

# Welfare Pulse

Animal welfare in New Zealand and around the world

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## Introduction from Minister Whaitiri

As Aotearoa's first Minister dedicated to Animal Welfare, I have seen how strongly New Zealanders care about the treatment and wellbeing of animals.

We are a country that relies heavily on our international reputation as responsible producers of animals and animal products. We are also a nation of pet owners with over two-thirds of New Zealanders owning a pet.

As Associate Minister of Agriculture responsible for animal welfare, I am committed to improving animal welfare outcomes.

In March this year, Cabinet approved a raft of new regulations that introduce penalties and fines to deal with lower level offences, offences which may not have previously warranted prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

I am extremely proud of the work undertaken to get these regulations into force. While most good animal owners and farmers will hardly notice a difference, those that do not meet the minimum standards in codes of welfare will now be penalised for the mistreatment of animals.

These regulations largely come into force this October, and cover a wide range of animals and activities, including stock transport, farm husbandry, companion and working animals, pigs and layer hens, crustaceans, rodeos, surgical and painful procedures as well as the way animals are recorded in research, testing and teaching.

With so many views to account for, in June I held an Animal Advocates Hui at Manurewa Marae in Auckland. The aim was to listen to provide equal opportunity to those with an advocacy

interest in animal welfare to express their perspective through direct and open dialogue with me. I was pleased to hear a desire to work together on proactively creating better outcomes for animals in Aotearoa.

Core themes emerging from this Hui, is the need for greater resourcing and an independent voice for animal welfare. I have accounted for this possibility in my recently released Framework for Action on Animal Welfare.

By setting out a clearer, more inclusive approach to animal welfare, the framework for action is the result of conversations I have had with many of you. Conversations which signalled it is time for a more open and engaged relationship between Government, industry, farmers, campaign advocates and New Zealanders in order to strengthen our animal welfare system.

The framework sets out my intent to increase transparency, strengthen animal codes of welfare, build capacity and ensure the existence of an independent voice for animal welfare. You can read more about it here: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/framework-animal-welfare-unveiled](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/framework-animal-welfare-unveiled)

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this innovative approach to long-standing animal welfare issues, and further engaging with many of you, as we collectively improve the standard of living for our animals.



# Trees, rocks and sail-cloths: expectations for, and barriers to, the provision of shelter on pastoral farms

Wet and icy winds soon find newborn lambs, reinforcing their dramatic change from a warm and protected uterus into the more challenging environment of modern farms. Despite increased scientific understanding, and knowledge of significant loss of income and poor animal welfare, some things in farming, such as neonatal mortality, have “remained stubbornly unchanging”. The provision of shelter for pastoral farm animals is arguably another. While many farm animals enjoy the freedom to behave normally, they also have to deal with both routine seasonal climate changes and more disruptive storms and droughts. Consequently, it is important that they are provided with the resources enabling them to deal with changes in their environment.

Shelter can come in many different forms including vegetation (e.g. scrub, tussocks, rushes, long grass, shelterbelts, shade belts, plantations, and widely-spaced tree plantings); shelter provided by topography (e.g. rocks, ridges); other animals (e.g. lambs sheltering from the wind behind ewes, animals huddling together); and artificial shelters (e.g. shade sails, lamb covers, housing). Animals' needs also vary as they habituate to seasonal changes. For example, as the winter progressed the temperature at which steers on a feedlot in Canada began shivering decreased from  $-9^{\circ}\text{C}$  in November to  $-25^{\circ}\text{C}$  in January, and was not even observed at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  in March. In sheep, the temperature below which an animal must make major changes to retain and produce heat is  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  in an adult sheep with a full fleece,  $13^{\circ}\text{C}$  with a shorter fleece, and  $25^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a recently shorn animal. Risks to animal welfare can also be mitigated by husbandry practices such as giving access to well-sheltered paddocks when storms are imminent or animals are at risk, e.g. sheep immediately after shearing, avoiding moving and handling during the heat of the day, or “feed mum and lambs get up and run”.

Similarly, there are many different views of the need for shelter including that the shelter provided is suitable, providing shelter requires significant resources, there are no production benefits from providing additional shelter, shelter impacts on farm management, it is not necessary as animals cope, or that there is a lack of knowledge of initiatives and their success. Finally, different understandings of adequate, sufficient or appropriate

welfare – comfort, production, and survival – and how they can be described, measured, and enforced, can make it difficult to resolve diverse expectations.

What drives these different expectations? What makes people provide shelter or comply with animal welfare standards? Why do people change their expectations and behaviours? Central to answering these questions is understanding how and why people hold different views, recognising that farming systems are complex, and anticipating the costs, benefits and unintended consequences of different approaches.

What an animal experiences or feels, its welfare, is determined by its environment and by its biology. However, finding the middle ground between what animals might prefer in an ideal world, and what some of ‘those who want to manage a farmer’s resources at no cost or risk to themselves’ might like to see, requires a shared understanding of the perspectives of animals, farmers, consumers, advocates and others. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has begun a programme to address shelter on pastoral farms. It involves mapping the expectations (both the range and the reasons for them) people have for the provision of, or access to shelter; determining what ‘shifts’ in expectations are required to align with animal welfare requirements; and to explore the options for addressing them, be they the expectations of farmers, animal advocates, the public, or others.

Data analytics company AC Nielsen has been commissioned to assemble the range of views of a small number of stakeholders,

which will become the foundation for later parts of the project. Views being collated include the reasons why shelter is, should, or does not need to be provided; the range of practical options and the main challenges involved in providing shelter; why there is variation in the level of shelter that people are



prepared to accept; and the main barriers to greater provision of shelter. The project is also exploring ways of influencing behaviour, from farmers without shelter on their properties to non-farmers with unrealistic expectations of the needs of animals. Later parts of the project will assess what farmers and the public think. MPI intends using the results to develop a comprehensive and equitable approach to the provision of shelter, one which aligns with this complex but important part of pastoral farming and animal welfare.

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### Further reading

Dwyer et al. (2015) Improving neonatal survival in small ruminants: science into practice. *Animal* 10, 449-459.

Rhodes et al. (2016) Over the fence: understanding what people do and how they might change. *Hill Country – Grassland Research and Practice Series* 16, 39-46.

## MPI Chatham Islands' Work

### Background

Since the 2013 decision halting development of an abattoir on the Chatham Islands, stock has been routinely transported to the mainland. The two main ports receiving Chatham Island stock are Timaru and Napier. Two vessels have been primarily responsible for stock movements to the mainland, sailing fortnightly.

Typically, around 1500 head of cattle and sheep are transported to the mainland. Most cattle are brought over for grazing and sheep are sent to processing plants after a yarding period.

Both vessels have been modified to transport stock and carry containers and other items when stock is not aboard. A dedicated crew is aboard each vessel and oversees the care of all stock.

### MPI Involvement

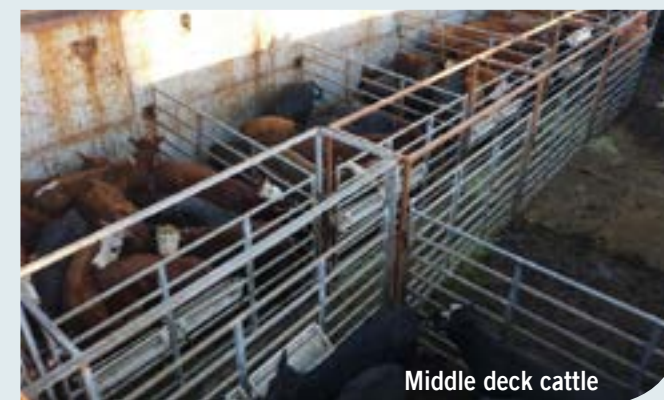
Since 2015, routine vessel and animal welfare inspections have been undertaken at the Napier port. This is typically attended by an MPI veterinarian and a warranted animal welfare investigator. Initial vessel inspections were undertaken to assess compliance with the codes of welfare for sheep and beef and transport.

Random in port inspections have been completed, with entire unloads viewed. Stock agents and local transporters are present and have had educational discussions with MPI.

From these inspections, changes to the unloading ramp and Napier port facilities have been completed. Improvements to these vessels, notably around air flow, have been undertaken and completed. Guidance has been developed for feed requirements on each voyage. Improvements in stocking densities, feeding and watering routines and stockmanship have been discussed.



Napier Port Docking



Middle deck cattle

MPI has moved to a consistent national programme aligning both ports and all staff with open feedback on all issues and implemented recommendations and changes. Discussions with Chatham Island management is ongoing to address issues and concerns.

A dedicated stockman has now been appointed and is aboard on each voyage.





Bottom deck sheep



Vessel unloading



Feed provisions

## Challenges

With all transport, but notably more problematic by sea, unexpected challenges arise. Some issues that can be encountered include:

- adverse weather conditions extending time at sea;
- ensuring ample feed is on board for unexpected delays;
- late night port calls requiring stock to remain on board until transport arrangements the following day;
- build-up of faecal waste and the logistics of clean up; and
- ammonia pollution.

## Future Plans

MPI farm visits and roadshows are planned. The intent of these visits is to discuss the codes of welfare and minimum standards of suppliers. Educational talks on pre-transport conditioning, fitness for transport and general animal welfare will be discussed.

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## Codes of welfare – update on consultation, development and review since issue 24

Codes of welfare are issued by the Minister for Primary Industries under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Codes outline minimum standards for care and handling of animals and establish best practices to encourage high standards of animal care.

### Recommended to Minister

- Temporary Housing of Companion Animals

### In post-consultation process

- Dairy housing amendment

A complete list of the codes of welfare can be found on our website: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/>

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# Animal Sentience workshop

On 15 November 2017, the two statutory committees, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) and the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC), hosted an Animal Sentience Workshop at Pipitea Marae, Wellington. Around 150 participants attended from a diverse spectrum of industries and organisations.

The forum provided an opportunity to consider how to give effect to animal sentience under the Animal Welfare Act and the implications of this for the work of NAWAC and NAEAC. The workshop programme also afforded an opportunity for key stakeholders to express their perspectives as to how giving greater effect to animal sentience in regulation development might affect their sector.

The programme combined speakers with a variety of workshop activities. The speaker programme covered legal aspects, the expectations of producers and consumers for animal welfare, and the use of the Five Domains Framework as a means of including the balance of animals' emotions when assessing animal welfare. Further speakers described the use of this framework to assess both zoo and farm animal welfare, and the implications of sentience for veterinary advice and treatment protocols. A full report on the workshop and its findings, and video of presentations will be available shortly on MPI's website.

A pre-workshop survey of participants had shown a high level of positivity about the legislative changes although there were key concerns about legal dimensions, and the practicalities of implementing regulations into farm management systems, for example if cow-calf separation methods were to be regulated based on their potential for being a negative emotional experience for both parties.

For NAWAC and NAEAC, the workshop has identified a number of areas for future focus.

## A working definition for animal sentience

The Animal Welfare Act does not define animal sentience. For the discussion at the workshop, NAWAC proposed a working definition that animal sentience is "an animal's ability to have

feelings, perceptions and experiences that matter to it".

Some 70 percent of participants found this acceptable in the sense of a framework within which to work, but some aspects were considered challenging in their application and there were many recommendations for further definition of both concepts and particular words.

How might understanding of animal sentience be promoted?

The final workshop session focused on implementation and future needs. This workshop was structured so that groups aligned with their sectors, however the analysis included several recurrent themes across these groupings.

- Of most concern was the need to develop education and communication programmes for those who care for and use animals and improve their understanding of sentience.
- Communication about animal sentience with the wider community using a range of media and channels is also of great importance.
- Improved science-based understanding of the emotional needs of our animals, in particular those in primary production systems, will be required both to ensure that important needs are met, and to provide assessment indicators for their delivery.
- Further code and regulation development may need a stronger focus on finding ways to ensure that best practice is delivered, rather than merely requiring that "minimum standards" are met.

## Reflections from the Chair of NAWAC

The value of holding an 'Animal Welfare Forum' was raised within NAWAC during the time that the 2015 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act were being developed. Such an event

would seem to need to be about a single issue and have strong focus. We were therefore very pleased at the wide attendance and positive enthusiasm with which delegates contributed their views.

For myself, a key take-home message was that the expression of emotional state in an animal is very individual thing. This should not be a surprise since it also applies to the human emotional state which is a personal and therefore individual expression.

One implication of animal individuality is that it makes the building of assessment frameworks difficult, especially for production animal systems where consumers may want the assessment to include emotional state.

It seems unlikely that science will unravel this problem any time soon, so producers must find other ways to assure customers that their farm animals indeed lead "a happy life". The more direct and pragmatic approach to demonstrate that animals' emotional needs are met continues to lie in the skills of stock handlers; but increasingly the provision of shelter and comfort are also seen to support more positive emotional states, so the future may also require demonstration that farm design meets the needs of the animals. New Zealand pastoral farming is at a key juncture as regulations seeking to reduce farm emissions are introduced. Farmers will need to have individual farm environment plans, and for many there will be extensive redesign, presenting an opportunity to give greater acknowledgement to sentience, and create farm environments that better meet the needs of the animals, such as provision of shelter and comfort.

NAWAC can now move its work programmes into addressing the issues raised in the workshop.

## Reflections from the Chair of NAEAC

It was pleasing to see a good attendance, and participation, at the workshop from the research, testing and teaching (RTT) community.

Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act allows the use of animals for RTT. From my perspective, the workshop demonstrated that we must continue to actively encourage the discovery of ways to Replace animals with non-living or non-sentient alternatives; Reduce the number of animals used; and Refine techniques to minimise pain or distress (the Three Rs).

As animals will still be used for RTT in the immediate future, it is imperative that we also focus on how to make a better life for those animals and protect them from harm to the very best of our ability by applying the notion of sentience.

With an eye to the future, we need to continually review the scientific evidence around the onset of sentience during development and how that might influence, or preclude, the use of some specific animal models for RTT. We also need to regularly examine Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act to ensure that it continues to reflect our understanding of animal sentience.

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**Selwyn Dobbins, veterinary consultant, pig specialist (retired) and former NAWAC member, has, on retirement, taken up studies towards a PhD.**

**He has been monitoring the factors that lead to stress in animals during transport, using a camera and a set of data loggers that measure temperature and humidity. As a result, he has identified a number of factors that contribute to elevated stress levels. His objective is to identify processes that could be used to reduce transport stress in all species of animal.**

## “If you treat them nice they move really well” – Ingrid Collins reflects on her time with NAWAC

**The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) recently farewelled Ingrid Collins NZMN, a valued member of the committee since 2012.**

When asked to reflect upon her time at NAWAC, Ingrid, Co-owner/Chief Executive of Three Rivers Medical Ltd in Gisborne, remembers that it was a steep learning curve that even Dr Google could not prepare her for. Despite also being the Chair of Whangara Farms, one of the most successful Māori farming operations on the East Coast, with a total of 8200 hectares of land running 65 thousand stock units (sheep and beef), being on the committee was something very new for her. When she joined NAWAC, the *Layer Hen Code of Welfare* (2012) was about to be released after five years in the making. At the time she thought “What a fantastic achievement”. The code came back for more adjustments, giving a longer phase-out period for battery cages. She admits that she was frustrated by some things moving too slowly. In addition, new issues would arise while the committee was still trying to deal with old ones. “Sometimes it is difficult to see an end to things”, she says. After five years on NAWAC, she now understands that there are revolving issues that just keep coming up. One of the most frustrating ones for her is rodeos. She is not a fan of rodeos herself, but feels that the Committee spends too much time on the issue, considering the small number of animals involved New Zealand-wide.

Ingrid's NAWAC highlights include the people she was privileged to meet and work with, and the site visits she was able to attend. Visiting the New Zealand Clydesdale Association was in conjunction with developing the code of welfare for horses and donkeys. She comments that “unless you go and see it for yourself, you do not understand.” Another highlight was seeing the bobby calf regulations being implemented so quickly. She is passionate about livestock transport and how it impacts on animal welfare. A presentation to NAWAC on current research on animal transport by Selwyn Dobbins, (see box



Ingrid Collins inspecting sheep at Whangara Farms: “Look how healthy they are!” Photo: Gravity Bureau for Whangara Farms

insert) has been really important for her. Being on NAWAC has also spilled over into other aspects of her life. She says that a lot of what she has learned during her time on the committee is now being implemented on the Whangara farms, and that feedback from farm staff has been very positive. She laughs as she quotes farm staff “If you treat them nice, they actually move really well”.

When asked what she believes are important issues for NAWAC to tackle in the future, there are two in particular. The first is transport crate design; the other, animal sentience. She believes that in general, the public should be made aware that animals are sentient and how that may impact on their interactions with them.

The Māori concept of Kaitiakitanga or guardianship has great relevance to Ingrid's work, including her time with NAWAC. “Kaitiakitanga requires us to show respect for that which we work with. If working with animals, it is them we need to respect, and as guardians we need to make the best decisions for them. They are there for us to nurture.”

**Tamara Diesch**  
Adviser, Animal Welfare, Ministry for Primary Industries



# Minimum standards in codes of welfare matter for animal welfare prosecutions

The case of *MPI v Ralph* was about the ill-treatment of a dairy cow by the defendant, Mr Ralph, who transported a cow in hip clamps attached to a tractor. The defendant denied the ill-treatment charge. The matter went to a judge alone trial in December last year. The charge was successfully proven. Minimum Standard 16(b) of the Code of Welfare for Dairy Cattle about caring for recumbent cows was centre stage.

In 2015, members of an animal rights group filmed a dairy cow in hip clamps hooked up to a tractor in a paddock beside a country road.

The video footage showed the dairy cow was left unsupervised for approximately 25 minutes in hip clamps suspended from the raised loader of a tractor. Initially, the cow was upright supporting its weight through its forequarters with the assistance of the hip clamps at the rear. After about 7 minutes the cow's forequarters bent so that the forequarter knees and head were in contact with the ground. The cow remained in that position until approximately 6 minutes later when the defendant returned to it. The defendant was seen getting into his tractor and moving the cow, in hip clamps, backwards.

Minimum Standard 16(b) of the *Code of Welfare for Dairy Cattle* about caring for recumbent cows says that: "*Cows must not be transported, so that all her weight is carried by the hip clamps and vehicle.*"

Expert veterinary witnesses for the prosecution and defence agreed that the cow would have suffered significant pain and distress for the 17 second period of transport.

Mr Ralph was charged with ill-treatment of a dairy cow by transporting the cow with all her weight carried by hip clamps (attached to a tractor).

The issues at the hearing that the prosecutor had to prove beyond reasonable doubt were: (1) when transported, was all of the cow's weight carried by the hip clamps and vehicle? And (2) was the pain and distress unreasonable or unnecessary?

The first issue concerned the meaning of the minimum standard. If a defendant can show that all the relevant

minimum standards were in all respects equalled or exceeded they have a defence to an ill-treatment charge. The defence case was that because some weight was taken through the cow's front half, as it was resting on the ground during the movement, not *all* the cow's weight was carried by the hip clamps and vehicle. So the minimum standard was not breached.

The prosecutor urged the court to take a "purposive" interpretation to the standard, rather than a narrow, literal one. In other words, why does the standard exist and how is it enabled to work?

Her Honour Judge Otene rejected the defence position. She looked at the meaning of the word 'carry' which included the notion of support. The Judge found that even though there was some support through the vertical plane because some of the cow's body was resting on the ground, this did not constitute any support while the cow was transported backwards; the cow was in essence an inert, dead weight throughout the movement. Her Honour found that the defence position would also be inconsistent with the purposes of the code and Act, which is to ensure owners attend properly to the welfare of their animals.

The second issue concerned whether the pain and distress was unreasonable or unnecessary. This overlapped with part of the defendant's argument that he took all reasonable steps not to commit the offence (another statutory defence to the charge). Her Honour found that the pain and distress was unreasonable and unnecessary. She took into account that the defendant



had other options available to him to move the cow such as borrowing his neighbour's transport tray. The Judge also found that the defendant's decision to leave the cow unsupervised was also influenced by him needing to do other farm duties, such as milking. Her Honour said the defendant's explanation that he left the cow to secure his property because he had seen strangers

around his property was not sufficient to derogate from his statutory obligation under the code to attend to the cow.

The defendant was convicted and sentenced to pay a \$500 fine and \$500 towards the cost of the prosecution. The defendant's good care of the cow on either side of the offending was taken into account at sentencing.

Here, MPI investigators had a case that involved dealing with video footage from activists, obtaining expert veterinary evidence and assisting in obtaining more evidence as legal issues arose. The case was helped when the veterinary experts for both sides set out what they agreed and disagreed with before the hearing.

This case was a good reminder for MPI staff and NAWAC that the wording of minimum standards in the codes matters.

I recommend all farmers should read the relevant codes they work with, ensure they understand the requirements and keep a copy handy.

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## Workshop for veterinarians acting as Animal Welfare Officers in research organisations

A group of Animal Welfare Officers (AWOs) gathered at the Royal Society in Wellington on 14 November 2017 to coordinate their first training workshop, sponsored by the New Zealand branch of the Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART). These veterinarians are providing professional consulting services across a wide range of institutions and agencies which use animals for research, testing or teaching. Although the various animal use activities are very different, the workshop material covered common themes. For example, most AWOs have multiple roles to play - compliance officer, clinician, teacher, consultant and animal ethics committee (AEC) adviser.

The group comprised 16 veterinarians, and a series of presentations by Craig Johnson and John Schofield filled the day with formal tutorials, discussion and anecdotal experiences. Strategies to review AEC applications, described as 'A Differential Diagnosis for a Diseased AEC Application' summarised a series of key indicators or signs, which enable rapid identification of potential problems. Methods to encourage compliance by animal users were discussed and non-experimental variables were explored. As an example of the latter,

it was reported that light exposure of laboratory rodents at night can alter their melatonin secretion, thus changing circadian regulation and physiology as well as increasing tumour growth in some animal models. Pain as a non-experimental variable was explored in detail and multi-modal control strategies were reviewed. A basic summary of statistical design was a helpful refresher. Post-approval monitoring site visits were discussed and the workshop concluded with the principles of rodent health surveillance monitoring programmes. Handout materials summarised much of the content.

The group gained support and comfort from sharing common concerns, challenges and problems. Most AWOs confirmed that their level of animal advocacy was not unrealistic or misplaced, despite facing opinions to the contrary from within some facilities. From the workshop came an enthusiastic commitment to contribute more regularly to the AWO email forum, and a request for another workshop. Support and co-ordination provided by Dr Marc Rands at the Royal Society office was greatly appreciated.

**Dr John Schofield BVSc, DACLAM**  
Director, J & L Consulting

### Dr John C Schofield BVSc, MRCVS, DipACLAM

The sudden death of John Schofield in May leaves a large gap. His influence penetrated many areas, not the least of which, given the focus of this publication, was his expertise in the area of laboratory animal medicine and welfare. John truly had a passion for improving the lives of research animals. His catch cry - "let me show you a better way of doing that!" - demonstrated his positive approach to teaching both researchers and students the most welfare-friendly ways of managing animals. He was well qualified to do so. As one of only two American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine board-certified laboratory animal veterinary specialists in New Zealand, he was, until his resignation from the University of Otago in 2013, the only such veterinarian working in his field of speciality. He was also an External Associate of Massey University's Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre.



John had a remarkable inventive streak, resulting in the development of innovative equipment to improve the handling and use of research animals. But his interests in his chosen field were wider than that. A past member of the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee, at the time of his death he was still serving on the board of the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching and as an independent accredited reviewer of institutions using animals in research, testing and teaching. He also spearheaded a group of veterinarians serving as Animal Welfare Officers in research institutions, and was always available to provide advice. His sense of humour to the fore, he created Dr Dinornis of the University of Kapiti Island as the basis for a training tool for veterinarians serving as New Zealand Veterinary Association nominees on animal ethics committees.

He did have other passions, however. An avid golfer and cyclist, John was also a skilled artist, penning some outstanding portraits. His community activities were also a focus. The Otago SPCA was one organisation to benefit from his enthusiasm and expertise. He also acted as a mentor under the auspices of the Otago Youth Wellness Trust. Another skill had him playing his clarinet to rest home and dementia unit residents in Dunedin every weekend. The music had another function as well. John described his stress-reduction techniques when workloads at the university were huge - playing music with a flute-playing colleague. "Much to our delight, our large animal surgery happened to have marvellous acoustics and we filled the area with wondrous duets after hours".

John was a great family man - our condolences go to Lesley, Alex and Katie and his wider family.



# Animals Used for Research, Testing or Teaching in New Zealand Offered a Life after the Lab

Every year, thousands of animals are killed in New Zealand after being used for experiments. The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) and Helping You help Animals (HUHA), want to work with facilities which are legally allowed to use animals for research, testing and teaching (RTT) to save as many of these animals as possible.

NZAVS and HUHA are opposed to the use of animals for research, testing and teaching for predominately scientific reasons. Despite this, we still want the best possible outcomes for laboratory animals until the day they are no longer used for experimentation.

The Government has concluded deliberations on a petition that was handed to Parliament on 27 April 2017 on behalf of NZAVS and HUHA. This petition asked for an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to include a mandatory retirement policy for ex-lab animals.

This petition, and the overarching Out of the Labs campaign, was partly inspired by the 2011 rescue of beagles from the Valley Animal Research Centre by our collaborative partner HUHA. These beagles have been successfully rehabilitated and rehomed by HUHA.

The petition called for facilities using animals for RTT in New Zealand to be legally required to make a good-faith attempt to rehome any animals which survive the RTT procedures that are carried out by that facility.



Several of the dogs who were rehomed after the closure of the Valley Animal Research Centre in 2011. Photo by Jo Moore.

This amendment would also cover animals used for breeding purposes to help encourage the rehoming of animals which are often considered excess to the industry.

This good-faith attempt at rehoming ex-lab animals would most likely simply involve a phone call or email to HUHA or NZAVS.

We have been contacting all facilities that had a code of ethical conduct in 2015 (the most recent available data), to formally offer our assistance in rehoming any available ex-lab animals. Having a code of ethical conduct is an indicator that a facility is legally allowed to use animals for RTT. Any newer code holders will also be contacted once that information is released by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

HUHA, our collaborative partner, is one of the largest animal shelters in New Zealand, with shelters in three different locations and their own vet clinic. A fourth HUHA shelter is currently being built. They are able to rehabilitate ex-lab animals and make sure they are vaccinated, de-sexed and microchipped before they are rehomed.

HUHA are willing and able to act as a first point of contact for facilities which have ex-lab animals needing to be rehabilitated and rehomed. Although they are based in the North Island, they are able to take in animals from all over the country.

For any instances when HUHA can't take on ex-lab animals, NZAVS have a database that currently holds the details of 33 different animal rescue and rehabilitation centres around New Zealand, who are willing and able to take on ex-lab animals and find them loving homes. This will only grow as we still have over 100 such centres to approach. These centres are

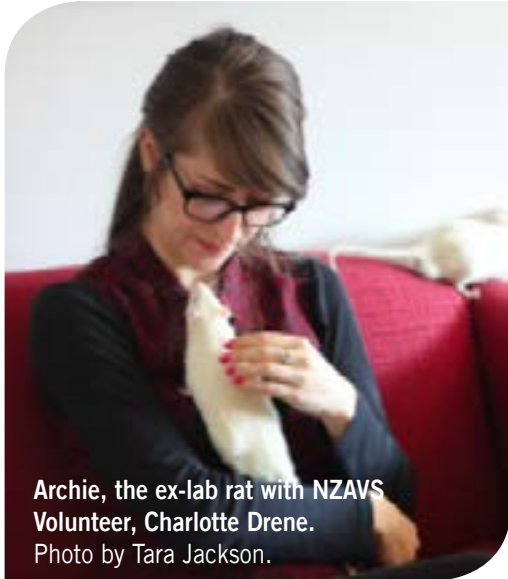


Archie, the ex-lab rat, who was adopted by NZAVS.  
Photo by Tara Jackson



Mojo Mathers, (then a Green MP and the Green Party's Animal Welfare Spokesperson), accepting the Out of the Labs petition from Tara Jackson, NZAVS Executive Director, outside parliament last year.

Photo by Michael Coleman



Archie, the ex-lab rat with NZAVS Volunteer, Charlotte Drene.  
Photo by Tara Jackson.

scattered around New Zealand and, collectively, they are able to take a wide variety of different species.

In summary, NZAVS and HUHA are working together to facilitate the rehoming of ex-lab animals in New Zealand. Both organisations are publicly offering their assistance to facilities using animals for RTT. Together we have the potential to give many different species across the country a second chance at life.

Read more about our Out of the Labs campaign here [www.outofthelabs.org.nz](http://www.outofthelabs.org.nz)

If your facility uses animals for RTT in New Zealand and you have animals needing to be rehomed, you can contact either: NZAVS: [nzavs@nzavs.org.nz](mailto:nzavs@nzavs.org.nz) or HUHA [enquire.huha@gmail.com](mailto:enquire.huha@gmail.com)

**Tara Jackson**  
Executive Director, The New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society  
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## Move to One SPCA

It's been six months since SPCAs around New Zealand moved to one unified organisation, and already there have been a number of positive changes.

After two years of discussion and consultation with SPCA centres and members, 1 November 2017 saw 42 SPCAs become one single legal entity with one purpose, one strategy and one voice for the animals. "Previously, the SPCA was a federated structure made up of independently governed and financed centres across the country," says SPCA CEO Andrea Midgen. "This structure was not fit-for-purpose, nor sustainable. Ultimately we knew that we could achieve more for our country's most vulnerable animals as one team than we could as a fragmented organisation."

The new SPCA structure has one governing Board, three regions, and staff and volunteers located across the 42 centres. The new structure has also seen Andrea Midgen, who was previously the Auckland SPCA Centre's CEO, appointed CEO of the new national organisation. Ms Midgen is excited about the nationwide opportunities the SPCA has to improve animal's lives.

"As one team working together, the SPCA is now sharing resources, skills and experience to create a better life for animals. Recently, in one week, for example, SPCA Centres from areas where new owners were difficult to find, transferred 64 animals to the Wellington Centre for rehoming.

"As one SPCA we've been able to work together on nationwide initiatives to prevent animal cruelty in our communities, such as our SPCA Education programme, advocacy campaigns and our SPCA Inspectorate.

"We're already beginning to see we can do more to prevent cruelty to animals in New Zealand. With consistency and collaboration across the country, we can ensure every animal gets the best care possible, no matter where they are in New Zealand."

**Jessie Gilchrist**  
Communications Manager, SPCA  
[Jessie.gilchrist@sPCA.nz](mailto:Jessie.gilchrist@sPCA.nz)



SPCA CEO Andrea Midgen with a puppy at the SPCA's Wellington Centre  
Photo: Jo Moore



# New Zealand charity brings hope to people and spreads the message of animal welfare

**HOPENZ Charitable Trust is a New Zealand registered charity that has been working since 2005 with local communities within Pursat Province, Cambodia, four hours northwest of Phnom Penh. The pathway out of poverty starts with clean water and from there the villagers move toward self-sufficiency. They begin growing vegetable crops to feed themselves and then add dry-season (irrigated) rice to not only dramatically improve their food security, but also to provide a much-needed reliable income.**



The current HOPENZ project, in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Partnerships for International Development Fund matched funding, has installed 29 community owned rice mills which increase the value of the family-farmed rice to be sold and also provide a useful by-product for making pig and chicken feed.

The second phase of the rice added-value project was to provide families with two weaner gilts (young female pigs which haven't had a

litter yet) which can be fed using the meal generated by the rice mill (the rice milling by-product with the addition cassava or maize and fish heads) to provide a more balanced feed at no direct cost to the family. The pig effluent is then mixed with compost and the compost applied to the rice paddy and home vegetable plots. This has increased yields nearly 50 percent making the farming system fully self-sufficient and sustainable.

In order for families to participate in the project, it was a requirement that the villagers attend training courses by the local Department of Agriculture. These covered diversified farming (growing multiple crops), pig care, feeding, mating and animal health. By the end of 2018, approximately 1190

families will have received two pigs.

This training was supplemented by two New Zealand trainers, to whom HOPENZ is extremely grateful. Jeremy Wilhelm of Longbush Free Range Pork provided training to the Village Agricultural Committees and farmers giving advice about nutrition, sunburn, shelter, handling, and basic husbandry. Naya Brangenberg MSc DVM (also from Longbush Pork and an ex-MPI Animal Welfare Inspector) presented to the Department of Agriculture and the village "vets." (We in New Zealand would perhaps equate them to a vet nurse.) Naya's training included welfare, biosecurity, pig diseases, farrowing, and body condition scoring.

Both training trips included field visits and classroom lectures. In most of the families, the women care for the pigs on a daily basis and you could see the pride they took in them when they showed them to us. In general, farm visits demonstrated they were well looked after, but several welfare differences to New Zealand were found. These included issues with sunburn, tethering of pigs to allow them time outside the pen, and some biosecurity risks around boars used for breeding that visited multiple farms and sows.

These welfare issues we found were purely from a lack of knowledge, and they were very appreciative of the opportunity to learn at the training sessions which featured lots of interaction and questions. The timing of the education and welfare training was a real bonus to the culmination of this successful project. The Pursat Department of Agriculture have rated this project as the most impactful within Pursat in the last 20 years. It will be a blueprint for HOPENZ to replicate in new areas.

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**Naya Brangenberg**  
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## The OIE supporting One Welfare in Asia, the Far East and Oceania

The World Organisation for Animal Health (the OIE) has an important role supporting improved animal health and welfare in Asia. This is mainly through establishing animal welfare standards, and supporting their implementation. It also supports strengthening of veterinary services in the region in a range of ways including training and capacity building, and works to increase public and government awareness of animal welfare and OIE animal welfare standards through its communications.

The framework that the OIE works to in this region is the Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania. The Action Plan that accompanies this Strategy is a 'living document', open to review and change as actions progress.

The Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, or RAWs, complements and sits under the OIE's new Global Strategy for Animal Welfare. The Global Strategy has the goal "A world where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and advanced, in ways that complement the pursuit of animal health, human well-being, socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability."

The importance of OIE standards and strong veterinary services for progressing animal health and welfare was highlighted at the 30<sup>th</sup> conference of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania, held in Malaysia in November 2017.

Regional priorities for animal welfare under the RAWs were reported at that conference:

- A survey of training in the region, to identify what is available and what else may be needed;
- To ensure focal points have information that they need to take part in the OIE's standard setting processes, including commenting on draft chapters;
- To continue to focus on the implementation of OIE standards for transport and slaughter;
- To continue to support the collaborating centre in its work, as necessary.

Look for more on these in future issues of *Welfare Pulse*.

Further reading:

<http://www.rr-asia.oie.int/events/details/article/30th-conference-of-the-oie-regional-commission-for-asia-the-far-east-and-oceania/>

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy, Asia, Far East and Oceania Newsletter March 2018 [http://www.rr-asia.oie.int/uploads/tx\\_oiefiles/RAWS\\_Newsletter\\_March\\_2018.pdf](http://www.rr-asia.oie.int/uploads/tx_oiefiles/RAWS_Newsletter_March_2018.pdf)

Regional Animal Welfare Strategy <http://www.rr-asia.oie.int/strategies/regional-animal-welfare-strategy/>

Kate Littin, OIE Focal Point for Animal Welfare, New Zealand

Chair, Advisory Group for OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy for Asia, the Far East and Oceania

Manager Animal Welfare Team, Animal Health & Welfare, Ministry for Primary Industries [kate.littin@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:kate.littin@mpi.govt.nz)

## Protecting animals in emergencies

MPI has produced a number of checklists for dealing with animals in emergencies. They can be found on the MPI website [www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animals-in-emergencies/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animals-in-emergencies/)

They include pets, livestock and horses, assistance dogs and lifestyle blocks, as well as how to care for animals affected by fires, earthquakes and floods.

More information can be found on the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management website [getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready/pets-and-livestock/](http://getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready/pets-and-livestock/)

**If you want to know more about MPI's work in emergencies, or be involved, email [awem@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:awem@mpi.govt.nz).**

# NZCAC Conference: “Human Behaviour Change for Animals”

17-19 September 2018, Auckland

The New Zealand Companion Animal Council (NZCAC) is proud to be hosting the 27th Companion Animal Conference in Auckland from 17 to 19 September 2018.



The theme of the conference is “Human Behaviour Change for Animals” (HBCA). Everyone working to improve the welfare of animals understands that human behaviour towards animals impacts on welfare and is the root cause of much animal suffering. However, changing human behaviour is not as simple as telling or showing people that animals suffer. To effect meaningful change in people’s behaviour, we need to understand the attitudes and beliefs that motivate people to behave as they do, and then find the best ways to encourage and support them to make changes that improve welfare outcomes for animals.

*“If we do not understand why humans do the things they do, and what drives them to change, we will never be effective at making the world a better place for animals.”*

– Suzanne Rogers, HBCA founder

According to Suzanne Rogers (HBCA founder), traditional approaches to improving animal welfare have focused on

providing a service such as accessible veterinary treatment, or campaigning for people to change their consumer habits. Understanding why people do what they do, don’t do what you’d like them to, and often do not change their behaviour, is the holy grail of anyone with something to sell, a campaign to promote, or a desire to improve the world. For this reason, human behaviour change has been studied by experts in marketing, psychology, development, and health and education programmes – understanding human behaviour is important for anyone with an interest in helping the world to be a better place for humans or animals.

The first international conference on Human Behaviour Change for Animal Welfare was held in the United Kingdom in September 2016. The 2018 Companion Animal Conference will be the inaugural Australasian conference exploring the HBCA theme. As part of our vision to ‘create a nation that values, respects and responsibly cares for companion animals’, the NZCAC is excited to provide this opportunity for interested individuals to network, share experiences, and learn from

leading national and international experts in animal welfare and human behaviour change.

The NZCAC looks forward to welcoming four keynote speakers: Dr Ngaio Beausoleil (Massey University), Debbie Busby (Clinical Animal Behaviourist, UK), Dr Sara Dubois (BC, Canada SPCA), Dr Peter Thornber (Commonwealth Veterinary Association and Queensland University) and Dr Lynette McLeod (University of New England).”

The 2018 Companion Animal Conference is being delivered in collaboration with **SPCA New Zealand, Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT)** and is supported by **Human Behaviour Change for Animals (HBCA)**.

Please visit the conference [website](#) to register and follow the NZCAC [Facebook](#) page for more information. Early Bird registration rate available until 30 June 2018.

**Bianka Atlas**  
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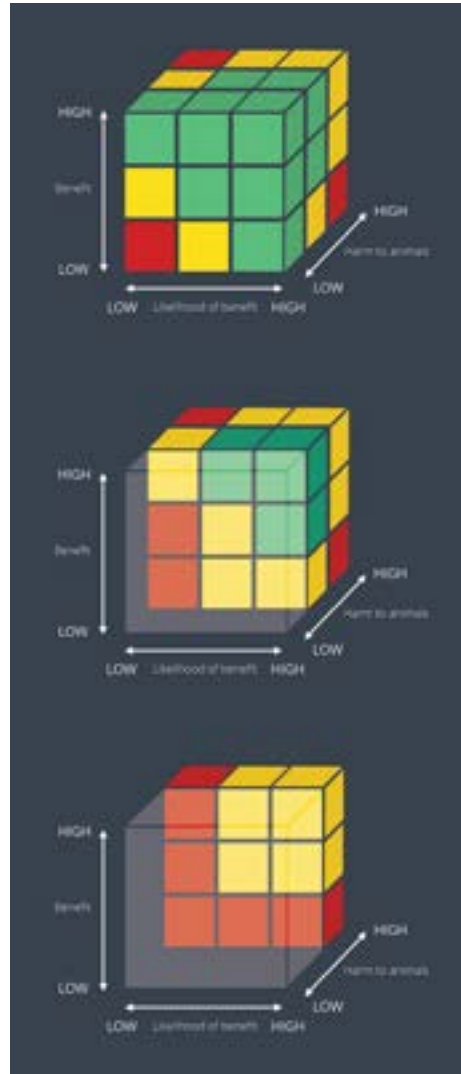
# The challenge of weighing harms and benefits in animal research

Animal use in research has a long history, and, especially in its modern history, it has been regarded as a contentious practice. Like some human participant research, there have been examples of animal use that are rightly judged as unethical. On one standard of judging this, the problem is that the harms done to animals in this research outweighed its benefits. If the benefits sufficiently outweigh the harms, then animal use is judged permissible: it is acceptable, humane, science.

This, in general terms, is the standard that New Zealand uses in the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (which has been amended many times since its passing). No use of animals for research, testing or teaching is legally permissible unless the likely harm done to animals is minimised, and is outweighed by the likely benefits of this use of animals to humans, animals or the environment. One purpose of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 is to ensure that research, testing and teaching in New Zealand at least meets this general standard. It is the responsibility of researchers to design and conduct research with this in mind, and of animal ethics committees (AECs) to determine whether each application they consider satisfies it.

There is clear and detailed policy detailing how to assess severity of harm from any experimental interventions, requiring that likely harm must be minimised as much as possible, and instructing how to do this using the Three Rs (replacing sentient animals with non-sentient alternatives, reducing the number of animals used to the minimum necessary, and refining manipulations to promote animal welfare as much as possible). There is clear direction in law and policy that likely benefits of this use of animals (including when it is combined with other relevant work in the past, present or planned for the future) must be considered. However, there is less clarity about how benefit should be assessed, compared to that for harm. Moreover, this is also the case for how harms and benefits should be weighed against each other – the crucial test that AECs in particular must apply.

Weighing harms and benefits is a complex process, especially in the context of research. The modified Bateson Cube is a simple tool (Figure 1) that could be used to help guide this process.



**Figure 1. Modified Bateson Cube**  
(adapted from National Competent Authorities for

the Implementation of Directive 2010/63/EU on the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes.

Working Document on Project Evaluation and Retrospective Assessment, 2013, available at

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab\\_animals/pdf/guidance/project\\_evaluation/en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/pdf/guidance/project_evaluation/en.pdf)

This cube, named after its originator, eminent animal behaviourist Patrick Bateson (1938–2017), shows three dimensions on which uses of animals can be assessed in order to weigh harms and benefits. “Harm to Animals” and “Benefits” prompt estimation of the magnitude of these: how much harm, and how much benefit, is anticipated from this use of animals? “Likelihood of Benefit” prompts consideration of the probability that the estimated benefits will be realised.

Once these are worked out, and it’s been established that harm has been minimised, and the dimensions of benefit maximised, each proposed use of animals can be situated in one of the smaller cubes in the 3D space. Some of these are red, meaning that there is good reason to believe they ought not to be approved in their current form because the harms are not outweighed by the benefits. Some are green, meaning that there is good reason to believe that they meet the harm benefit standard and, at least in this regard, ought to be approved by the AEC. The remaining yellow cubes are those uses about which it’s unclear whether the benefits outweigh the harms. Further discussion and deliberation is needed to work out the right decision about these, whether that is to decline, approve, or require changes to the research (which move it toward the green areas) before it can be approved.



# Animal Welfare Matters – new animal welfare regulations

**MPI is introducing new regulations to address wide-ranging animal welfare issues.**

Responding to issues raised within MPI and by stakeholders, and consulting the latest scientific evidence, MPI is introducing regulations on 1 October 2018 which will affect owners of farm animals as well as pet owners.

These regulations are intended to improve the welfare of many animals in New Zealand including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, donkeys, deer, llamas, alpacas, crustaceans, layer hens and dogs. They will apply to many types of animal-related businesses such as farms, stock transporters, live trappers, dog breeders, stables, petting zoos, crustacean farms, restaurants and education providers.

They also apply to private owners and people in charge of animals.

The regulations give Animal Welfare Inspectors a new tool in their toolbox, allowing them to deal directly with poor animal welfare situations. As the Associate Minister of Agriculture, responsible for animal welfare, Hon Meka Whaitiri notes in this issue, “On 26 March this year, Cabinet approved a raft of new regulations that will strengthen our animal welfare system, even more. The new regulations introduce penalties and fines to deal with lower level offences, which may not have previously warranted prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act.”

The new regulations are largely based on minimum standards already in codes of welfare, but some will require practices to change.

Some examples of the regulations include: a ban on tail docking, penalties for leaving dogs in hot vehicles, improving the welfare of stock while being transported, making sure equipment used on animals does not harm them, providing appropriate food, water and shelter to tethered animals, severely restricting the use of electric prodders, and ensuring crabs, rock lobster, crayfish and kōura are made insensible before being killed.

MPI is working with a wide variety of stakeholder groups to implement the regulations and support any changes. It recognises it is important to ensure as many people as possible know about the changes and have the opportunity to check they are doing it right, before they come into effect.

Kate Littin, Manager Animal Welfare Team, MPI says “A range of stakeholder groups are working with us to ensure we can identify the best way to reach animal owners and the most appropriate messages. This collaborative approach is the same one we used when the young calf regulations were introduced in 2016 and has proven to be really effective. We are confident we will be able to replicate those successes and we encourage

people to get in touch with us if they want to be involved.”

In order to drive compliance these regulations allow the use of instant fines by MPI and SPCA Inspectors. Personal fines range from \$300-\$500 for each infringement and corporate fines from \$3,000-\$25,000 depending on the severity of the harm inflicted, and may also result in a criminal conviction.

For more information, including the specific regulations and the codes of welfare please see the MPI website. From the home page click the Protection & response button, and from there you can find the Animal welfare section.

As well as implementing and monitoring these new regulations, MPI is working on a final package of proposed regulations relating to carrying out surgical and painful procedures on animals. These regulations will clarify who may carry out surgical and painful procedures on animals and under what circumstances.

Further information:

[www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-regulations/](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-regulations/)

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



# NZCAC Assisi Award Winners 2017: Recognising outstanding service to animals

Every year, the New Zealand Companion Animal Council (NZCAC) presents its Assisi Awards in “recognition of outstanding service to animals” to individuals who have contributed to the welfare of animals. Nominations for these awards are welcomed from all sectors of the community. In 2017, the NZCAC was delighted to have two recipients: Victoria Skinner and Carolyn Press-McKenzie.

## Victoria Skinner – The Outpawed Rescue Trust



Victoria founded The Outpawed Rescue Trust in April 2016 with a vision to improve outcomes for unsocialised and unowned cats. Outpawed implemented a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programme in the Wellington region and expanded this to Manawatu-Whanganui in late 2016. They have since assisted more than 550 unsocialised cats and kittens throughout the country.

More than two-thirds of these have been socialised, desexed, vaccinated and adopted into homes, with the rest of them being trapped, desexed and returned to their territory with a caretaker or integrated into managed colonies.

Most recently, Victoria organised and undertook a two-day operation to catch and desex the 38 cats in a colony in Levin. This ended the colony's 15-year history of uncontrolled reproduction.

Victoria strives to raise awareness of the issues facing stray and wild cats, engaging with the community and working with people to solve problems they have with unowned cats. She advocates for responsible pet ownership, as well as consulting with local councils on animal policies. Victoria also makes herself available to her community to provide advice and goes out to scan found cats for microchips.

Earlier this year, Outpawed started a community desexing programme, where sponsorship is sought to pay for desexing for families who cannot afford it and do not have access to

low cost desexing schemes. In June 2017, Outpawed hosted the very first annual cat rescue conference, with speakers and attendees from most of the organisations in the region. This conference provided a safe forum for rescue groups to meet and share experiences, discuss issues, and learn from each other. Outpawed established a cat rescue scholarship in 2016. This is sponsored by Victoria personally, and pays for a rescue volunteer (from any organisation) to attend a comprehensive pet first aid course.

Visit The Outpawed Rescue Trust online for more information: <https://outpawed.co.nz/>

## Carolyn Press-McKenzie – HUHA (Helping You Help Animals)



Carolyn Press-McKenzie, along with husband Jim McKenzie, purchased 13 acres of land in Kaitoke, calling it the Pakuratahi Farm Animal Sanctuary, taking in and caring for a range of animals in need of care. In 2008, Carolyn then established HUHA (Helping You Help Animals). HUHA was founded on the belief that the community could – and wanted to – take responsibility for animal welfare

issues and that everyone (with help and knowledge) should be part of the solution.

HUHA began by providing an online education resource as well as continuing to provide a safe haven for injured, neglected and abused animals and wildlife. The sanctuary is a place where all

volunteers help with working bees, care for the animals, and share ideas and their vision for the future.

Fronted by Carolyn, HUHA is now a leading New Zealand organisation committed to eliminating animal abuse. HUHA successfully led the campaign against the use of animals in testing legal psychoactive substances ('legal highs') and collaborated with organisations on other successful campaigns, including the banning of animal testing (Be Cruelty Free) and seeking legislation for the compulsory re-homing of ex-laboratory animals (Out of the Labs). HUHA's other ongoing campaigns include “Stop Breeding Puppies to Death,” which aims to raise awareness of backyard breeding of puppies for pet shops.

In addition to her long list of achievements under the HUHA banner, Carolyn is also a qualified veterinary nurse, holds a certificate in animal science technology, a diploma in herbal remedies, and extensive experience working within the animal industry in New Zealand and overseas, including being a self-employed animal trainer for film and television.

Visit HUHA online for more information: <https://huha.org.nz/>

The 2018 Assisi Awards will be presented at the NZCAC's 27th Companion Animal Conference, which will be held in Auckland from 17 to 19 September. For more information and to register for the conference, visit the Conference website:

[www.nzcac.org.nz/conference/](http://www.nzcac.org.nz/conference/)

For more information about the Assisi Awards, visit the NZCAC website: [www.nzcac.org.nz/nzcac/assisi-awards/about-the-awards](http://www.nzcac.org.nz/nzcac/assisi-awards/about-the-awards)

**Bianka Atlas**

**Acting Manager**

**New Zealand Companion Animal Council, [manager@nzcac.org.nz](mailto:manager@nzcac.org.nz)**

## Codes of ethical conduct – approvals, notifications and terminations since issue 24

All organisations involved in the use of live animals for research, testing or teaching are required to adhere to an approved code of ethical conduct.

### Codes of ethical conduct approved

- Nil

### Notifications to MPI of arrangements to use an existing code of ethical conduct

- Flint, Pania (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)
- Skretting (to use Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology's code)
- Taihape Veterinary Services (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)
- Vence NZ Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)

### Amendments to codes of ethical conduct approved by MPI

- Nil

### Minor amendments to codes of ethical conduct notified to MPI

- Nil

### Codes of ethical conduct revoked or expired or arrangements terminated or lapsed

- Dermvetonline
- Goldenberg, Silvan
- Hillcrest High School
- LIC Deer Ltd
- MetriKlenz Ltd
- New Zealand Companion Animal Council
- Oritain Global Ltd
- Ottmann, Garry
- Spring Sheep Dairy LP
- Towers Consulting

Linda Carsons, Senior Adviser, Ministry for Primary Industries  
linda.carsons@mpi.govt.nz

continued from page 14...

Both the benefit and the likelihood of that benefit eventuating from the particular use of animals count in favour of it being performed, and harm to animals counts against this. So, for low harm research in the first slice, there is little counting against it, and relatively low benefit or likelihood of benefit is needed in order for the research to be in the yellow or green zones.

The requirements for benefit and its likelihood increase as negative impact on animal well-being increases. In the final slice which involves the highest harmful impact, even the highest and most likely to be realised benefits are not decisive, and more deliberation is required.

Whether this particular formulation of the cube strikes the right balance, getting the right colours in all the right places is something that should be considered. Nevertheless, the

cube tool can helpfully guide AECs and researchers reasoning about justifiable use of animals in research teaching and testing by focusing on magnitude and likelihood of benefit, and magnitude of harm. But these are not straightforward to estimate or reason about, as anyone who has tried to do this can confirm. Estimating harm to animals is not simple, but there is much more policy, expertise and information about this side of the equation to inform deliberation, compared to benefit. This asymmetry is a problem for ethical review of animal use. AECs must weigh harm and benefit, so they need to know enough about both of these when they are deliberating. A crucial step towards enabling this is to get a better understanding of benefit.

Mike King  
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## Your feedback

We look forward to hearing your views on *Welfare Pulse* and welcome your comment on what you would like to see more of, less of, or something new that we have yet to cover.

Please send your feedback to us by emailing [animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz)

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To unsubscribe from email alerts follow the instructions at the link above.

## Welfare Pulse

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The articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect government policy. For enquiries about specific articles, refer to the contact listed at the end of each article.

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