



# Animal Welfare (Service Animals) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

## 2022 CHAPTER 9

An Act to amend the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 in relation to service animals. [30th March 2022]

BE IT ENACTED by being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and assented to by Her Majesty as follows:

### **Amendment of the 2011 Act**

1. In the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, after section 51 insert—

#### **“51A Service animals**

(1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply when it is being determined in connection with section 4(1) whether suffering is unnecessary in a case where the suffering was caused by conduct for the purpose mentioned in section 4(3)(c)(ii).

(2) The fact that the conduct was for the purpose mentioned in section 4(3)(c)(ii) is to be disregarded if—

(a) the animal was—

(i) under the control of a relevant officer at the time of the conduct, and