

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS REGULATIONS (ANIMAL PROTECTION) (GEESE FORCE-FEEDING), 2001

By the power vested in me under Section 19 of the *Cruelty to Animals (Animal Protection) Law, 1994*, with the approval of the Education Committee of the Knesset, and taking into consideration the needs of Agriculture, I hereby enact the following Regulations:

1. Purpose:

The purpose of these Regulations is to prevent the suffering of geese while being force-fed and fattened in order to produce goose liver (fois gras), and to halt the further expansion of the goose liver production's sector in Israel; that, in the spirit of the recommendations of the permanent committee set up by the provisions of the *European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes* of the European Council.

2. Definitions:

In these Regulations -

"Force-feeding" - an imposed feeding of the goose during the process of fattening.

"Geese Fattening Farm" - a place where geese are being force-fed.

3. Operating a Force-feeding Farm:

No person shall operate a Geese Fattening Farm save in accordance with these Regulations that should apply to the holding where the said Geese Fattening Farm is located, and to its staff, as well as to the treatment of the geese and to their Force-feeding.

4. Employees in the Force-feeding Farm:

No person shall operate a Geese Fattening Farm unless he or she has employed a sufficient number of workers who are qualified in handling geese, and have the ability to assess their state of health and to understand variations in their behaviour.

5. The Process of Force-feeding:

The process of the Force-feeding shall be carried out in the following manner:

(1) The age and weight of the geese -

(a) No goose aged less than 8 weeks of age, and that weighs less than 3.6 kilograms shall enter a Geese Fattening Farm;

(b) The geese in the Farm shall be divided into two groups:

(i) Geese that weigh between 3.6 and 3.8 kilograms;

(ii) Geese that weigh is more than 3.8 kilograms.

(2) The manner in which the Force-feeding is to be carried out -

- (a) a goose shall be force-fed only with pneumatic Force-feeding machinery; the Force-feeding tube shall be made of stainless steel; not more than 17 centimetres long; and with a diameter not bigger than 17 centimetres wide.
- (b) a goose shall be force-fed only when its gullet is empty.
- (c) a goose shall be force-fed with quantities no higher than those stated in the following table:

<i>Day of force-feeding</i>	<i>Group A (quantity in grams)</i>	<i>Group B (quantity in grams)</i>
1	150	220
2	200	250
3	250	310
4	300	380
5	400	460
6	450	510
7	500	600
8	550	640
9	570	650
10	620	670
11	670	720
12	700	750
13	750	780
14	780	800
15	800	840
16	800	840
17	850	850
18	900	900
19	920	930
20	940	960
21	960	960
22	980	980
23	990	1,000
24	970	1,000
Total by the 24 th day	16,000	17,000

6. Slaughter:

In order to prevent an unnecessary suffering to the geese, the following instructions shall be applied during their slaughter:

- (1) If the average weight of the liver of 10 percent of the slaughtered geese has reached 700 grams in the period between the 20th and the 24th day from the commencement of the Force-feeding - the entire group shall be slaughtered.
- (2) The entire group shall be slaughtered after no more than 24 days since the commencement of the Force-feeding.

7. Prohibition of the Operation of a New Geese Fattening Farm:

No person shall operate a Geese Fattening Farm that has not been active when these Regulations come into effect, or expand an existing Farm; these Regulations shall not prohibit the expansion of a farm for the purpose of the well-being of the geese.