country shall be disinfected at the entry points by Inspectors in consultation with the Technical Department to prevent incursion of the disease-causing agent into the country.

Quarantine measures

56. The officials of the Regulatory Authority have the authority to quarantine animals for disease prevention and control within the country. Only persons authorized by the Regulatory Authority shall be permitted to come in contact with the quarantined animals.

57. No person employed in the quarantine premises shall keep animals in his custody or care for animals other than those held in the quarantine facilities.

58. The officials of the Regulatory Authority may at any reasonable time collect samples, administer prophylactic or therapeutic treatment to the quarantined animals within the quarantine facilities.

59. It is the responsibility of the owner or his representative to provide feed, care and management of animals while under quarantine, which shall be provided under close supervision of the official of the Regulatory Authority.

60. The following requirements applies for the implementation of quarantine measures:

(1) Only those premises established as a quarantine facility pursuant to section 51 of this Rules shall be used for quarantining animals or other risk goods;

(2) All imported animals with the exception of pet dogs and cats shall undergo mandatory quarantine at the designated quarantine station for a duration of 15 days in general, which may be extended based on the disease status of the exporting country and the species of animals imported;

(3) Day-old chick (DOC) of poultry and other bird shall be quarantined at the destination farm, provided all import requirements are fulfilled. In case of a non-compliance of any import requirement, the DOCs shall be quarantined for a duration of 15 days at the designated quarantine station at entry points;

(4) In case of import of pet dogs and cats for personal purpose, if all import requirements are fulfilled, they shall be released without requiring to be quarantined at the designated quarantine station. The imported animals shall be confined at the owner’s house or kept with the owner without allowing to mix with other dogs and cats for 15 days at their own risks. In case of a non-compliance of any import requirement

prescribed in the import permit, the animals shall be quarantined for a duration of 15 days at the designated quarantine station at entry points.

- (5) Import of pet dogs and cats for commercial purpose shall be quarantined at the quarantine station for a period of 15 days. In case of other pets, the Regulatory Authority shall apply quarantine measures as deemed appropriate.
- (6) All animals quarantined shall be released only after completion of the specified quarantine period and fulfilling all other quarantine requirements as prescribed in the "Animal Quarantine Station Operation Manual";
- (7) No person shall remove from the designated quarantine premises any carcass, fodder, litter, manure or any other risk goods used in connection with or coming from animal under quarantine except with the written permission from the Inspector concerned;
- (8) Milk from the healthy milch animals at the quarantine station will be allowed for consumption or sale only after boiling or pasteurization;
- (9) If an exotic or notifiable disease is detected through the laboratory tests during the quarantine period with no clinical signs, the animals shall be rejected as per the "Bhutan Animal Health Code for Import of Animals". A susceptible animal shall be subjected to further laboratory screening and will be released if it tests negative on subsequent testing.
- (10) If an outbreak of an exotic or notifiable disease occurs during the quarantine period, the affected animals shall be rejected or destroyed humanely without payment of compensation. A susceptible animal shall be subjected to laboratory screening and shall be released if it tests negative.
- (11) If there is an outbreak of disease which is already endemic in the country, the animal shall be subjected to necessary vaccination or therapeutic treatment.
- (12) Where necessary, the quarantine period of an animal under observation shall be extended by an Inspector as deemed necessary.
- (13) Carcass of an animal that die during the quarantine period or destroyed under section 60(10) of this Rules shall be properly disposed off by deep burial or incineration to prevent spread of the disease to other animal or to prevent environmental contamination.

Restriction on movement of animal and animal product beyond the frontier zone

61. Pursuant to sections 8.4 and 8.5 of the Act, restrictions prescribed in this Chapter applies to movement of animal and their products beyond the frontier zone. No animal and high risk products like meat, eggs, fresh milk, fresh butter and cheese, fish, canned meat, other products or animal feed shall be moved from an entry point into the country unless it is accompanied by an in-country movement permit obtained from the Regulatory Authority.

62. The Ministry shall institute an emergency committee to impose ban on import of animal, their products and risk goods to prevent entry of pests and diseases during the outbreak of exotic or notifiable diseases in the neighboring countries and trading partners.
63. The ban on import shall be enforced only upon public notification issued by the Ministry stating the ban on import of particular animal, their products or risk goods, and specifying the need to control the spread of disease within the country.
64. The import of risk goods mentioned in section 61 of this Rules is subject to inspection and certification procedure of the Ministry to prevent entry of infectious agents into the country.
65. In the event of non-compliance or not fulfilling any of the import requirements, the risk goods mentioned under section 61 of this Rules shall be either rejected or seized and destroyed without any compensation.

Revocation or amendment of import permit

66. According to the changes in animal health and disease status in the exporting country and in Bhutan, the import permit issued may be revoked or amended appropriately at any time by the Regulatory Authority.

Inspection

67. Pursuant to section 8.8 of the Act, the Inspectors are authorized to enter any premises, vehicle, container or aircraft in which animal, their products and risk goods are carried and examine them.
68. The Inspectors are authorized to examine and verify any document required as per the import requirements that is to be accompanied with the imported animal, their products and risk goods.

Fees

69. Quarantine accommodation fee for animals, poultry and other birds shall be levied at the time of admission into quarantine station as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.

Designation and control of notifiable diseases

70. Pursuant to section 9.1 of the Act, certain diseases are designated as notifiable diseases in Annexure II of this Rules which may be amended as and when required by the Ministry. Such notifiable diseases shall be subject to official control measures as prescribed by the Technical Department for the specific disease prevention and control plan.

71. Pursuant to sections 9.2 and 20 of the Act, in the event of an outbreak or suspected outbreak of notifiable or zoonotic disease, the Ministry and relevant authorities shall take action according to specific disease prevention and control plan.
72. An individual or owner of animal or farm shall report any incidence of unusual sickness, unusual death of animal or death of animals in large numbers to the nearest livestock office or the Regulatory Authority office for detailed investigation.
73. Pursuant to section 9.7 of the Act, the concerned livestock office shall send 'flash report' of the suspected outbreak of notifiable or zoonotic disease to National Centre for Animal Health with copy to Regional or Dzongkhag livestock office and the Regulatory Authority for further investigation. Based on the report, the local authority shall issue provisional ban order restricting the movement of livestock and its products.
74. Pursuant to section 9.8 of the Act and upon confirmation of the disease outbreak, the Dzongkhag Authority shall officially declare the disease outbreak and issue official notification with a copy to relevant agencies to implement disease control measures in line with the disease prevention and control plans for the specific diseases.
75. When the disease outbreak is fully controlled, the Dzongkhag livestock office shall recommend the Dzongkhag Authority to issue notification to discontinue the disease control measures in line with the specific disease prevention and control plan.
76. In the case of a disease outbreak in quarantine station, the Regulatory Authority and Technical Department shall jointly investigate and confirm the disease and take necessary control measures in accordance to section 60 (9) to (13) of this Rules.

Destruction of animals, animal products and feed posing risk

77. Pursuant to section 9.3 of the Act:

- (1) The Regulatory Authority shall ensure compulsorily destruction of animals in a humane way if they pose considerable risk to the health and life of animals and human beings subject to payment of compensation as deemed appropriate by the Ministry.
- (2) In the event of pre-emptive culling as prescribed in the disease prevention and control plan for the specific diseases, the compensation may be provided by the Ministry for the animals, animal products and infected materials.
- (3) In the event, the Regulatory Authority official has sufficient evidence to suspect that an animal product is originating from diseased or dead animals and is likely to pose considerable risk to the health and life of animals and human beings, such product shall be confiscated and destroyed without payment of compensation.
- (4) Animal feed that does not meet the national quality and safety standards shall be either rejected (if imported) or not be allowed for sale and shall be recalled from the

market. Animal feed suspected to be contaminated by any infectious agents shall be confiscated and destroyed without payment of compensation.

Prior approval for animal exhibition

78. An individual or agency organizing animal exhibition including shows, marts, rallies and animal auction shall seek prior approval from the Regulatory Authority and shall be carried out as per the prescribed guidelines.

Ban on shows and sale of livestock, poultry, fish and their products

79. Pursuant to section 9.4 of the Act, once a disease outbreak notification is issued pursuant to section 74 of this Rules, the Regulatory Authority shall ban shows and sales of livestock, poultry, fish and their products as a measure for prevention and control of diseases in the specified locality.

Restriction on animal migration routes

80. Pursuant to section 9.5 of the Act:

- (1) Any individual who migrate or move their animal herd from one Dzongkhag to another Dzongkhag shall obtain in-country movement permit from the Regulatory Authority. Where animal migration takes place in remote villages that are beyond the reach of the Regulatory Authority, the concerned livestock office in the area is authorized to issue movement permit upon meeting the requirement specified under section 80(2).
- (2) Animals moving from one Dzongkhag to another shall be compulsorily vaccinated or treated against notifiable diseases in sufficient time before the date of movement. The concerned owner should produce health and vaccination certificate issued by the concerned livestock office along with a letter of ownership authentication issued by the Local Government to the Regulatory Authority while applying for in-country movement permit.
- (3) In-country movement permit for pet animals (dog & cat) shall be issued based on the pet health card with the validity of the movement permit as per the vaccination record.
- (4) The Regulatory Authority shall restrict issuance of in-country movement permit or revoke the permit if issued earlier for migration of animal herd in the event of outbreak of notifiable disease in any area along the migratory routes.
- (5) The Regulatory Authority shall impose any other additional measures as deemed necessary for issuance of in-country movement permit for prevention and control of notifiable diseases.

Restriction of certain food waste as feed

81. Pursuant to section 9.9 of the Act, no individual is allowed to feed food waste notified by the Technical Department or the Regulatory Authority as risky in terms of potential for spreading or causing disease in animals and humans.

Fees

82. "In-country movement permit" for movement of livestock and livestock products shall be subject to a fee as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.

CHAPTER V INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

Inspection of establishment

83. Pursuant to section 10.1 of the Act, establishments related to production, storage, and marketing of animal, animal products, animal feed, and those establishments operating under a valid trade license, designated farms and any other commercial farms shall be subject to inspection by the Regulatory Authority.
84. All such establishments shall follow the relevant standards including hygienic production of livestock products for food safety and its requirements as prescribed by the Ministry.
85. An inspector of the Regulatory Authority may at any time monitor and inspect these establishments or parts thereof, and examine all necessary documents and records as deemed necessary in order to verify and check for compliance with prescribed standards and other requirements of this Rules.
86. An official of the Regulatory Authority is authorized to examine livestock, livestock products and animal feed in these establishments and to collect necessary samples for physical or chemical analysis to check whether or not it meets the prescribed standards for quality and safety. The samples shall be collected as per the “Sampling Manual of the National Food Testing Laboratory”.

Substandard animal products and feeds

87. Pursuant to section 10.2 of the Act, any food of animal origin and animal feed irrespective of their origin shall meet the prescribed standards for quality and safety including packaging and labeling requirements and standards of the Food Act of Bhutan 2005 and the rules issued thereunder or any other relevant laws. Animal feed shall comply with the “Standard for Animal Feeds” developed by the Technical Department.
88. Sale of food of animal origin or animal feed that does not comply with the set standards of quality, safety, and labeling requirements is prohibited and shall be withdrawn from the market by the Regulatory Authority.
89. Food of animal origin and animal feed that do not meet the prescribed import standards and requirements shall not be allowed to be imported.
90. The import of fresh and frozen meat including raw or semi-processed food of animal origin shall be permitted only from businesses which implement food safety management system.
91. The Regulatory Authority shall monitor veterinary drug residues and other adulterants in food of animal origin from time to time to ensure safety to all consumers.
92. For the purposes of and without prejudice to the generality of section 87 of this Rules, any food of animal origin or animal feed shall be deemed to be adulterated if:

- (1) it contains or is mixed or diluted with any substance which diminishes in any manner its nutritive value or other beneficial properties as compared with such food or feed in a normal, pure or specified state;
- (2) any substance or ingredient has been extracted wholly or in part or omitted there from and by reason of such extraction or omission, the nutritive value or other beneficial properties of the food or feed is less than its original;
- (3) it contains or is mixed or diluted with any substance of lower commercial value than food or feed in a normal, pure or specified state;
- (4) it contains any substance which is not permitted under this Rules;
- (5) it contains a greater proportion of any substance than is permitted under this Rules;
- (6) it does not comply with the standard or specification prescribed under this Rules;
- (7) it is mixed, colored, powdered, coated, stained, prepared or otherwise treated in a manner whereby its damage or inferior quality may be concealed;
- (8) it consists wholly or in part of a filthy, decomposed or putrefied animal, plant products, mineral or any other substances or of any portion of an animal product unfit for consumption;
- (9) it is contaminated, deteriorated, or diseased;
- (10) it is in a sealed package form and the package is damaged and can no longer ensure protection to its contents from contamination or deterioration; or
- (11) it is in any package and the contents of the package as originally packed have been removed in whole or in part and other contents have been placed in the package.

Suspension of operation of premises

93. Pursuant to section 10.4 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall suspend the operation of an establishment related to production, processing, storage, and marketing of animal and animal products, and animal feeds, including designated farms and any other commercial farms, if the provisions of this Rules or the Act is contravened and until the necessary requirements are met.
94. The Regulatory Authority shall not permit sale, storage, exchange and supply of animal and animal products if they do not meet the prescribed standards.

Certification agency and grant of certificates

95. Pursuant to the authority granted by section 11.1 of the Act, the Ministry empowers the Regulatory Authority as the national certification agency for production, processing and marketing of animal and their products.
96. An individual, agency, firm or organization that produces, supplies or sells animal and their products shall apply to the Regulatory Authority for certification.
97. The Regulatory Authority shall inspect and wherever necessary, collect samples for laboratory analysis and only upon obtaining a satisfactory laboratory test results, issue the certificate.

Revocation of certificates

98. Pursuant to section 13.1 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall revoke the certificate where it is found that the:
- (1) certificate granted was based on a false information submitted; or
 - (2) certificate holder has failed to comply with the conditions under which the certificate was granted.

Recognition of foreign livestock certification agencies

99. Pursuant to section 14.1 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall subject to the approval of the Ministry recognize animal and animal product certification agencies in trading partner countries.
100. The Regulatory Authority shall be responsible to maintain a list of the duly approved animal and animal product certification agencies in trading partner countries which shall be updated from time to time as and when deemed necessary.
101. Import of animal and animal product certified by the recognized agency shall be considered so long as they are consistent with the requirements under this Rules.

CHAPTER VI

EXPORT OF ANIMALS, GENETIC MATERIALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

102. Pursuant to sections 15.1 and 36.6 of the Act, export of animals and genetic materials from animals may be permitted subject to the following provisions:

- (1) The Regulatory Authority shall regulate export of all protected or restricted species of animals, biological and genetic material including their products originating from animals as per the Livestock Act of Bhutan, 2001, Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan, 1995, and the Biodiversity Act of Bhutan, 2003.
- (2) Export of endangered and protected species of wild fauna and their products if any (for research, exhibition and conservation purposes, etc.) permitted through Ministry's approval shall be consistent with the relevant articles under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources on Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Examination and testing

103. Pursuant to section 15.2 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall examine and test export consignments of animals and genetic materials based on the requirement of the importing country.

Certification of export consignments

104. In accordance with section 15.3 of the Act, in the event a certification is required by an importing agency or country, the Regulatory Authority shall examine the import certification requirements of the importing country and accordingly certify and issue zoo-sanitary certificates for the export consignment.

105. The health certificate for export of live animals shall be issued by a government veterinarian in their respective jurisdiction, after examining the health status of the animal intended for export and shall be endorsed by the Regulatory Authority.

Fees

106. An export certification or health certification fee for commercial and personal purposes shall be subject to a fee as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary. The fees shall be charged in addition to the cost of laboratory charges wherever laboratory analysis is required.

CHAPTER VII
FRESH MEAT HYGIENE AND INSPECTION

107. Pursuant to section 16.1 of the Act, slaughter of food animal shall adhere to the requirements prescribed by the Ministry.

Ante-mortem and post mortem of food animal for slaughter

108. Pursuant to section 16.4 of the Act, every food animal brought for slaughter shall be appropriately identified with identification tag, branding or tattoo as specified in the "Protocol for Identification and Certification of Food Animals" developed by the Regulatory Authority.

109. A person bringing an animal for slaughter shall obtain necessary documents such as import permit or in-country movement permit issued by the Regulatory Authority as per the requirements specified in the "Protocol for Identification and Certification of Food Animals".

110. A person bringing animal for slaughter or sale shall correctly identify the animal and obtain a letter of authentication from the Gewog Administration stating that the animal belongs to him.

111. A person arranging, bringing or responsible for slaughter of food animal for sale, shall inform the nearest Regulatory Authority office for ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection.

112. An Inspector conducting ante-mortem and post-mortem examination and according approval for slaughter, shall ensure that requirements mentioned under sections 108 to 110 of this Rules are met.

113. Slaughter of animal for commercial purposes in the country shall be done only in a licensed and approved abattoir and shall undergo ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, unless delay in carrying out ante-mortem inspection would cause undue suffering to the animal requiring emergency slaughter. However, such incidence shall be notified to the Inspector later for postmortem examination.

114. Where animals are slaughtered beyond the reach of the Inspectors of the Regulatory Authority in remote villages, the concerned livestock officials working in that area is authorized to conduct ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection and shall issue 'fit for human consumption' certificate.

115. The standards and requirements for the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection for various species of food animal shall be carried out as specified in "Code for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Inspection for Large and Small Animals" developed by the Regulatory Authority.

Humane treatment, management and inspection of slaughter animals

116. All food animal slaughtered throughout the country for human consumption shall be transported, handled and slaughtered humanely as per the “Standard for Animal Welfare in Bhutan” developed by the Technical Department.
117. The design and layout of the meat processing plant shall meet the “Standard for Animal Welfare in Bhutan” laid down under Chapter X of this Rules.
118. The Regulatory Authority shall monitor and ensure that no animals are subjected to inhumane practices at the establishment that results in unnecessary suffering or injury to an animal.
119. Upon arrival of a food animal at the place of slaughter, the Regulatory Authority shall examine documents accompanying the animal and carry out an ante-mortem inspection.
120. An animal showing signs of disease and where its place of origin could not be ascertained, shall be kept outside the abattoir without contact with other stock. The Regulatory Authority shall be informed as soon as possible so that action shall be taken as per the recommended guidelines.
121. Pregnant animals detected during the ante-mortem inspection shall not be allowed for slaughter.
122. All retail meat sold in the country shall be inspected by the Regulatory Authority. Only meat found fit for human consumption shall be certified for sale.
123. Meat shops or meat sale counters in the country must be registered with the Regulatory Authority and shall meet all the requirements as prescribed in “Minimum Standards for Meat Retailing and Transportation” developed by the Regulatory Authority.
124. Condemned carcass, meat or inedible parts of slaughtered animal shall be disposed off safely in a biological pit or incinerated or buried appropriately.
125. A person shall not be allowed to sell meat in an unauthorized market area or open area including national highways or any other unhygienic places.
126. A fresh meat seller shall clearly inform the customer the type of meat being sold to avoid falsification.

Categories of meat processing facilities

127. Pursuant to section 16.2 of the Act, abattoirs in the country shall be established and categorized based on the standard prescribed by the Ministry as follows:
 - (1) Category ‘A’ – Those abattoirs approved by the Regulatory Authority for commercial purpose with a relatively high capacity of over 300 heads of animals per week or over 15,000 birds per week and shall meet the requirements as specified under “Standards

for Construction and Operation of Category ‘A’ Abattoir” developed by the Regulatory Authority.

- (2) Category ‘B’ – Those abattoirs approved by the Regulatory Authority for commercial purpose with relatively less capacity of 50-300 heads of animals per week and less than 15,000 birds per week and shall meet the requirements as specified under “Standards for Construction and Operation of Category ‘B’ Abattoir” developed by the Regulatory Authority.
- (3) Category ‘C’ - Those abattoirs approved by the Regulatory Authority for slaughter of food animals with capacity of less than 50 heads in villages and shall meet the requirements as specified under “Standards for Construction and Operation of Category ‘C’ Abattoir” developed by the Regulatory Authority.

128. A meat that was not subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem examination by an Inspector or his representatives shall not be allowed for sale. The meat from a food animal belonging to a household and slaughtered for one’s family consumption may be permissible without inspection and certification provided it is not sold or gifted to others.

Prohibition on slaughter of animals and sale of meat

- 129. Pursuant to section 16.5 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall prohibit the slaughter of animals, import of meat and sale of meat on the auspicious days of 8th, 15th and 30th; on the 4th day of the 6th month (first sermon of Lord Buddha), 22nd day of the 9th month (on the descending day of the Lord Buddha) and during the whole of 1st and 4th months of the Bhutanese calendar.
- 130. Meat shops throughout the country shall remain closed on the auspicious days and months specified in section 129 of this Rules.
- 131. An individual or farmer shall not be allowed to slaughter, sell, import and export meat throughout the country on the auspicious days or months specified in the section 129 of this Rules.

Medical certificates

- 132. An employee working in an abattoir, livestock product processing plant, and livestock product retail shops shall undergo medical examination as a requirement prescribed by Ministry of Health which shall be renewed every after six months, or as and when deemed necessary by the Regulatory Authority.
- 133. The management or owner of the establishment shall take care to ensure that any person, known or suspected to be suffering from any of the conditions [such as Hepatitis A (jaundice), diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, sore throat with fever, visibly infected skin lesions (boils, cuts, etc.), discharge from ear, eye, and nose and any other infectious diseases] shall not be permitted to work in any meat handling area in any capacity in which there is likelihood of such person directly or indirectly contaminating meat with pathogenic micro-organisms.

134. An employee with any health problems as outlined in section 133 of this Rules shall immediately report to the management or the owner about the illness and subsequently notify the Regulatory Authority. An employee shall resume regular duties only after being certified free from that particular disease by a government medical doctor.
135. An employee who has a minor cut or wound while handling the meat should not continue to handle meat or meat contact surfaces until the injury is completely protected by a water proof covering which is firmly secured, and which is conspicuous in color. Adequate first-aid facilities should be provided for this purpose by the employer.

Fees

136. Ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection fee for slaughter of animals and poultry shall be subject to a fee as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.
137. Registration of various categories of abattoirs shall be subject to a fee as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.
138. An equivalent amount shall be charged as annual registration renewal fee for all categories of slaughter houses.

CHAPTER VIII ZONOOSES MANAGEMENT

Designation and control of zoonotic diseases

139. Pursuant to section 20.1 of the Act, any person having suspicion that an animal or carcass is infected with rabies or any other zoonotic diseases shall report to the nearest office of the Technical Department or the Regulatory Authority.
140. As per section 20 of the Act, any outbreak or suspected outbreak of zoonotic diseases shall be subject to official control measures following the relevant procedures as specified in the disease prevention and control plan for the specific diseases.
141. In accordance with sections 20.2 and 20.4 of the Act, for the purpose of vaccination of livestock and pet animals, the Ministry herein designates diseases specified in Annexure III as zoonotic disease which may be amended from time to time by the Ministry.
142. Prevention and control of zoonotic diseases shall be dealt as per disease prevention and control plans for the specific diseases developed by the Technical Department.

Registration and vaccination of pet animals

143. Pursuant to section 20.2 of the Act, the following rules shall apply for the management of pet animals to control the spread or outbreak of zoonotic diseases:
 - (1) The livestock office in the area shall maintain a registry for registration of pet animals with all the required details. The registration shall ensure that adequate records of pets are maintained with proper identification system. The owner of the pet shall renew the registration of pet animals on an annual basis before the expiry of the registration;
 - (2) The livestock office shall assign unique registration number and issue pet health card for every pet animal with proper identification and photo of the pet;
 - (3) Every pet animal shall be registered by the age of one month or within one month of owning the pet animal;
 - (4) The owner of pet animal shall be responsible to register their pet animals with the livestock office and ensure timely vaccination, deworming and care of the pet animal; and
 - (5) The Local Authority shall ensure to register all pet animals kept within the limits of its administrative jurisdiction.
144. Pet owners shall keep their pets within their compounds and if taken to public places they shall be properly secured to avoid any harm to the public and environment at all times.

145. A pet not meant for breeding purpose shall be neutered and those meant for breeding purpose shall be registered accordingly. The owner shall be liable to take care of all progenies produced through breeding.
146. A pet animal not registered as per the provisions of this Rules shall be considered as stray animal and will be subjected to control measures prescribed by the Ministry and Local Authority.

Registration of animal shelters

147. An animal shelter shall be registered with the Local Authority based on the technical requirements prescribed in the “National Dog Population Management Guidelines” and other relevant guidelines developed by the Technical Department.

Rabies vaccination

148. Pursuant to section 20.2 of the Act, all pets and stray dogs shall be vaccinated as per “National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan 2016” developed by the Technical Department.
149. Pet owners shall ensure vaccination of their dogs and cats at the age of one month and within one month of the possession of the animal as pets.
150. High-risk occupational groups such as veterinarians, para-veterinarians and technicians, dog handlers or catchers, and animal attendants shall be immunized regularly against rabies.
151. Pursuant to section 20.5 of the Act, any person bitten by a suspected or infected rabid dog and cat or any other animal shall immediately report to the nearest human health facility for medical intervention and post exposure prophylaxis.
152. Pursuant to section 20.4 of the Act, vaccination of the livestock breeding stock shall be done as prescribed in “National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan – 2016”.
153. Pursuant to sections 20.2 and 20.4 of the Act, pets and valuable livestock exposed to rabies infection shall be managed and provided with post exposure prophylaxis as prescribed in “National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan – 2016”.
154. The mass vaccination of stray dogs and cats in rabies endemic area shall be done by the Local Authority by seeking assistance from the Technical Department, civil society organizations, local communities and other relevant stakeholders following the procedures prescribed in “National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan”.
155. Pursuant to section 18 of the Act, veterinary drugs and biological and therapeutic substances shall be dealt in accordance with the Medicines Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2003.

Destruction of animals with proven threat to human health

156. Pursuant to section 20.3 of the Act, any animal with a proven threat to public health shall be destroyed and disposed off safely following the procedures prescribed by the Ministry. Prohibition on slaughter of animals specified in section 16.5 of the Act and section 129 of this Rules shall not apply in case of destruction of animals with proven threat to human health.
157. If an animal or bird is suffering from or harboring zoonotic diseases like rabies and bird flu which pose imminent threat to public health, such animal shall be euthanized or destroyed humanely and disposed off safely following the procedures prescribed in disease prevention and control plan for the specific diseases.

Control of zoonotic diseases

158. The concerned Livestock Office shall ensure vaccination of all animals and birds against zoonotic diseases as per national vaccination schedule and specific disease prevention and control plan developed by the Technical Department.
159. Pursuant to section 21.1 of the Act, carcass or a part thereof of animals died of suspected or confirmed zoonotic diseases shall not be certified for human consumption and meat from such animals shall not be allowed for consumption, sell and to give free of cost to other persons. The Local Authority concerned shall dispose off the dead animals found in any public place under the supervision of the Regulatory Authority.
160. Animal owners shall report all cases of sudden deaths or deaths due to suspected zoonotic diseases of animals to the nearest livestock office and the Regulatory Authority. The concerned livestock office shall submit flash report and periodic reports to the Technical Department.
161. An individual or agency shall not sell, consume or give free of cost to other persons the livestock products from sick animals that are suspected or confirmed zoonotic or notifiable diseases.

Dog and cat population management

162. It shall be the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure that effective measures are taken to prevent the uncontrolled increase in the dog and cat population within its area following the procedures prescribed in “National Dog Population Management Guideline - 2017”. The local authority may obtain the assistance of the Technical Department, civil society organization or animal welfare organizations and local communities while carrying out animal birth control programme.
163. Pet owners shall present their pets that are not registered for breeding purpose to the nearest livestock centers between the ages of two to four months for sterilization. Further, dog owners should hand over the unwanted puppies to the Local Authority and should not release in the street.

164. The Local Authority shall take adequate measures to capture and detain stray dogs in a humane manner in collaboration with the Ministry to effectively manage the stray dog population.
165. It shall be the responsibility of the Local Authority to ensure the provision of facilities for the detention of seized stray dogs. A seized dog may be impounded in the designated dog shelter in the locality.
166. Where a pet is impounded by the Local Authority, the pet owner shall claim the pet from the Local Authority within a week. The pet shall be released to the owner or duly authorized claimant on payment of charges for the seizure and detention of the pet. Proof of registration and vaccination certificate of the pet shall be produced by the owner during the claim. If the pet is not registered, it shall be registered on payment of the stipulated fee before being released. If the owner does not claim the pet within one week it shall become the property of the Local Authority which will then be auctioned to the public or destroyed humanely as prescribed by the Technical Department.
167. All neutered dogs shall be properly identified using either neck collar or ear notching. Every pet dog shall carry a registration number or unique identification number through microchip, ear tattoo or by other means to trace its owner in the event if it is lost.
168. Translocation of stray dogs and animals from one place to another shall be prohibited.

Wild life rabies control

169. It is the duty of every citizen to report death of wild carnivores in the locality to the local authority, livestock office and wildlife authority.
170. The local authority or livestock office shall collect relevant samples to investigate the disease.
171. In case rabies is confirmed in wildlife, appropriate control measures shall be implemented by the wildlife authority in collaboration with Technical Department and Regulatory Authority following the procedures prescribed by the Ministry.

Fees

172. The Local Authority or livestock office shall charge a reasonable annual registration fee for each pet animal and establishment as prescribed in the schedule of fees in Annexure I which may be amended by the Ministry as and when deemed necessary.

CHAPTER IX WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Minimum standard for animal welfare

173. Pursuant to section 22.1 of the Act, management and care of animals shall be implemented as per the “Standard for Animal Welfare in Bhutan” prescribed by the Ministry.
174. Pursuant to sections 22.2 and 22.4 of the Act, an owner or individual keeping the animal shall pay due attention to health and welfare as follows:
- (1) the owner or caretaker should provide animal with sufficient food, water and appropriate shelter;
 - (2) the owner should provide prompt treatment for any sick and injured animals and provide vaccination and deworming as prescribed by the Technical Department;
 - (3) the owner or a person responsible should not keep or confine any animal in any cage or other receptacle which does not measure sufficiently in height, length and breadth to permit the animal a reasonable opportunity for movement;
 - (4) any surgical husbandry practices such as debeaking, dubbing, sterilization dehorning, docking, teeth clipping, animal identification procedures, toe, hoof, or nail trimming, shearing, ear cropping, etc. should be performed only by skilled and competent veterinarian and para-veterinarian; and
 - (5) injury and stress to the animals should be avoided during handling and inspection of animals.
175. Pursuant to section 22.3 of the Act, an individual shall not subject an animal to unnecessary suffering or injury as follows:
- (1) the owner should not beat, kick, over-ride, over-drive, over-load, torture or otherwise treat any animal so as to subject it to unnecessary pain or suffering;
 - (2) the animal with wound, sore or any disease condition should not be employed in any work;
 - (3) the owner or an individual should not willfully and unreasonably administer any injurious drug or substance to any animal;
 - (4) the owner should not keep for an unreasonable time, any animal chained or tethered upon an unreasonably short or heavy chain or cord;
 - (5) the owner should not abandon an animal in any circumstance, which is likely to suffer pain by reason of starvation, thirst or willfully permit an animal to go at large in any street and should not let an animal with contagious or infectious disease or disabled animal to die in the street;

- (6) the owner should not put an animal for sale, if it is suffering from pain by reason of mutilation, starvation, thirst, overcrowding or other ill treatment;
 - (7) a person should not mutilate or kill an animal by in-humane method;
 - (8) A person should not confine an animal including tying of an animal as bait, so as to make it an object or prey for another animal;
 - (9) A person shall avoid any form of bestiality with an animal.
176. Pursuant to section 22.2 of the Act, an individual shall during the movement, transport, loading and unloading of animals follow the procedure prescribed as follows:
- (1) handle animals in such a manner as to avoid stress and exhaustion;
 - (2) provide adequate food, water and rest;
 - (3) the vehicle used shall provide sufficient accommodation and space for animals and be constructed in such a way as to prevent injury;
 - (4) ensure that the ventilation in the vehicle is adequate;
 - (5) animals of different species must be physically separated;
 - (6) animals of the same species likely to cause injury to one another shall be physically separated;
 - (7) where a vehicle has more than one deck, animals conveyed on the lower deck must be protected by an impervious floor to the deck above;
 - (8) they shall be loaded and unloaded carefully to avoid injury and stress; and
 - (9) vehicles used for the transport shall be cleansed and disinfected before loading and after unloading of animals; and
 - (10) pregnant animals during the last 10% of gestation period shall not be allowed for transport.
177. Pursuant to section 22.3 of the Act, an individual or meat processing plant shall ensure that animals slaughtered for meat purpose, or for disease control purpose, shall not be subjected to un-necessary pain and suffering, by following the procedures prescribed hereunder:
- (1) animals meant for slaughter should be cared and managed in accordance with sections 173 to 175 of this Rules;
 - (2) slaughter of animals shall be done humanely by stunning the animals using appropriate method prior to slaughter;

- (3) animals awaiting slaughter should not see other animals being slaughtered;
 - (4) pregnant animals shall not be slaughtered for meat purpose; and
 - (5) slaughtering of animals for disease control purpose shall be done following the procedures prescribed in specific disease control plans.
178. Severely injured and terminally sick animals shall be euthanised as per the procedures prescribed by the Ministry.
179. Pursuant to section 22.1 of the Act, the practice of *Tshethar* shall be strictly carried out as per the “Guidelines for *Tshethar* Practices” and “Standard for Animal Welfare for Bhutan” prescribed by the Ministry and shall comply with sections 173 to 175 of this Rules.

Inspection and treatment of animals

180. In accordance with section 23.1 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall ensure that general health condition and welfare of animals are taken care of by the owner or the management at required intervals to avoid unnecessary suffering.
181. Pursuant to section 23.2 of the Act, an Inspector shall stop, inspect and detain any vehicle carrying the animals, and enter any farm, house or premises to inspect livestock and pet animals, to ensure that the animal welfare standards are met.

CHAPTER X OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Inspectors

182. Pursuant to section 24 of the Act, inspectors and officials responsible for implementation of the Act and this Rules shall be subordinate to the Regulatory Authority, Technical Department or any other agencies of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and the Local Authority as may be notified from time to time.
183. In all cases of infraction, the Inspector shall serve a reasonable notice for rectification before imposition of fines unless circumstances demand for direct imposition of fines and penalty.

Obstruction of justice

184. Pursuant to section 27 of the Act, a person:
- (1) who resists, assaults, obstructs or falsely accuses an inspector of wrongdoing while in the course of his duty shall be guilty of obstruction of lawful authority and penalized as per the Penal Code of Bhutan;
 - (2) who knowingly makes a false or incorrect statement to an inspector, or refuses to give information which he is required to do so under the Act and this Rules shall be fined Nu.5000/- (Ngultrum five thousand); or
 - (3) who refuses to produce for inspection an animal, poultry, fish, animal product, poultry product, food, feed, veterinary product or other thing for which a permit or license is required under the Act and this Rules shall be liable for a fine of Nu.1000/- (Ngultrum one thousand).

Cancellation or suspension of permits/license

185. Pursuant to section 31 of the Act, if a license holder is charged with an offence under the Act or this Rules, the license may be suspended for the appeal period. In the event of repeated offences and based on the gravity of the offence, the Regulatory Authority may revoke the permit or license to operate.

Penalties relating to breeding, artificial insemination and embryo transfer

186. An individual or agency establishing and running artificial insemination out-reach centre, semen and embryo production unit without a valid registration as required under sections 18 and 19 of this Rules, or running a designated farm without registration as required under sections 27 and 29 of this Rules is liable to a fine of Nu. 5000/- (Ngultrum five thousand) along with suspension of the operation of establishment until all requirements are met.

187. Any licensed establishment failing to meet the prescribed standards under sections 20 and 29 of this Rules shall be served a written warning for improvement in the first instance of non-compliance. Thereafter, the licensed establishment shall be fined an amount on Nu. 5000/- (Ngultrum five thousand) for a second non-compliance. For a third non-compliance, the licensed establishment shall be fined an amount of Nu. 5000/- (Ngultrum five thousand) and the operation shall be suspended until all requirements are met. During the period of suspension, sale of animal or animal products shall be restricted or banned till further notice by the Regulatory Authority.

Penalties relating to import of animals, semen and embryo

188. An individual or agency importing animal or animal products into the country without import permit as provided in section 33 of this Rules is liable for a fine, double the value of the consignment based on the existing market value of the consignment. Live animal shall be quarantined and if found to be free of diseases shall be auctioned and proceeds shall be deposited in the government revenue. The semen and embryos seized shall be disposed by autoclaving followed by deep burial or incineration. No compensation shall be paid for the seized consignment.

Penalties relating to quarantine, notifiable, and controlled disease

189. Import of animal without obtaining prior import permit from the Regulatory Authority is illegal and shall be seized and quarantined. If animals are found free from diseases, they shall be auctioned and proceeds shall be deposited in the government revenue. In case the animals are found to be diseased, they shall be either treated or humanely destroyed and disposed as per the disease prevention and control plan for specific disease.

190. Import of animal with import permit but without fulfilling any of the import requirements specified in the import permit, the animal shall be allowed entry subject to payment of non-compliance fine of Nu. 1000/- (Ngultrum one thousand) per consignment by the owner or importer. In addition, all animals shall be quarantined in the designated quarantine station for a specified duration and all quarantine measures specified under sections 58 to 60 shall be applied.

191. An illegally imported animal product and other risk goods (excluding live animals) shall be seized and disposed-off safely. No compensation shall be paid for the seized consignment.

192. In addition to the penalties imposed under sections 189 and 191 the illegal importer shall be liable for a fine equivalent to double the market value of the goods seized. If a person is repeatedly involved in illegal import of live animals, the person shall be liable for a fine equivalent to five times the market value of the animals imported.

193. In the event, no one claims ownership of the goods, the owner of the vehicle transporting illegally imported animal, their products or risk goods shall be detained along with the consignment and the owner of the vehicle shall be fined double the market value of the illegal goods seized. The vehicle shall be appropriately disinfected at the cost of the importer or vehicle owner before it is released.

194. A person who migrates or transports a live animal from one Dzongkhag to another without obtaining the in-country movement permit as provided in section 80(1) of this Rules is liable for a fine of Nu. 200/- (Ngultrum two hundred) per animal, and in case of birds Nu.100/- (Ngultrum one hundred) for up to every 50 live birds. The animal shall be allowed to move to their destination if the animals are healthy and are brought from disease free area and have record of vaccination for the notifiable diseases. In case the animals are not vaccinated, the owner should compulsorily vaccinate within one week of arrival of the animals at the destination. The animal shall be returned to its source in case they are brought from an area with a disease outbreak.
195. A person or agency violating section 78 of this Rules commits an offence and is liable for a fine of Nu. 5000 (Ngultrum five thousand). Similarly, a person or agency violating the ban on shows and sales of livestock, poultry, fish and their products as specified in section 79 of this Rules commits an offence and shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 10,000/- (Ngultrum ten thousand).

Penalties relating to inspection and certification

196. Subject to sections 87 and 92 of this Rules, a person or agency shall be liable for a fine equivalent to three time the market value of the incriminating commodity and the food and feed shall be seized and destroyed without compensation, if a person or agency manufactures, prepares, or sells animal product or animal feed that:
- (1) has any substance which is poisonous, harmful or injurious to animal and human health and life;
 - (2) consists in whole or in part, any diseased substance or foreign matter or is otherwise unfit for human or animal consumption;
 - (3) is the product of a diseased animal or animal which has died of other than by intentional slaughter; or
 - (4) is adulterated.
197. In the case of repetition of the offence under section 196 of this Rules, the person or agency shall be liable for a fine which is five times the existing market value in addition to seizure and disposal of food and feed involved

Penalties relating to export of animals, genetic materials, and animal products

198. An individual or agency exporting protected or restricted species of animals, genetic materials or products originating from such animal without prior approval from the Regulatory Authority as required under section 102 of this Rules, shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 50,000/- (Ngultrum fifty thousand) or double the market value of the commodity whichever is higher. The Regulatory Authority shall seize all commodities without payment of compensation.

199. In the event a person or agency who received export certificate issued under section 104 violates conditions specified in the export certificate, the Regulatory Authority shall revoke the export certificate and seize the consignment which shall be auctioned and proceeds from it shall be deposited in the government revenue. In addition, the person or company or the agency involved shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 10,000/- (Ngultrums ten thousand).

Penalties relating to fresh meat hygiene and inspection

200. An individual not complying with section 126 of this Rules shall be guilty of falsification of meat and shall be liable for a fine, double the market value of meat sold or brought for sale. The seized items shall be disposed off safely without compensation.

201. An individual operating a meat shop without registration with the Regulatory Authority as required under section 123 of this Rules shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 5,000/- (Ngultrum five thousand).

202. A meat shop not complying with the provisions prescribed in "Minimum Standards for Meat Retailing and Transportation" prescribed by the Ministry shall be liable for a fine as under:

- (1) First violation - Nu.1000/- (Ngultrum one thousand);
- (2) Second violation - Nu.3000/- (Ngultrum three thousand); and
- (3) Third violation shall lead to a fine of Nu. 5000/- (Ngultrum five thousand) and suspension of meat shop operation till all the requirements are fulfilled.

203. Category 'A' abattoir not complying with the requirements laid down in section 127(1) relating to "Standards for Construction and Operation of Category 'A' Abattoir" commits an offence and the concerned individual shall be liable for fine of Nu. 15,000/- (Ngultrum fifteen thousand) and operation of the establishment shall be suspended till the necessary requirements are met.

204. Category 'B' abattoir not complying with the requirements laid down in section 127(2) relating to "Standards for Construction and Operation of Category B Abattoir" commits an offence and the concerned individual shall be liable for fine of Nu. 5000/- (Ngultrum five thousand) and operation of the establishment shall be suspended till the necessary requirements are met.

205. Category 'C' abattoir not complying with the requirements laid down in section 127(3) relating to "Standards for Construction and Operation of Category C Abattoir" commits an offence and the concerned individual shall be liable for fine of Nu. 1000/- (Ngultrum one thousand) and operation of the establishment shall be suspended till the necessary requirements are met.

206. An individual or agency violating any of the provision under sections 129 to 131 of this Rules shall be liable to a fine double the market value of the animal slaughtered, meat imported or brought for sale or sold, animal imported or transported for immediate slaughter within the ban period. Live animals shall be seized, quarantined and if found

free from diseases shall be auctioned without compensation. The proceeds shall be deposited in the government revenue. In the case of meat, it shall be seized and disposed off safely without payment of compensation.

207. An individual who sells meat not inspected and certified by the Inspector or authorized livestock official as required under section 122 shall be liable for a fine equivalent to double the existing market value of meat brought for sale or sold. The meat shall be seized and disposed off safely without payment of compensation.
208. The owner of an abattoir, processing plant, or retail outlet violating the provisions outlined under sections 132 to 135 of this Rules shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 500/- (Ngultrum five hundred) per person and suspend the worker until he produces a valid medical certificate.

Penalties for violation of zoonoses management

209. If the Local Authority detects that an owner of the establishment (animal shelter, pet shop and breeding kennel or cattery) does not possess a valid registration certificate as provided in section 147 of this Rules, the Local Authority shall issue a formal notice requiring the owner or custodian to register the establishment within one month. If the owner or custodian of the establishment does not comply, the authorized officer shall impose a fine of Nu. 5000/- (Ngultrum five thousand) per establishment.
210. If the Local Authority detects that an owner or a custodian of a pet animal does not possess a valid pet health card or registration card as provided in section 143 of this Rules, the Local Authority shall issue a formal notice requiring the owner or custodian to register the dog within one month. If the owner or custodian of pet animal does not comply, the authorized officer shall impose a fine of Nu.500/- (Ngultrum five hundred) per pet.
211. If an owner or a custodian of a dog willfully releases the dog suspected of having or having contracted a zoonotic disease into the community, thereby, resulting in a threat to the public, the authorized officer of the Local Authority shall impose a fine up to Nu.5000/- (Ngultrum five thousand).
212. A person who knowingly translocates dogs from one area to another prohibited under section 168 of this Rules shall be liable for a fine up to Nu. 10,000/- (Ngultrum ten thousand).
213. If an owner of a pet animal refuses to vaccinate his or her pet animal and as a result, leads to transmission of the disease to other livestock or animals, resulting in sickness or death, the owner shall be liable to pay either the whole treatment cost and money equivalent to production losses suffered, or the market value of the livestock or animal lost through deaths.
214. If an owner of a pet animal fails or refuses to vaccinate against rabies, and as a result, leads to the transmission of disease to humans, resulting in injury or sickness, the owner shall be liable for payment of full treatment cost related to the injury or sickness, and a

monetary value equivalent to the number of labor days lost due to absence from work (which shall be calculated on the basis of his/her daily wage).

215. If an owner of the pet animal fails or refuses to restrain the pet within their private compound or dog shelter and let loose in public places, the owner shall be liable for a fine of Nu.200/- (Ngultrum two hundred) per animal per day.
216. If an owner fails to secure the pet while being taken to public places, the owner shall be liable for a fine of Nu. 100/- (ngultrum five hundred) per animal.

Penalty for violation of provisions relating to welfare of animals

217. Pursuant to section 23.3 of the Act, an individual, owner or the custodian of the animal failing to comply with the prescribed animal welfare standards specified for rearing, handling and care of animals or causing any un-necessary sufferings to animals as provided in sections 173-177, shall be liable for the penalties as given below;

- (1) if an owner or custodian of the animal fails to comply with the prescribed animal welfare standards for rearing (feeding, watering and sheltering), handling and transport of animals, the Regulatory Authority shall issue a formal notice requiring the owner or custodian of the animal to improve the welfare standard of the animal within one week, failing which, the authorized officer shall impose a fine of Nu. 500/- (Ngultrum five hundred) per animal or for up to every 50 birds.
- (2) if an owner or individual is found inflicting harm, injury or unnecessary suffering to an animal, the Regulatory Authority shall immediately stop the act of cruelty to the animals and impose a fine of Nu. 500/- (Ngultrum five hundred) per animal or up to every 50 birds. Depending on the severity of the injury and nature of sufferings to the animal, the Regulatory Authority shall refer the case to the nearest animal health facility for treatment. The owner or the custodian of the animal shall bear the costs associated with the treatment and care of affected animals.

CHAPETR XI MISCELLANEOUS

Amendment

218. Pursuant to section 36.1 of the Act, the Ministry may amend this Rules as and when deemed necessary.

Powers of the Ministry

219. Pursuant to section 36.2 of the Act, the Ministry hereby empowers the Regulatory Authority in particular and any other agency designated in this Rules to exercise the functions and authority specified under this Rules for effective implementation of the Act.
220. Pursuant to section 36.3 of the Act, the Ministry shall through its agencies enforce the requirements and conditions in any certificate, permits and license referred to in this Rules. The standards and guidelines prescribed under this Rules shall be developed by the Technical Department and the Regulatory Authority as deemed necessary and approved by the Ministry.
221. Pursuant to section 36.4 of the Act, the Ministry through the Regulatory Authority or any other designated agency shall collect the fees due to the Royal Government under the provisions of the Act and this Rules subject to issuance of official money receipt.
222. Pursuant to section 36.7 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall examine all export consignments and levy fees for the service provided.
223. In accordance with section 36.8 of the Act, the Regulatory Authority shall examine requests for certification by importers and may issue certificates if the standards and procedures prescribed are fulfilled or complied with.

Rule of construction

224. In this Rules, unless the context indicates otherwise, the singular shall include the plural and the masculine shall include feminine.

Definition

225. In addition to the definitions under section 3 of the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001, for the purpose of this Rules, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed to them in this section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Abattoir” means any slaughterhouse approved and registered with the regulatory authority as provided in this Rules;

“Act” means the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001;

“Animal birth control” means any scientifically proven method used to prevent the uncontrolled increase in the number of animals;

“Animal shelter” means an area or premise where an animal is kept by the Local Authority or a premise where an animal is kept by an individual or agency for commercial purpose or humanitarian reasons;

“Bird” means any avian species including poultry and wild birds;

“Cleansing” means the removal of objectionable matter;

“Certification” means the process of providing someone or something with an official document attesting to a status or level of achievement;

“Contamination” means the introduction or presence of objectionable matters in food or food premises;

“Designated Farm” means a farm established by the Government or a private individual for the genetic improvement, conservation of livestock, or for commercial purpose;

“Diseased” means infected or affected with or by disease, or affected with any defect, inferiority, or abnormal condition, which results in the carcass or offal unfit for human consumption;

“Disinfection” means the application of disinfectant on any risk goods, establishment or facility related to animal and animal products, with the intention of eliminating micro-organisms;

“Dzongkhag Livestock Office” means the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector responsible for overall management of livestock development services synonymous to District Animal Husbandry Officer as specified in Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001;

“Establishment” means a premise approved and registered with relevant Government Authority in which livestock is kept, and livestock product is prepared, processed, handled, packed or stored;

“Euthanasia” means painless and humane killing of animals to avoid suffering from incurable diseases or animal possessing threat to human health and other animals;

“Falsification” means intentional declaration of false animal products for commercial gain;

“Food animal” means large and small ruminants (Cattle, Mithun, Yak, Buffaloes, Sheep, and Goats), Pigs, Poultry, Fishes including Crustaceans and molluscs, and game animals;

“Fresh meat” means meat which has not yet been treated in any way to ensure its preservation, except that it has been subjected to refrigeration;

“Ingredient” means any substance including food additives used in the manufacture or preparation of livestock product;

“Local Authority” means Gewog, Dungkhag, Thromde and Dzongkhag Administration

“Meat” means edible carcass of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, yaks, poultry or carcass of other animals accepted by the people for consumption;

“Meat product” means food prepared from meat or food of which meat is an ingredient;

“Notifiable disease” means a disease listed by veterinary authority, and that, as soon as detected or suspected should be reported to government authorities, in accordance to this rules;

“Pest” means any unwanted organism that may cause injury or harm to animal or human health and life or to environment in Bhutan;

“Pet animal” means an animal kept for companionship under the ownership of a person;

“Processing” means any activity that pertains to the preparation of livestock products such as meat, milk and milk products, fish, eggs, honey and other value added livestock products;

“Quarantine” means confinement of animals or animal products that may be harbouring pests or diseases for a specified period under observation by the Regulatory Authority;

Regulatory Authority” means the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority or any other agency identified by the Ministry;

“Risk goods” means any organism, organic material or other harmful material which are reasonable to suspect and likely to cause harm to animal, human and environment;

“Rules” shall mean the Livestock Rules and Regulations of Bhutan 2017;

“Stray animal” means an animal wandering at large and not being under the control or charge of any person;

“Translocation” means deliberate movement of stray dogs or stray animals from one place to another to address and reduce the nuisance caused by these animals in their place of origin;

“Technical Department” means the Department of Livestock or any other agency identified by the Ministry;

“Tshethar” means a religious practice in Buddhism where an animal is rescued and let free from the point of slaughter;

“Unfit for human consumption” refers to livestock products which are unsafe, unwholesome by reason of disease, defect, inferiority, abnormal condition, putrefaction, exposure to contamination by dust, flies, insects, vermin, insecticides or by any other means;

“Wild carnivores” means wild dog, jackal, wolves, foxes and other canids which are potential reservoir of rabies and other diseases.

Made this 22 day of May 2017



(Signature)
Minister

Ministry of Agriculture & Forests
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu : Bhutan

ANNEXURE – I: SCHEDULE OF FEES

SL. NO.	TYPE OF FEE	AMOUNT
1	CHAPTER II: BREEDING, ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION AND EMBRYO TRANSFER	
1.1	Registration fee for designated commercial farms (<i>section 31</i>)	Nu. 1000/-
1.2	Annual renewal fee for designated commercial farms (<i>section 31</i>)	Nu. 500/-
2	CHAPTER III: IMPORT OF ANIMALS, SEMEN AND EMBRYO	
2.1	Import permit fee for animal and animal products imported for commercial purpose (<i>section 45</i>)	Nu. 300/-
2.2	Import permit fee for animal and animal products imported by government agency and institutions (<i>section 46</i>)	Nu. 300/-
2.3	Import permit fee for animal and animal products imported for personal purpose (<i>section 47</i>)	Nu. 100/-
3	CHAPTER IV: QUARANTINE, NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND CONTROLLED DISEASES	
3.1	Quarantine accommodation fees for animals, poultry and other birds (<i>section 69</i>)	
	Large ruminant	Nu. 200/- per animal
	Small ruminant	Nu. 100/- per animal
	Equine	Nu. 200/- per animal
	Swine	Nu. 100/- per animal
	Dog and cat	Nu. 500/- per animal
	Other pets	Nu. 300/- per animal
	Calf	Nu. 100/- per animal
	Upto 100 poultry and other birds	Nu. 100/-
	Additional fee for every 100 poultry and other birds thereon	Nu. 50/-
3.2	In-country Movement Permit fee (<i>section 82</i>)	Nu. 20/-
4	CHAPTER VI: EXPORT OF ANIMALS, GENETIC MATERIALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS	
4.1	Export certification/Health certification for commercial purposes (<i>section 106</i>)	Nu. 300/-
4.2	Export certification/Health certification for personal purposes (<i>section 106</i>)	Nu. 100/-
5	CHAPTER VII: FRESH MEAT HYGIENE AND INSPECTION	
5.1	Inspection fee for slaughter of animals and poultry (<i>section 136</i>)	
	Ante-mortem and post mortem inspection for large animal	Nu. 50/-
	Ante-mortem and post mortem inspection for small animal	Nu. 20/-
	Ante-mortem and post mortem inspection – Upto 100 birds	Nu. 0.50/ per bird
	Ante-mortem and post mortem inspection – 101 to 1000 birds	Nu. 100/-
	Ante-mortem and post mortem inspection – More than 1000 birds	Nu. 500/-
5.2	Registration/Renewal fee for abattoirs (<i>sections 137 and 138</i>)	
	Category A	Nu. 1000/-
	Category B	Nu. 500/-
	Category C	Nu. 250/-
6	CHAPTER VIII: ZONOSSES MANAGEMENT	
6.1	Registration fee for pet animal and establishment (<i>section 172</i>)	
	Urban area	Nu. 100/-
	Rural area	Nu. 50/-
	Animal shelter	Nu. 500/-
	Pet shop	Nu. 1000/-
	Breeding kennel or cattery	Nu. 2000/-

ANNEXURE – II: NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Species of animal susceptible
1. Anthrax	Bovine, Ovine, Caprine, Equine, Porcine
2. Avian Influenza	Avian and canines
3. Avian Leucosis Complex	Avian
4. Black Quarter	Bovine
5. Brucellosis	Bovine, Porcine, Caprine, Ovine
6. Classical Swine Fever	Porcine
7. Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia	Caprine
8. Equine Influenza	Equine
9. Foot and Mouth disease:	Bovine, Ovine, Caprine, Porcine and Susceptible wild animals
10. Glanders	Equine
11. Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	Bovine
12. Infectious Bursal Disease	Avian
13. Mareks Disease	Avian
14. Newcastle disease	Avian
15. Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)	Caprine, Ovine
16. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)	Porcine
17. Rabies	All warm blooded animal species
18. Strangles	Horse

ANNEXURE – III: LISTS OF ZOO NOTIC DISEASES

1. Anthrax
2. Brucellosis
3. Camphylobacteriosis

4. Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)
5. Colibacillosis (*E. coli*)
6. Cysticercosis
7. Dermatomycosis
8. Ehrlichiosis
9. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
10. Hydatidosis
11. Leptospirosis
12. Leishmaniasis
13. Listeriosis
14. Rabies
15. Salmonellosis
16. Trichinellosis
17. Tuberculosis
18. Toxoplasmosis
19. Toxocariasis