

My No: Pa/5/D.C/2006
Dept. of Animal
Production & Health
P.O Box 13, Peradeniya
24.01.2006

To:
All Provincial Directors of AP&H
All Field Veterinary Surgeons

Slaughter of Buffaloes and Other Female Cattle

As you are aware the present government and His excellency the President has given highest priority for increase of milk production as a way of improving the nutrition of the rural population and generate income for reduction of poverty. The "Mahinda Chintana" manifesto clearly lays down the policies for improvement of dairy production, and as a result there will be a heavy demand for female buffaloes and cattle. Action is also being taken to formulate soft loan schemes for purchase of cows and heifers. Increased attention is also given for salvage of female calves by providing health care and nutritional packages. The farm gate price paid for milk also has been increased. The main drawback for our effort in building up the national herd and increasing milk production is the scarcity of female animals, the major cause of which is the unrestricted and illicit slaughter of productive cows and calves. One method of tackling this issues is the strict imposition of the provisions of the Animal Act No. 29 of 1958. The main Act and its amendments categorically state that no person shall slaughter any neat cattle and buffaloes cows and calves unless it is certified by a Government Veterinary Surgeon that it is;

- not less than 12 years of age
- not fit for breeding
- is blind, maimed or not fit for agricultural purposes
- free from any contagious or infectious disease
- is not pregnant
- 2 km area from which the animal is brought had been free from contagious or infectious diseases for the last 03 months

The local authority shall not issue a permit for slaughter of any neat cattle or buffaloe females without the certificate of slaughter issued from a Govt. Veterinary Surgeon in terms of Schedule IV of the Animals Act NO. 29 of 1958.

Furthermore to facilitate the effort to salvage breedable animals I am withdrawing the letter No. P/5/1/4 of 22.04.2002 of the Director General/AP&H, so that the complete ban on slaughter of all buffaloes female cattle enforced by the Deputy Director (AH&E) by his letter dated 20.06.1983 will again be effective from to date. Please give wide publicity to public as all as to relevant officers involved in slaughter of cattle.

Dr. S.K.R. Amarasekera
Director General

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of EI & L.D - This refers to your letter No;
10/01 dated 19.01.2006
requesting to enforce the
Complete ban on slaughter of
cattle & Buffaloes
2. All Directors of AP&H
3. Commissioner / Local Govt. - I shall thank you to pay
Personal attention and give
Necessary instruction please.
4. Chief Municipality Veterinary)
Surgeon, Colombo)
5. All Municipality) - for necessary action please
Veterinary Surgeons)