

Prohibition of force feeding of a bird and prohibition of fur farming – LN 187 2022

Following the growing national and international call to continue to raise awareness of animal welfare on farms, local and foreign NGOs are calling on EU Governments to take a stand against fur farming and the production of foie gras through the force feeding of birds. The European Parliament passed a resolution (2021/2633) whereby it urged the European Commission to “put forward proposals to ban the cruel and unnecessary force-feeding of ducks and geese for the production of foie gras.”

The Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights has taken the initiative to publish a legal notice LN 187 2022, to the Subsidiary Legislation 439.09 Farm Animals (Protection) Regulations. This Legal Notice adds regulations with regards to the prohibition of force feeding a bird, that is, that no one shall force feed a bird for the purposes of enlarging the bird’s liver; a process that causes the bird to consume more food than a typical bird of the same species would consume voluntarily. Force feeding methods include, but are not limited to, delivering feed through a tube or other device inserted into the bird’s oesophagus. This process is known as gavage.

And, with regards to the prohibition of fur farming, no person shall keep an animal for the purposes of their fur or for breeding progeny. No person shall keep animals solely or primarily: for slaughter, whether by himself or another, for the value of their fur; or for breeding progeny for such slaughter.