# UK Bans Export of Live Animals for Slaughter and Fattening



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The UK government has officially banned the export of live animals for slaughter and fattening, a policy enabled by Brexit. The new legislation, known as the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Act, achieved Royal Assent on May 20, 2024.

The act prohibits the export of cattle, sheep, and pigs for these purposes, ensuring animals are now slaughtered domestically in high-welfare UK slaughterhouses. Environment Secretary Steve Barclay emphasized that this act fulfills a key manifesto commitment and seeks to eliminate the stress and injuries animals endure during long transport overseas.

This ban will prevent the export of up to 2.5 million animals each year from the UK to various countries. Animal welfare organizations and spokespeople, including Sonul Badiani-Hamment from Four Paws UK and Chris Sherwood from the RSPCA, lauded the legislation as a significant achievement in animal welfare.

The legislation follows broader efforts within the UK's Action Plan for Animal Welfare launched in 2021, which aims to enhance welfare standards and eliminate practices causing unnecessary animal suffering.