STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1962 No. 1922

ANIMALS

DESTRUCTIVE ANIMALS

The Coypus (Keeping) Regulations 1962

Made - - - -	*29th August* 1962
Coming into Operation	*1st January* 1963

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretary of State for Scotland in exercise of the power vested in them by section 2 of the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932(a) and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, acting jointly, with the approval of the Treasury, hereby make the following Regulations:—

Citation, Commencement and Duration

1. These Regulations which may be cited as the Coypus (Keeping) Regulations 1962 shall come into operation on the 1st January 1963 and shall cease to have effect on the 31st December 1967.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations "coypu" means the animal of the species designated *Myocastor coypus.*

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Manner of Keeping Coypus and Precautions against Escape

3.—(1) Any coypus which after 31st December 1962 are kept under a licence granted under the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932 shall, when not in the course of being transported from place to place, be confined in cages, pens, sties or other enclosures constructed in such manner and of such materials as to prevent any coypu from burrowing, gnawing, climbing or otherwise escaping. Such cages, pens, sties or other enclosures, or the perimeter of the area to which the coypus have access, shall be constructed in accordance with the following requirements:—

(*a*) Walls must be at least 3 feet 6 inches high above ground level and constructed of smooth finished brick, concrete or other solid and durable material. They must have a foundation below ground at least 18 inches in depth and, except where they are flush with a sound floor of concrete or similar material, must be turned inwards at the bottom at right angles for at least 12 inches.

(a) 22 & 23 Geo. 5. c. 12.

(b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(*b*) Guard fences or wire mesh must be at least 3 feet 6 inches high above ground level and a smooth-faced baffle at least 12 inches deep, of hard metal sheet or other suitable material, must be securely fixed along the inside of the top of the fence. The fence must be buried in the ground to a depth of at least 18 inches and turned inwards at the bottom at right angles for at least 12 inches.

(*c*) The wire of guard fences and of cages must be of at least 14½ gauge and of not more than 1 inch mesh.

(*d*) Gates or doors must be at least 3 feet 6 inches high and constructed of or covered with hard metal or other material giving adequate protection against the escape of coypus. There must be not more than a 1 inch gap between the bottom of the gate or door and the threshold. The threshold must be of hard metal, concrete or other solid and durable material constructed with a foundation below ground of at least 18 inches in depth and turned inwards at the bottom at right angles for at least 12 inches.

(*e*) Any timber used in the construction must be clad with hard metal or other material giving adequate protection against the escape of coypus.

(*f*) Floors of concrete or similar material must be at least 4 inches thick.

(*g*) Any buildings or parts of buildings in which coypus are kept in cages or other containers must as far as practicable be made proof against escapes.

(2) No coypus shall be transported from place to place except in closed cages or other containers constructed in such manner and of such materials as to prevent their escape.

(3) Steps shall be taken to destroy as far as practicable any rats on the premises of the licence holder in and adjoining any enclosure or building containing coypus. Rat holes or other holes through which coypus could escape from such premises shall be effectively blocked. Any drainage channels on such premises shall be adequately guarded to prevent coypus escaping.

(4) If any coypus shall escape, the licence holder shall forthwith notify the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland at the address given on the licence.

(5) In any particular case the requirements of the foregoing paragraphs may be modified, and further requirements imposed, by the aforesaid licence according to the nature and situation of the premises at which the coypus are to be kept and in respect of premises at which coypus are being kept on the date when these Regulations come into operation, according to any existing precautions to prevent the escape of coypus.

Licences

4.—(1) A licence under the Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932 authorising the keeping of coypus shall be in the form set out in the Schedule to these Regulations or in a form to the like effect and subject to the terms and conditions therein mentioned.

(2) On the granting of a licence (not being a special licence granted in accordance with section 8 of the Act) there shall be paid to the Minister of

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or to the Secretary of State for Scotland, as the case may be, a fee of £5.

In Witness whereof the official seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed this 23rd August 1962.

(L.S.) *John Winnifrith,*
Secretary.

Given under the seal of the Secretary of State for Scotland this 24th August 1962.

(L.S.) *M. Campbell,*
Secretary.

Approved this 29th August 1962.

John Peel,
John Hill,
Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

SCHEDULE

Form of Licence Authorising the Keeping of Coypus

Destructive Imported Animals Act 1932

The Coypus (Keeping) Regulations 1962

1. .....

of.....
(hereinafter called "the holder") is hereby authorised to keep coypus at

.....

2. This licence is granted subject to compliance by the holder with the requirements set out in Regulation 3 of the above-mentioned Regulations modified in the following respects

.....

.....

3. The holder shall inform persons to whom he disposes of coypus of their obligation to obtain a licence to keep them.

4. The holder shall notify the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, as appropriate, of any change in the occupancy of any premises at which coypus are kept under the authority of this licence and if coypus cease to be kept at any such premises.

5. Within seven days after the 31st December in each year the holder shall make a return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, as appropriate, stating the number of each gender of coypus kept and the address of the premises at which they were kept on the said 31st December under the authority of this licence.

6. This licence may be revoked if it is shown to the satisfaction of.....

.....

that the holder has failed to comply with any term of this licence or any of the said Regulations or has been convicted of an offence under the above-mentioned Act.

7. The holder shall at all reasonable times permit any person duly authorised in that behalf by,.....,
upon production of this authority if so required, to enter and inspect any land occupied by the holder at which he is entitled to keep coypus under the authority of this licence.

8. The holder shall comply with the following further requirements and conditions:

.....

.....

9. This licence, unless previously revoked, will expire on the.....196...

Dated this 196 .

for and on behalf of

Extract from the Coypus (Keeping) Regulations, 1962

"*Manner of Keeping Coypus and Precautions against Escape*

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(*a*) Walls must be at least 3 feet 6 inches high above ground level and constructed of smooth finished brick, concrete or other solid and durable material. They must have a foundation below ground at least 18 inches in depth and, except where they are flush with a sound floor of concrete or similar material, must be turned inwards at the bottom at right angles for at least 12 inches.

(*b*) Guard fences or wire mesh must be at least 3 feet 6 inches high above ground level and a smooth-faced baffle at least 12 inches deep, of hard metal sheet or other suitable material, must be securely fixed along the inside of the top of the fence. The fence must be buried in the ground to a depth of at least 18 inches and turned inwards at the bottom at right angles for at least 12 inches.

(*c*) The wire of guard fences and of cages must be of at least 14½ gauge and of not more than 1 inch mesh.

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(*e*) Any timber used in the construction must be clad with hard metal or other material giving adequate protection against the escape of coypus.

(*f*) Floors of concrete or similar material must be at least 4 inches thick.

(*g*) Any buildings or parts of buildings in which coypus are kept in cages or other containers must as far as practicable be made proof against escapes.

(2) No coypus shall be transported from place to place except in closed cages or other containers constructed in such manner and of such materials as to prevent their escape.

(3) Steps shall be taken to destroy as far as practicable any rats on the premises of the licence holder in and adjoining any enclosure or building containing coypus. Rat holes or other holes through which coypus could escape from such premises shall be effectively blocked. Any drainage channels on such premises shall be adequately guarded to prevent coypus escaping.

(4) If any coypus shall escape, the licence holder shall forthwith notify the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food or the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland at the address given on the licence.

(5) In any particular case the requirements of the foregoing paragraphs may be modified, and further requirements imposed, by the aforesaid licence according to the nature and situation of the premises at which the coypus are to be kept, and in respect of premises at which coypus are being kept on the date when these Regulations come into operation, according to any existing precautions to prevent the escape of coypus."

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations prescribe the manner in which coypus are to be kept in Great Britain and the precautions to be taken to prevent their escape. They also prescribe the form of licence to be granted to persons keeping coypus and the fee to be paid for such a licence.