

Codes and Legal Instruments to consider when Rearing and Releasing Game

1. Code of Practice for the Welfare of Gamebirds reared for sporting purposes
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69379/pb13356-game-birds-100720.pdf This DEFRA document should be viewed as a template for all to follow. The Annex on page 9 details a lot of legislation that affect Gamebirds
2. Code of Good Shooting Practice <http://www.codeofgoodshootingpractice.org.uk/> This document also lists a lot of legislative instruments that affect shooting and should be followed.
3. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents> and guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare> . This is the primary legislation that we all work under. It protects animal welfare on farms, in transport, at markets and at slaughter.
4. Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (England) Regulations 2006 – <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2701/regulation/2/made> and guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>
Those keeping 50 birds or more must provide details of species of bird, husbandry system in which they are kept, the number of species usually kept, number with access to open air, details on seasonal stocking variations and nearby open water. Any changes in stocking rate by an increase or decrease of 20% or more requires update of the notification.
5. Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 – <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/2347/contents/made> and guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/guidance-for-the-animal-by-product-industry> require various records to be kept, and actions to be undertaken, regarding the disposal of animal by-products such as fallen stock and hatchery waste. In addition game and hatchery waste in the form of surplus chicks, live unhatched chicks or embryos must be disposed of in accordance with the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 and the Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002. (see also point 7 below) The Code of Practice issued by the Humane Slaughter Association also provides helpful guidance.
6. Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008 – pulling flight feathers from wings to restrict flight, together with wing tagging, was exempted from the general mutilations prohibition in section 5 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 by the Mutilations (Permitted Procedures) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008.

7. EU regulations re Domestic Fowl are worth noting as enforcement bodies will still use this guidance for Game when kept as Layers, and Poults to release.
https://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/biological_safety_and_use_of_animals/farming/Rec%20fowl%20E.asp#TopOfPage
8. The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 – require records to be kept on medicine usage, administration and disposal of unused medicines. Records must be kept for at least five years. Medicines and veterinary treatments must be stored and used in accordance with current legislation and codes of practice, and manufacturers’ instructions should be followed. Records of all medicinal products must be maintained, and all withdrawal periods must be strictly adhered to so that any residues are eliminated. This includes medicated feed and copies of prescriptions for.
9. Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 –
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2006/3260/contents/made> also see Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 (the protection of animals during transport and related operations) and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and associated guidance for information on transport. Details of records to be kept and the requirement for animal transport certificates, as well as contingency plans to be put in place are all covered in the Animal Welfare Act guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare>