



ANIMAL WELFARE



# Guidelines for Writing Codes of Welfare

June 2009



**NAWAC**

National Animal Advisory Committee

New Zealand Government

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Animal Welfare  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
Pastoral House  
Level 10  
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Codes and Guidelines are available on MAF's website.

The web page address is: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare>.

**Disclaimer**

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## Purpose of the Guidelines

These Guidelines have been produced to assist people writing or reviewing codes of welfare. The Guidelines aim to ensure that those intending to write or review a code understand at the outset the range of issues:

- the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) must consider before the public is consulted and before recommending a code to the Minister; and
- the Minister of Agriculture must consider when deciding whether or not to issue the code.

Review of a code of welfare follows the same process as development of a new code.

Guidance is provided on how to ensure that:

- the code meets the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and is legally sound;
- the code is clearly written; and
- people and organisations likely to be affected by the code have been adequately consulted.

One of the key issues the Minister considers is whether the code is needed, and whether the benefits of having the code outweigh the costs. It is important to address these questions early on in your process. These Guidelines include a checklist of questions that should be addressed and answers presented to NAWAC with any draft code.

These Guidelines replace the 2001 *Guidelines for Drafting Codes of Welfare*: MAF information paper no. 36.

## Before you begin

If you are thinking of writing a code, please carefully consider the *Checklist of questions to address* in these Guidelines and satisfy yourself that preparing a draft code is the best course of action to take.

Before you begin, it is important that you contact the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) Animal Welfare for information and advice, and to ensure that your plans are known to NAWAC. Contact:

MAF Animal Welfare

PO Box 2526

Wellington 6140

Email: [animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz)

Tel: 0800 00 83 33

## Background – codes of welfare

### What are codes of welfare?

Codes of welfare are issued by the Minister of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Codes set minimum standards and also promote best practice for the care and management of animals. They have an important role in improving animal welfare standards.

Codes promote the objectives of the Animal Welfare Act by:

- providing greater detail on animal management and care than is contained in the Act, including minimum standards and recommended best practice;
- offering flexibility to modify and improve animal welfare standards in line with changing community expectations, scientific knowledge and technological change;
- providing balanced representation of community expectations and views through community involvement in the development of codes; and
- improving community awareness of animal needs.

Although the minimum standards in codes of welfare have legal force (see *Minimum Standards*, page 8), codes of welfare are primarily directed at educating the owners or persons in charge of animals and encouraging their voluntary compliance with minimum standards rather than facilitating enforcement of the Act.

### What can codes of welfare cover?

A code of welfare may relate to one or more of the following:

- a species of animal;
- animals used for purposes specified in the code;
- animal establishments of a kind specified in the code;
- types of entertainment in which animals are used, specified in the code;
- the transport of animals;
- the procedures and equipment used in the management, care, or killing of animals or the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals.

### How are codes of welfare developed?

Any person or organisation may draft a code of welfare and submit it to NAWAC for consideration.

NAWAC may also appoint a writer or writing group to prepare a draft code.

The code writer or writing group should consider the questions set out in *Checklist of questions to address* in these guidelines, follow the style and format set out in these guidelines, and consult with representatives of those persons who will be affected by the code. A written summary of responses to the questions in *Checklist of questions to address* and responses to consultations with affected persons should accompany the draft code sent to NAWAC.

Once it receives the draft code, NAWAC assumes responsibility for it because, under the Animal Welfare Act, NAWAC is responsible for consulting the public and subsequently for recommending the Minister of Agriculture issue the code. NAWAC will release the draft code (after modification if necessary) for public consultation when it is satisfied that:

- the code complies with the purposes of the Act;
- the code is clearly written; and
- persons likely to be affected by the code have been consulted.

Public consultation on codes ensures the range of views held within the community is taken into account.

Wide consultation is particularly important for contentious issues on which there is a range of community views.

Following public consultation and any necessary revision, NAWAC may recommend the issue of the code to the Minister if it is satisfied that:

- the proposed standards are the minimum necessary to ensure that the purposes of the Animal Welfare Act will be met; and
- the recommendations for best practice (if any) are appropriate.

In exceptional circumstances, NAWAC may propose minimum standards that fall below the standard necessary to ensure the obligations in the Act are met. The Act provides the grounds for NAWAC making such a recommendation to the Minister (see section 73(4) of the Act).

In making its recommendation to the Minister regarding the issue of the code, NAWAC must have regard to the following matters:

- all public submissions;
- good practice and scientific knowledge;
- available technology; and
- any other matter it considers relevant.

The Animal Welfare Act does not define the terms “good practice”, “scientific knowledge” and “available technology”. NAWAC’s interpretation of these terms is given in Appendix 1.

Before deciding to issue a code, the Minister of Agriculture must be satisfied that the statutory requirements of the Animal Welfare Act have been met and that good regulatory process has been followed in developing the code.

Each code contains a preface signed by the Minister. An example is in Appendix 2.

## Legal considerations

### The Animal Welfare Act 1999

The Animal Welfare Act provides for the welfare of animals in New Zealand. It sets obligations on people who own or are in charge of animals to provide for the welfare of their animals. People who own or are in charge of an animal must:

- ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in accordance with good practice and scientific knowledge (section 10);
- where practicable, ensure that if the animal is ill or injured it receives treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain and distress being suffered by the animal (section 11); and
- ensure that the animal is killed in such a manner that it does not suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain and distress (section 12(c)).

Physical, health and behavioural needs are defined in the Act (section 4) as:

- a) proper and sufficient food and water;
- b) adequate shelter;
- c) opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour;
- d) physical handling in a manner that minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain and distress; and
- e) protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease; – as appropriate to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal.

## Regulations Review Committee scrutiny

Codes of welfare are regulations for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989 and are therefore subject to scrutiny by the Regulations Review Committee. The Regulations Review Committee is a parliamentary select committee charged with examining regulations and drawing them to the attention of the House of Representatives if they are inconsistent with the requirements of the Act.

## Language and format

### Plain language

Codes should be written in plain language so that audiences can read and understand them easily. Wherever possible, code writers should use simple vocabulary and short sentences. The use of verbose language, long or complicated sentences, and unnecessary detail should be avoided. Codes should only contain relevant information and not so much material that they become challenging to read.

### Introduction section of codes

The introduction must address the five questions below. The answer to each question should be about one or two paragraphs only. An example is provided under each question.

#### **What is the purpose of this code?**

In general, the purpose of codes is to provide guidance to the owners of an animal and to persons who are in charge of it about the standards they must achieve in order to meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act. Codes also include recommended best practice to encourage the adoption of the highest possible standards of husbandry.

The code writers will have concluded that the development of a code is the best way to encourage high standards of welfare for the subject animals.

#### **Who does this code apply to?**

Codes apply to all persons responsible for the welfare of the animal(s). Under the Act, the owner of an animal and the person in charge are responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare. In the case of farm animals, the owner of the animals may place the animals in the care of others.

Responsibility for meeting minimum standards relating to the provision, design and maintenance of the facilities and equipment, the allocation of operational responsibilities and the competence and supervision of performance of employees will lie with the owner and person in charge of the animals.

Responsibility for meeting minimum standards during the operation of particular tasks will lie with the person responsible for carrying out that particular task. That person is “in charge” of the animals at that particular point in time. Generally, a stockhandler is the person in charge of the animals in their care. In practice, the identification of the person in charge will depend on the minimum standard in question.

#### **What animals does this code apply to?**

The animal(s) to which the code applies should be listed and any related animals to which the code does not apply should also be listed.



**What happens if the minimum standards in this code are not followed?**

The following standard text should be inserted:

“Failure to meet a minimum standard in this code may be used as evidence to support a prosecution for an offence under the Animal Welfare Act. A person who is charged with an offence against the Animal Welfare Act can defend him or herself by showing that he or she has equalled or exceeded the minimum standards in this code.

The recommendations for best practice in this code have no legal effect and are included to encourage higher standards of animal welfare”.

**How does this code relate to other codes?**

Any other codes, industry standards or international guidelines relevant to the animals that are the subject of this code should be listed

**Standard format of each section**

Codes that deal with an animal species should include sections that cover the five physical, health and behavioural needs of animals as defined in the Act. However, some matters such as a procedure, an activity or a husbandry practice that involves more than one need are more appropriately included in specifically headed sections (see *The content of codes*, page 10).

In general, each section should include:

- a short introduction that provides a rationale for the minimum standard(s) and recommended best practices which follow;
- minimum standard(s): minimum standards are numbered consecutively throughout the code;
- recommended best practice which is intended to encourage higher standards of welfare than the minimum. Best practice recommendations should be numbered (a), (b) etc; and
- a general information subsection may be included to provide explanatory material relevant to the purpose of the section. It should be kept to a minimum and should not attempt to replace information in relevant publications. It may be used to reference useful sources of such information.

**Appendices**

In addition to any appendices that deal with technical information specific to each code, codes of welfare should contain appendices that address the following matters:

- A glossary that is specific to each code. Glossaries should only include technical terms used in the code that are not in common use or are not found in standard dictionaries (see Appendix 3 for example definitions);
- Animal Welfare Act requirements. NAWAC and MAF have developed standard text, that can be found in Appendix 4 of these Guidelines.

## Minimum standards

### What are minimum standards?

Minimum standards are the critical component of codes of welfare. They establish the minimum requirements for people to attend properly to the welfare of animals in their care in order to meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act. Minimum standards provide detail on, for example, how much food and water is sufficient, what shelter would be regarded as adequate, and what method of killing would be needed to ensure that the animal did not suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Minimum standards must be clear and precise so that people can be certain what they must/must not do to meet their obligations. An investigator should be able to easily assess or measure non-compliance with a minimum standard. Likewise, a defendant should be clear about what must be done to demonstrate that a minimum standard was met or exceeded.

Minimum standards must be applicable practically across the entire range of production systems. If this is not possible, minimum standards may state that the standard applies only to a specific husbandry system.

The following sections give more detailed guidance on specific issues, including how to draft minimum standards on various subjects.

### What is the legal status of minimum standards?

Minimum standards have a force in law to the extent that failure to comply with one or more minimum standards may be offered as rebuttable evidence when a breach of the Animal Welfare Act is alleged.

Demonstration that a minimum standard has been met or exceeded may be a defense against a charge under the Act.

### Minimum standards should be outcome-focused and measurable

A minimum standard should, as far as possible, describe the intended welfare outcome for the animal and be capable of measurement or assessment. Where available, indicators that may be used to measure or assess the achievement of the intended outcome should be provided in a separate table. Two examples of outcome-focused minimum standards and associated indicators follow.

#### Minimum Standard – Proper and sufficient food and water

- a) Animals must be provided with feed at a frequency appropriate to the species, age and physiological status of the animal.
- b) The method of providing feed must prevent undue competition among, or injury to animals.
- c) The quantity and nutrient composition of feed must be sufficient to maintain the animals' good health, meet physiological demands and avoid nutritional/metabolic disorders.
- d) Animals must be provided with feed free of contamination or mould.
- e) Animals must have continuous access to water that is palatable and not harmful to health.

#### Example Indicators for Minimum Standard – Proper and sufficient food and water

- daily inspections to confirm provision of feed;
- an absence of competition for space at feeders;
- all animals being able to access feeders;
- feed consumption and feed conversion being in the expected range;
- production and/or growth being in the expected range;
- body condition score being in the expected range;
- daily inspection to remove any contaminated or mouldy feed;
- a daily inspection of waterer function;
- water intake being within the expected limits;
- an absence of animals clustering at waterers.

## Minimum Standard – Opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour

- a) Birds must be able to stand erect in all parts of the floor space available to them.
- b) Birds must have sufficient space per bird so that individuals in a group can stretch their wings.
- c) Birds must have access to appropriate, discrete nest areas in sufficient numbers to allow all birds to lay in a nest.
- d) There must be sufficient perching space to allow all birds in the group to perch and the perch design must minimise the risk of injury to birds.
- e) A litter area must be provided to allow birds to forage and dust bathe.
- f) An abrasive area must be provided to the birds for claw shortening.

### Example Indicators for Minimum Standard – Opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour

- birds maintaining an upright and normal posture throughout the area;
- birds observed wing stretching and flapping;
- an absence of impediments to wing stretching and flapping;
- the majority of eggs being laid in the nests;
- the majority of birds perching at night;
- a low prevalence of foot and keel injury and disease;
- litter being dry and friable, with minimum dust;
- a majority of birds using the litter;
- claw length consistent with use of the abrasive area provided.

While the minimum standards carry a legal obligation to comply, there is no legal obligation to use indicators. However, they may be used to demonstrate in a factual way whether or not the minimum standard has been complied with. It may not be necessary to meet all of the indicators in order to meet the minimum standard but the fewer indicators of a minimum standard that are met the more likely it is that the standard has not been achieved.

As far as possible, minimum standards should avoid being prescriptive. Data such as target body weights, feed inputs, pen sizes, stocking rates should not be included in minimum standards unless they are essential for describing a necessary input. Such data may, however, be provided in indicators or as guidance in the general information subsection or in appendices to the code. Alternatively, references to other source documents may be provided.

Where a minimum standard prescribes a necessary facility, input or arbitrary limit, the introductory section to that minimum standard should make it clear what outcome the minimum standard is intended to achieve. For example:

#### Introduction

The maximum stocking density for broiler chickens is a judgement based on the welfare standards that can be obtained in well run broiler sheds.

#### Minimum Standard

Placements of broiler chicks in individual broiler sheds must be scheduled so that the planned maximum stocking density does not exceed 38 kg of live weight of broiler chickens per m<sup>2</sup>.

#### Introduction

Generally, the younger a lamb is when docked the less pain and distress it will experience. The age chosen is a judgement based on balancing that information with practical husbandry considerations.

#### Minimum Standard

When tail docking a sheep over the age of six months, pain relief must be used.

## Prohibitions

Minimum standards in a code cannot totally prohibit an activity, although they can impose restrictions. Prohibitions can only be made in the Act itself (for example, section 21(2)(a) of the Act provides that the ears of a dog must not be cropped).

Furthermore, minimum standards cannot translate the effect of a prohibition in the Act. For example, as the Act contains a prohibition on causing animals to fight, minimum standards cannot prohibit dog fighting and cock fighting. The general information section of the code could, however, note that dog fighting and cock fighting is prohibited under the Act.

Minimum standards may restrict an activity. For example, while a minimum standard can not prohibit the docking of cows' tails, it can specify how it must be done, at what age it must be done, and the required competence of the person carrying out the procedure – for example for cattle, “If tail shortening is undertaken it must be limited only to removal of the last (terminal) two to three vertebrae of the tail, using a rubber ring applied between the joints...”. Minimum standards may also specify limits beyond which an activity must be carried out in a different way, for example, “When tail docking a sheep over the age of six months, pain relief must be used”.

## Recommended best practice

Recommended best practice is included in codes to encourage standards of care over and above the minimum. It is practice identified by research or accumulated experience that is of a higher standard than the minimum standard. Recommended best practice is likely to be undertaken by the leading members of the group of animal owners in question. Sometimes a recommended best practice signals that it may become a minimum standard in time.

## The content of codes

Codes that deal with the welfare of animal species can be expected to deal with the following matters

### Food and water

Animals should receive a daily diet in adequate quantities and containing adequate nutrients to meet their requirements for good health and well being.

Individual animals will vary in their nutritional requirements and consideration should be given to:

- a) the physiological state of the animal including its sex, age, size, breed/strain, rate of growth if applicable, and any special conditions such as pregnancy, lactation or illness;
- b) the environment in which the animal exists including the management system, the climate (inclement weather, droughts) and level of activity that the animal performs; and
- c) the provision of food, including the frequency of feeding, the type and quality/nutritional composition of the food, details of any periods in which food may be required to be withheld (for example, during transportation), and any details regarding the introduction of new feeds.

Where food intake and body weight can not be precisely measured, the adequacy of an animal's nutrition can be judged by a visual assessment of its body condition. Body condition scoring systems are available for most production animals and some companion animals. A copy of the complete body condition score

scale, if used, should be included within the code for reference purposes, preferably as an appendix.

Water that is palatable and not harmful to health should always be available and be easily accessible for any animal. This section should include any information relating to the provision of water in different climates, for animals of different physiological states, and provision when some restrictions may be necessary (for example, during transportation).

## Shelter

Codes should contain minimum standards relating to the provision of shelter and shade that will enable animals kept outside to regulate their body temperature effectively during the differing weather conditions throughout the year. Topography may be a relevant factor in offering shelter. Attention should be given to the specific requirements of young or sick animals.

When animals are housed or confined for management reasons, for example, sacrifice paddocks or feed pads, attention should be given to their behavioural needs for sufficient space and suitable surfaces to enable resting.

## Housing facilities

When animals are housed the code will require attention to the amount of space provided/size of enclosures; requirements for bedding, enrichment, ventilation, drainage, lighting, flooring, sanitation and hygiene; design of facilities; and any additional equipment that is required to enable husbandry procedures to be performed. Minimum standards should describe environmental outcomes rather than specify inputs.

## Social considerations

This should include information on the social environment in which animals are kept and the preferred grouping of animals of different ages/sexes/physiological states to minimise effects of social stress.

## Normal behaviour

Animals must be provided the opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour (section 4 of the Act). Because most domestic animals are constrained from exhibiting the full repertoire of behaviours that their wild counterparts might exhibit, minimum standards should deal with any priority behavioural requirements of the species, any impacts of husbandry requirements on the expression of those behaviours, and how to avoid behavioural or physiological problems that may occur as the result of deprivation of the opportunity to express those behaviours.

## Physical handling

Codes of welfare should address the obligation of “physical handling in a manner which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain and distress” (section 4 of the Act).

## Stockmanship

Codes should contain minimum standards that ensure all persons working with animals are adequately trained and possess the necessary skills to enable them to perform their duties while causing the animals the minimum amount of stress. They should be able to recognise normal appearance and behaviour, potential signs of stress, injury or disease in their animals, and be fully trained in the procedures to be undertaken during emergencies.

## Husbandry practices

This section should include minimum standards that relate to husbandry practices specific to the species that should be regulated to avoid welfare compromise. It may include information about procedures that are not dealt with in the *Painful Husbandry Procedures Code of Welfare*, and the use of aids for animal handling or training such as goads.

Codes should also refer to any modifications to husbandry procedures that need to be considered for animals of different sex, age, size and physiological status.

### **Transport**

The general requirements for animals undergoing transportation are likely to be covered in the *Transport within New Zealand Code of Welfare*. Codes may cover any additional information specific to a species or activity involving selecting animals for transport.

### **Animal health and disease**

Codes of welfare must address the obligation of “protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease” (section 4 of the Act). As a minimum, three general elements need to be covered in the minimum standards to address this obligation:

- appropriate preventative measures or strategies to reduce the likelihood of infectious and parasitic diseases and injury (for example, breeding for disease resistance, rotational grazing, vaccination, hygiene);
- people caring for animals must be able to recognise early signs of disease, distress or injury which can compromise welfare; and
- appropriate action must be taken when animals are sick or injured (treatment, separation from other animals, veterinary care and humane killing).

### **Breeding, mating and postnatal care**

For ease of reading it is often appropriate to bring together in one section minimum standards concerning the five needs as they relate to the welfare of animals during the reproductive process and the postnatal period.

### **Ownership, identification and management**

Information about ownership, identification or traceability should be included only if it is directly relevant to welfare.

### **Quality management**

This section should include information about any quality assurance systems that provide for the welfare of the animals (this will usually apply to animals kept for commercial reasons only). Such systems may require maintenance of records, staff training, and audits of performance.

### **Emergency humane destruction**

In the case of an emergency, animals should not suffer more pain and distress than is necessary given the circumstances. Minimum standards should cover procedures for performing emergency humane destruction as quickly and painlessly as possible using recognised humane techniques.

## Checklist of questions to address

One of the key issues the Minister considers when deciding whether to issue a code is whether the code is needed, and whether the benefits of having a code outweigh the costs. It is therefore important that you address the following questions early on in your process. When presenting your draft code to NAWAC you should include your answers to these questions.

1. Why do you want a code?
2. What will you use it for?
3. Who will it apply to? What animals will it apply to?
4. What would happen if you didn't have the code?
5. What alternatives to a code of welfare (for example, industry administered quality assurance system) did you consider and why did you decide against them?
6. Are the minimum standards in the code the minimum necessary to ensure the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animals will be met? Do they reflect good practice, scientific knowledge, and available technology? Please provide supporting evidence. What alternative minimum standards did you consider and why did you decide against them?
7. How will the code change existing arrangements for the management of the species or activity in question?
8. What impacts will the code have on those people affected by it (for example, benefits, compliance costs, risks)? Which sectors/groups of people will be impacted the most, and how?
9. Who have you consulted?
10. What feedback did you receive during consultation? Were any significant issues raised about your draft code? How were these issues addressed and if they did not alter your draft code, why not?

## Consultation

### Requirement to consult

Under the Animal Welfare Act, people preparing a code of welfare must consult with representatives of persons likely to be affected by the code before submitting it to NAWAC. Advice should be sought from MAF on who should be consulted. Consultation can include involving representatives in discussions and/or providing draft material for their comment.

### Supplying documentation to NAWAC

NAWAC needs evidence that adequate consultation has occurred. When submitting a draft code to NAWAC, code-writers should supply their answers to the *Checklist of questions to address*, above.

After receiving the code, NAWAC will undertake its own analysis of whether the code is needed and whether the benefits of having a code outweigh the costs. NAWAC will invite the public to make submissions on the positive or negative impacts the code might have, as well as on the content of the draft code.

## Appendix 1: NAWAC guidelines on the meaning of terms used in the Animal Welfare Act

### Good Practice

The Act does not define “good practice”. NAWAC takes “good practice” to mean a standard of care that has a general level of acceptance among knowledgeable practitioners and experts in the field; is based on good sense and sound judgement; is practical and thorough; has robust experiential or scientific foundations; and prevents unreasonable or unnecessary harm to, or promotes the interests of, the animals to which it is applied. Good practice also takes account of the evolution of attitudes about animals and their care.

### Scientific Knowledge

The Act does not define “scientific knowledge”. NAWAC takes “scientific knowledge”, relevant to its areas of responsibility, to mean knowledge within animal-based scientific disciplines, especially those that deal with nutritional, environmental, health, behavioural and cognitive/neural functions, which are relevant to understanding the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals. Such knowledge is not haphazard or anecdotal; it is generated by rigorous and systematic application of the scientific method, and the results are objectively and critically reviewed before acceptance.

### Available Technology

The Act does not define “available technology”. NAWAC takes “available technology” to represent, for example, existing chemicals, drugs, instruments, devices and facilities which are used practically to care for and manage animals.



## Appendix 2: Example Preface

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 establishes the fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. These obligations are written in general terms. The detail is found in codes of welfare. Codes set out minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of animals and are developed following an extensive process of public consultation.

The original draft of this code was written by [a writing group].

I recommend that all those who care for animals become familiar with the relevant codes. This is important because failure to meet a minimum standard in a code could lead to legal action being taken.

I issue codes on the recommendation of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The members of this committee collectively possess knowledge and experience in veterinary science; agricultural science; animal science; the commercial use of animals; the care, breeding and management of companion animals; ethical standards and conduct in respect of animals; animal welfare advocacy; the public interest in respect of animals; and environmental and conservation management.

The [Animal Welfare (XXX) Code of Welfare XXXX] is issued by me, by a notice published in the Gazette on [date], under section 75 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. This code comes into force on [date].

This code is deemed to be a regulation for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989 and is subject to the scrutiny of Parliament's Regulations Review Committee. Any person or organisation wishing to make a complaint about this code of welfare should refer to the publication Making a Complaint to the Regulations Review Committee, which can be obtained from the website: <http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz>, or by writing to: Clerk of the Committee, Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

This code is based on the knowledge and technology available at the time of publication, and may be reviewed in the light of future advances and knowledge. The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee will review this code no later than [date], or sooner if necessary.

Minister of Agriculture

## Appendix 3: Example Glossary

<b>ad libitum</b>	Allowing animals to eat an unrestricted amount of feed.
<b>adverse weather</b>	Unfavourable weather conditions that may pose harm or risk to the animals
<b>animal</b>	<p>As defined in the Act:</p> <p>“(a) Means any live member of the animal kingdom that is –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A mammal; or</li> <li>(ii) A bird; or</li> <li>(iii) A reptile; or</li> <li>(iv) An amphibian; or</li> <li>(v) A fish (bony or cartilaginous); or</li> <li>(vi) Any octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); or</li> <li>(vii) Any other member of the animal kingdom which is declared from time to time by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal for the purposes of the Act; and</li> </ul> <p>(b) Includes any mammalian foetus, or any avian or reptilian pre-hatched young, that is in the last half of its period of gestation or development; and</p> <p>(c) Includes any marsupial pouch young; but</p> <p>(d) Does not include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A human being; or</li> <li>(ii) Except as provided in paragraph above, any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage.” </li></ul>
<b>body condition score (condition score)</b>	A 1 – 9 scoring system used to classify the condition of animals, based on the assessed amount of fat and/or muscle covering they have (see Appendix I, “Body Condition Scoring”, to this code).
<b>break feeding/strip grazing</b>	Control of a feed supply of pasture or crop (brassica or cereal) using a temporary electric fence or netting, shifted regularly (usually daily) to provide fresh feed.
<b>caking</b>	Undesirable compaction of the surface if litter.
<b>colostrum</b>	Milk secreted by the female for the first few days after birth, characterised by high protein and antibody content.
<b>controlled environment</b>	An enclosed insulated building containing animals which provides total control of lighting, ventilation and temperature under automated control with feed and water automated and usually computer monitored.
<b>DM (dry matter)</b>	A standardised measure of feed quantity, expressed as the percentage of feed remaining following removal of all moisture. While it is commonly used to compare different feed types, it does not reflect feed quality, in particular the energy content of the feed.
<b>droving</b>	Moving animals from one place to another by driving them on foot along roadways or stock routes.

<b>farm facilities</b>	All structures and equipment such as buildings, yards, races, fences, gates, loading ramps, restraining devices and drains.
<b>food/ feed</b>	The words “food” and “feed” are used interchangeably.
<b>foster</b>	A management practice whereby a young animal is moved soon after birth, to be fed by a female that is not its mother.
<b>goad</b>	An object used to stimulate or prod an animal to make it move.
<b>handling facilities</b>	An area set up to handle animals for routine animal management, health treatments, sorting and drafting (e.g. pens, sheds, lairage, yards).
<b>housing</b>	A roofed structure with or without walls where an animal may be kept and that is permanent or semi-permanent.
<b>husbandry</b>	Care and management practices in keeping animals.
<b>hyperthermia</b>	Abnormally high body temperature.
<b>hypothermia</b>	Abnormally low body temperature.
<b>lairage</b>	A facility where animals are held, particularly prior to slaughter or as part of transportation.
<b>lux</b>	International measure of light intensity (not to be confused with watts).
<b>megajoule (MJ)</b>	A measure of energy = a million joules; 1 joule = 0.239 calorie and 1 calorie is the amount of energy required to heat 1g of water by 1 degree centigrade.
<b>metabolisable energy (ME)</b>	A standardised measure of the digestible energy content of a feed that is available for use by the animal for maintenance, growth or lactation, expressed in megajoules (MJ) per unit of dry matter.
<b>painful husbandry procedures</b>	Means any procedure carried out with or without instruments which involves physical interference with the sensitive soft tissue or bone structure of an animal and is carried out for non-therapeutic reasons. It does not apply to those procedures used to treat animals with existing injuries or disease.
<b>pasture</b>	A mix of grass species that provides nourishment to livestock generally directly consumed or mechanically harvested for consumption at a later time.
<b>photosensitivity</b>	A condition in which exposure to sunlight will result in disease.
<b>physiological state</b>	Relates to the functioning of the body, its organs and body systems.
<b>recumbent</b>	The state of lying down and being unable to stand.
<b>routine procedures</b>	Husbandry procedures routinely undertaken in commercial animal production.
<b>stockhandler</b>	A person who undertakes the immediate day-to-day husbandry tasks associated with management and care of animals.
<b>stockmanship</b>	Putting into practice the skills, knowledge, experience, attributes and empathy necessary to manage stock.
<b>tether</b>	To restrain by the head or neck with a rope, chain, collar or halter.
<b>weaning</b>	The act of permanently separating young from their mothers.

## Appendix 4: Animal Welfare Act 1999 Requirements

The following is standard text that should be included as an appendix in all codes of welfare.

The legal obligations set out below are not an exhaustive list of the obligations in the Act. A copy of the Act is accessible at: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz>.

The owner or person in charge of an animal has overall responsibility for the welfare of the animal in his or her care.

(a) The owner or person in charge of an animal must:

- (i) ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge. These needs include:
  - proper and sufficient food and water;
  - adequate shelter;
  - opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour;
  - physical handling in a manner which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
  - protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease;
  - being a need which, in each case, is appropriate to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal.
- (ii) where practicable, ensure that an animal that is ill or injured receives treatment that will alleviate any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal or that it is killed humanely.

(b) The owner or person in charge of an animal must not without reasonable excuse:

- (i) keep an animal alive when it is in such a condition that it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- (ii) sell, attempt to sell or offer for sale, otherwise than for the express purpose of being killed, an animal, when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- (iii) desert an animal in circumstances in which no provision is made to meet its physical, health and behavioural needs.

(c) No person may:

- (i) ill-treat an animal
- (ii) release an animal that has been kept in captivity, in circumstances in which the animal is likely to suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- (iii) perform any significant surgical procedure on an animal unless that person is a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian, or a person approved by a veterinarian
- (iv) perform on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure (as defined by the Act) in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- (v) kill an animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

## NOTES

