STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1977 No. 1993

ANIMALS
DESTRUCTIVE ANIMALS

The Coypus (Keeping) Order 1977

Made - - - -	*26th October* 1977
Laid before Parliament	*3rd November* 1977
Coming into Operation	*1st January* 1978

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Wales, being satisfied with respect to the non-indigenous animals which are the subject of this order that by reason of their destructive habits it is desirable to control the keeping of them and to destroy any which may be at large, in exercise of powers conferred by section 10(1) of the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932(**a**) and now vested in them jointly(**b**) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, acting jointly, hereby make the following order:—

Citation, commencement and duration

1. This order, which may be cited as the Coypus (Keeping) Order 1977, shall come into operation on 1st January 1978 and shall cease to have effect after 31st December 1982.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this order, unless the context otherwise requires—

"coypu" means the animal of the species *Myocastor coypus*.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(**c**) shall apply to the interpretation of this order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(3) When this order ceases to have effect as aforesaid section 38(2) of the Interpretation Act 1889 shall apply as if this order were an enactment repealed by another Act of Parliament.

Keeping of coypus

3. The keeping within Great Britain of any coypu, except under a licence granted under the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932, is prohibited.

(**a**) 1932 c. 12.

(**b**) In the case of the Secretary of State for Wales by virtue of Article 3(1) of, and paragraph 5(a) of Schedule 2 to, the Transfer of Functions (Wales) Order 1969 (S.I. 1969/388 (1969 I, p. 1070)).

(**c**) 1889 c. 63.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 20th October 1977.

(L.S.)

John Silkin,

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Bruce Millan,

Secretary of State for Scotland.

21st October 1977.

John Morris,

Secretary of State for Wales.

26th October 1977.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order continues the control over the keeping of coypus within Great Britain. Coming into operation on 1st January 1978, it re-enacts a provision contained in the Coypus (Keeping) Order 1972 (S.I. 1972/1785), which expires on 31st December 1977, prohibiting the keeping of coypus within Great Britain except under licence. In consequence of the making of this Order the provisions of the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932 will continue to apply to coypus. Those provisions include a requirement that occupiers of land who know that coypus, not being coypus kept under licence, are to be found there shall give notice of the fact to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the case of land in England or Wales or to the Secretary of State for Scotland in the case of land in Scotland.

As required by the proviso to section 10(1) of the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932 this Order was approved by a resolution of the House of Lords on 1st December 1977 and by a resolution of the House of Commons on 24th November 1977.

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