



Veterinary Ireland Media Release (Thursday 6th March 2014) Vets Welcome Commencement of Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013

Veterinary Ireland, the representative body for vets, has today welcomed the commencement of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney T.D.

Remarking on the commencement of the Act, Dr Vivienne Duggan, President, Veterinary Ireland, stated that *“the 6th March 2014 will be noted as a great day for animal welfare in Ireland. The Animal Health and Welfare Act is going to make a significant difference to the health and welfare of all animals under the care of veterinary practitioners, not only for the animals themselves, but also for all of those citizens with an interest in owning, keeping and protecting the wellbeing of animals in Ireland”*.

The Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 is a major piece of National legislation which replaces a plethora of Acts relating to animal health and welfare, some dating back over a century. Two of the major pieces of legislation being replaced by the 2013 Act are the Diseases of Animals Act 1966 and the Protection of Animals Acts 1911 and 1965. Importantly, the Act unites all animal welfare policy under the auspices of the Minister for Agriculture, not just that relating to farm animals, as has often been the assumption previously.

“This Act gives Ireland one of the most modern legislative frameworks for animal health and welfare in the world, one that I have no doubt other countries will aspire to”, stated Dr Duggan. *“This Act will support all of our aspirations for the highest standards of animal health and welfare in Ireland”*.

“Veterinary Ireland congratulates the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, T.D. and his officials for the excellent work in bringing such a detailed, comprehensive and considered piece of legislation to fruition. I would especially applaud the Minister and his legislators for the inclusive way the work in formulating the legislation was undertaken with the extensive involvement of animal health and welfare stakeholders, such as Veterinary Ireland”, concluded the Veterinary Ireland President.

Veterinary Ireland is the representative body for veterinary practitioners in all aspects of Irish Veterinary Practice.

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