

# FRANCISTOWN TOWN COUNCIL (ABATTOIR) BYE-LAWS

(under regulations 34 and 35)

(26th May, 1972)

## ARRANGEMENT OF BYE-LAWS

### BYE-LAW

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S.I. 47, 1972,  
S.I. 42, 1978,

## 1. Citation

These Bye-laws may be cited as the Francistown Town Council (Abattoir) Bye-laws.

## 2. Interpretation

In these Bye-laws, unless the context otherwise requires-

**"abattoir"** means the municipal abattoir, and includes the area set aside by the council for such purpose and demarcated as such, together with any building, space, pen, enclosure and lairage therein;

**"animal"** means and bull, ox, cow, heifer, steer, calf, sheep, lamb, goat, kid, pig or other quadruped used for human consumption;

**"authorized veterinary surgeon"** means a veterinary surgeon approved by the Director of Veterinary Services;

**"council"** means the Francistown Town Council;

**"manager"** means the person appointed by the council to perform the functions of manager of the abattoir or any person appointed by the council to act in his stead;

**"meat"** means the flesh and bone of any slaughtered animal whether in its natural state or subjected to any freezing, chilling or other preservative process, and also includes sausages, polonies, chopped or minced meat or any other meat similarly prepared;

**"meat inspector"** means any person appointed by the council after consultation with the Director of Veterinary Services for the purposes of examining any slaughtered animal intended for human consumption;

**"Medical Officer"** means a medical practitioner appointed by the Director of Medical Services to act as medical officer in respect of Francistown;

**"offal"** means the stomach, intestines and other internal organs of any slaughtered animal not being red offal;

**"red offal"** means the head, horns, feet, tail, heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and spleen of any slaughtered animal;

**"slaughterman"** means a person appointed as such by the council.

## 3. Tariff of charges

(1) The following fees shall be paid to the council for services rendered or facilities provided at the abattoir-

- (a) use of abattoir for slaughtering, lairage water, inspection and stamping of meat shall be as follows-

Bull, ox, cow, heifer, steer or calf	12,00
Sheep, lamb, goat or kid	3,00
Pig	6,00
(b) charges for use of the freezer-	
Bull, ox, cow, heifer, steer or calf	2,50
Sheep, lamb, goat or kid	0,50
Pig	1,00.

(2) The council shall not be responsible for the safe custody or feeding of any animal placed in the abattoir lairages or for the safe keeping or preservation of any meat left in the abattoir after slaughter, and all contracts for the use of the abattoir or facilities thereat, whether in writing or not, shall be deemed to be entered into on that basis unless specific provision to the contrary is made therein.

#### **4. Hours of entry**

(1) The abattoir shall be open for the receiving and slaughtering of animals during the following hours-

(a) *Receiving:*

Between 12 noon and 5 p.m. except on Fridays, Saturdays and days prior to public holidays;

(b) *Slaughtering:*

Between 6.30 a.m. and 12 noon except on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

(2) Meat may be removed from the abattoir between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. except on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

(3) No person shall without first obtaining permission from the manager enter the abattoir premises or any part thereof before the prescribed hours of opening or remain on such premises after the prescribed closing hour or after being requested by the manager to leave.

(4) Without the permission of the manager no person shall enter the abattoir premises or any part thereof unless on lawful business connected therewith.

#### **5. Delivery of animals**

(1) Every person who delivers any animals to the abattoir shall, on entering, hand to the manager or other duly authorized official a correct written statement of the number and description of the animals and of the name of the owner thereof and shall, if so requested by such official, furnish such further information as may be reasonably required to facilitate identification.

(2) The owner or person in charge of any animal so delivered shall have it marked with a distinguishing mark approved by the manager so that it can be easily and quickly identified.

(3) The same identification mark shall always be used by or on behalf of each owner, and such mark shall be registered in a register provided for the purpose.

(4) The owner, or person in charge of, any bull or other dangerous animal shall, when bringing such animal to the abattoir, either have it conveyed in a suitable vehicle in which it shall be securely bound and tied up, or led by means of a chain or rope of sufficient strength.

## **6. Penning care, feeding and treatment of animals**

(1) The owner or person in charge of any animals brought into the abattoir, except draught animals, shall pen them as and where provided by the manager.

(2) Every owner or person in charge of any animal within the abattoir shall ensure that such animal is properly cared for and is provided with sufficient suitable food and water:

Provided that no person shall overfeed or give salt to any animal while in the abattoir.

(3) If the manager discovers that any animal within the abattoir has been without food and water for a period exceeding 48 hours, or if he is requested to do so by the owner or person in charge of any animal within the abattoir, he may cause such animal to be fed and watered and the council may recover the cost thereof from the owner or person in charge.

(4) Any animal in the abattoir, whether awaiting slaughter or in the process of slaughter shall be treated with the utmost care, and shall not be subjected to any cruel or unnecessary suffering.

(5) The manager may, in his discretion, take summary measures to prevent any unnecessary suffering of or cruelty to animals.

## **7. Diseased animals**

(1) No person shall knowingly bring, or cause or permit to be brought, into the abattoir any animal suffering from any infectious or contagious disease unless with special permission of an authorized veterinary surgeon.

(2) No person found guilty of contravening this bye-law shall, by virtue of having paid the penalty prescribed for such contravention, be absolved from any liability to make good to the council any expenses incurred in cleaning and disinfecting the abattoir premises and for any losses occasioned by his action.

(3) The manager may refuse to admit into the abattoir any animal suffering from any infectious or contagious disease and, if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that any animal already admitted or for which admission is sought is suffering from any such disease, he may require or cause such animal to be examined by an authorized veterinary surgeon.

(4) The manager may, after obtaining the opinion of an authorized veterinary surgeon, cause or order any animal which is found to be diseased, or which has been in contact with an infected or suspected animal, to be slaughtered at a place set apart for the slaughtering of diseased animals.

(5) If after slaughter the carcass is found to be fit for human consumption, the carcass

shall be returned to the owner or person in charge thereof but, if it is found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption, it shall be seized and condemned.

#### **8. Unpenning restricted**

No person shall without the permission of the manager or any authorized official unpen any animal, unless for the purpose of removing it to the waiting pen or slaughter chamber.

#### **9. Condemnation of carcasses of certain animals**

(1) The carcass of any animal dying within the abattoir otherwise than by slaughter, or arriving dead at the abattoir, or of animals less than 14 days old, shall be condemned, seized and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

(2) Skins of animals condemned under this bye-law may be released to the owner at the discretion of an authorized veterinary surgeon.

#### **10. Slaughtering**

(1) No person shall slaughter or cause to be slaughtered at the abattoir any animal without the prior consent of the manager.

(2) No person shall without the written consent of an authorized veterinary surgeon, the Medical Officer or the manager, slaughter any animal intended for human consumption at any place within the council's area of jurisdiction other than the abattoir.

(3) Slaughtering in accordance with a written consent referred to in sub-bye-law (2) shall take place only at such hours and in such manner as are prescribed in these Bye-laws.

(4) An authorized veterinary surgeon may, if he deems fit, authorize in writing the slaughter of any animal or animals at any place outside the abattoir in cases where, on account of religious requirements or injuries received by any animal or for any other cause it is considered impracticable, inadvisable or undesirable to have the animal removed to the abattoir.

(5) In every such case the owner of the animal or other person or persons responsible shall comply with any conditions imposed by the authorized veterinary surgeon and shall also conform with the requirements of these Bye-laws.

#### **11. Authority of manager**

(1) Every person employed at, or making use of any facilities provided in, the abattoir shall comply with all lawful instructions given by the manager, and any person failing to comply with such instructions may, in addition to being liable to prosecution for a contravention of this bye-law, be required by the manager to leave the abattoir premises forthwith.

(2) No person shall interfere with or obstruct the manager or any of his staff or cause any disturbance within the abattoir, and any person who interferes or obstructs or causes any disturbance may, in addition to being liable to prosecution for a contravention of this bye-law, be removed from the premises.

#### **12. Cleanliness and hygiene**

(1) Every person engaged on any duties at the abattoir or making use of any facilities therein shall observe strict cleanliness in his person and attire and shall at all times wear a clean butchering coat or overall of a design approved by the Medical Officer and made of a washable material.

(2) Every slaughterman shall keep a special suit of clothes made of washable material and shall wear such suit while engaged in slaughtering any animal or dressing any carcass and for no other purpose, and shall wash such suit daily to ensure its cleanliness.

(3) No person shall hang up or deposit or cause or permit to be hung up or deposited any article of wearing apparel in any room or enclosure in which meat is slaughtered, dressed or prepared for use as food for human consumption.

### **13. Restrictions on slaughter**

(1) No bull, bullock, cow, heifer, steer, pig, sheep, lamb or goat shall be slaughtered on the day it enters the abattoir:

Provided that the owner or person in charge of any animal which, on arrival at the abattoir, is found to be suffering from any serious injury shall cause such animal to be slaughtered as soon as possible after arrival after having notified the manager and obtained his consent.

(2) No person shall slaughter for human consumption any calf, lamb, kid, pig or other animal unless it is at least 14 days old, is fully developed and is in a well nourished condition.

(3) No person shall, without the consent of the manager, slaughter or cause to be slaughtered any animal which appears to be pregnant or which is on the point of giving birth.

### **14. Place for slaughter, etc.**

No person shall slaughter or dress any animal in any part of the abattoir premises except in the place specially appointed and set apart for such purpose.

### **15. Manner of slaughtering**

(1) Every person engaged in the slaughtering of animals shall, before proceeding to slaughter, cause the head of the animal to be securely held or fastened to ensure that such animal is slaughtered as quickly and with as little pain as possible.

(2) No person shall slaughter or permit or suffer to be slaughtered in the abattoir any animal, the flesh of which is intended to be used as human food, except by shooting with a humane killer:

Provided that the requirement of this sub-bye-law shall not be enforced in the case of animals slaughtered for the use of Mohammedans or Jews.

(3) Slaughtering under Jewish or Mohammedan rites shall be executed and superintended by members of the Jewish or Mohammedan faith respectively, approved by the manager, and every such person shall in every respect comply with the requirements of the manager under these Bye-laws:

Provided that nothing in these Bye-laws shall interfere with the ceremonies or killing

under Jewish or Mohammedan rites, but all unnecessary cruelty shall be avoided.

(4) Every person shall in the process of slaughtering any animal use only such instruments, appliances and methods as may be approved by the manager with the object of ensuring the infliction of as little pain or suffering as practicable.

#### **16. Time for flaying and dressing**

No person shall commence to flay or dress any slaughtered animal unless the flow of blood has ceased and all signs of life are extinct and thereafter, however, the flaying or dressing shall be completed without delay.

#### **17. Carcasses to be marked after slaughter**

As soon as possible after an animal has been slaughtered and flayed, the slaughterman shall clearly brand or mark the carcass with the registered mark of the owner of the animal.

#### **18. Deceptive dressing**

No person shall inflate, stuff or dress any carcass or any portion thereof with the object of giving it a deceptive appearance.

#### **19. Soiled meat to be condemned**

All meat, fat and red offal which becomes soiled by the contents of the alimentary tract shall be condemned as unfit for human consumption:

Provided that if, in the opinion of an authorized veterinary surgeon or any meat inspector, the above-mentioned soiling may be removed by cutting away the soiled portions, the said surgeon or inspector may authorize this to be done and any meat, fat or red offal so treated shall if not otherwise unfit, be deemed to be fit for human consumption.

#### **20. Examination of animals, carcasses, etc.**

(1) No person shall remove from the immediate vicinity of the carcass of any animal slaughtered at the abattoir any portion of the hide, flesh, bone, fat or feet or of the internal organs or entrails until they have been duly examined and dealt with by a meat inspector.

(2) Immediately after an animal has been slaughtered and dressed, it shall be examined and stamped as hereinafter provided and the slaughterman and his assistant shall then remove the stamped carcass and deposit it in the part of the abattoir set aside for such purpose:

Provided that no person shall deposit any carcass or portion thereof in such part of the abattoir unless it has been stamped.

(3) An authorized veterinary surgeon or any meat inspector may inspect and examine any animal brought into the abattoir premises for slaughter for human consumption for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is diseased, unsound or in any way unfit for human consumption.

(4) A meat inspector shall examine, handle and cut into the carcass, offal and red offal of every animal which has been slaughtered at the abattoir, immediately after it has been dressed, for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is diseased, unsound, unwholesome or in

any way unfit for human consumption.

(5) In no case shall examination of carcass, meat, offal or red offal be made except by daylight.

(6) Any animal found to be diseased, unsound or in any way unfit for human consumption upon inspection or examination under sub-bye-law (3) shall be dealt with in accordance with bye-law 7(4).

(7) The carcass of every animal condemned under bye-law 7(4) and any part of the carcass, offal or red offal of a slaughtered animal which has been found under sub-bye-law (4) to be diseased, unsound, unwholesome or, in any way unfit for human consumption shall be destroyed at the abattoir by the manager or under his direction.

## **21. Diseased or injured animals**

No person shall cut away, remove or otherwise attempt to conceal any diseased or injured part of any slaughtered animal, whether slaughtered at the abattoir or not, unless he has obtained the permission of a meat inspector to do so.

## **22. Marking of healthy carcasses, etc.**

(1) The meat inspector shall brand or stamp with the official mark of the council in such places and in such ways as he may deem advisable or necessary all carcasses, meat, offal and red offal submitted for examination and passed as healthy, sound, wholesome and fit for human consumption.

(2) No person, other than an official duly authorized thereto, shall stamp or brand or mark or attach to or impress on any meat, offal or red offal any official brand or mark or any similar marking; and no person shall attach to or impress on any meat or offal any forged brand or mark or any brand or mark intended or liable to deceive the public or induce the belief that such meat or offal has been inspected and approved under these Bye-laws or slaughtered at the abattoir.

## **23. Removal of meat, etc., from abattoir restricted**

(1) No person shall, without the permission of the manager, remove or cause to be removed from the abattoir any meat, offal or red offal unless it has been examined, approved and stamped in accordance with these Bye-laws.

(2) No person shall remove from the abattoir, without the express permission of the manager, any fat or offal unless it has been washed and cleaned to the satisfaction of a meat inspector.

## **24. Introduction of meat into township restricted**

No person shall introduce into the township for sale any carcass or any butchers' meat of animals (other than game) slaughtered outside the township unless such animals have been slaughtered at an abattoir approved by the council.

## **25. Condemnation of meat**

(1) An authorized veterinary surgeon or a meat inspector shall seize and condemn any carcass, meat, fat, offal or red offal which, as a result of examination is found to be



diseased, unsound, unwholesome or unfit for human consumption.

(2) Any carcass, meat, fat, offal or red offal seized and condemned shall, upon a certificate by an authorized veterinary surgeon, be destroyed or, alternatively, it may, at the owner's risk, be treated in such manner as the authorized veterinary surgeon may decide to render it fit for human consumption.

(3) Nothing contained in these Bye-laws shall preclude any person mentioned in sub-bye-law (1) from taking action in terms of this bye-law in respect of any meat, offal or red offal which, although marked or branded as approved under these Bye-laws, is subsequently found to be diseased, unsound unwholesome or otherwise unfit for human consumption.

(4) No compensation shall be paid for any meat, carcass or animal which has been condemned, seized and destroyed.

## **26. Appropriation of meat, etc.**

(1) All meat (except such carcasses as may be held in the freezer unit) which is not removed from the abattoir premises before closing time on the day on which the animal from which it was taken was slaughtered, may be taken possession of by the manager and destroyed or treated on behalf of the council and sold to defray expenses.

(2) All blood, manure, refuse, condemned carcasses or portions of condemned carcasses shall become the property of the council.

## **27. Human diseases or injuries**

(1) No person knowingly suffering from any notifiable infectious or contagious disease, or who has within 12 hours previously been knowingly exposed to infection from any such disease shall engage in the slaughter of animals, dressing of carcasses or handling or conveyance of meat intended for human consumption, nor shall any employer permit any person in his employment who is so suffering or who has been so exposed to infection to be so engaged unless he has obtained the prior written permission of the Medical Officer.

(2) The Medical Officer shall have the power to examine (which may include examination of the blood) any person engaged in the slaughtering of animals, the dressing of carcasses or handling or conveyance of meat whenever he deems it necessary to do so for the purpose of ascertaining whether such person is suffering from any disease or condition liable to contaminate the meat, as a result of which serious consequences to the health of others may occur, and may prohibit any such person found to be so suffering from being so engaged until he has been again examined and certified by a medical practitioner to be free from such disease or condition.

(3) Any person engaged in work within the abattoir having any cuts, grazes or abrasions shall have such injuries covered by a clean, waterproof dressing.

## **28. Disposal of animals of unclaimed or disputed ownership**

(1) The manager may slaughter or cause to be slaughtered any animal in the abattoir which may be unclaimed or as to the ownership of which there is a dispute, and shall, in the case of any such slaughter, dispose of the carcass thereof on behalf of the council.

(2) On ascertaining the rightful owner, the council shall pay to him the proceeds of such

sale less the amount of any and all expenses and charges incurred in respect of such animal.

### **29. Exclusion of dogs, cats, birds, etc.**

No person shall bring on to the abattoir premises, or permit to enter or remain thereon, any dog, cat or other animal or any birds which feed on offal, and the manager may remove or cause to be removed from the abattoir any such animal or bird found thereon by such means as he deems advisable.

### **30. Placing of vehicles**

All vans, lorries, wagons, carts and other vehicles brought into the abattoir shall stand in such places as the manager shall appoint.

### **31. Exclusion of children**

No child under the age of 14 years shall at any time be admitted to any part of the abattoir where slaughtering or dressing is taking place:

Provided that such child can be admitted with the prior permission of the manager and when under the supervision of an adult.

### **32. Spitting, smoking, etc. prohibited**

No person shall expectorate, smoke or commit any nuisance in any part of the abattoir premises where animals are slaughtered, inspected or kept.

### **33. Exclusion of intoxicating liquor, etc.**

No person shall bring, or cause, or permit to be brought any malt liquor, traditional beer, whether manufactured or home brewed, or any intoxicating liquor of any kind on to any part of the abattoir premises and no intoxicated person shall enter or remain or be permitted to enter or remain on such premises.

### **34. Restriction on removal of animals or carcasses**

No person shall remove from the abattoir any animal, alive or dead, or the carcass of any animal or any meat, offal or red offal or any other thing pertaining to an animal without the prior permission of the manager.

### **35. Offences and penalties**

Any person who contravenes any of these Bye-laws or any direction or prohibition duly given in terms thereof shall be guilty of an offence and liable on first conviction to a fine not exceeding P50 and on any subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding P100.