

technician.

Authorization to carry out velvetting must be obtained in writing from either the National Velvetting Standards Body, or a veterinarian. Check the full regulations for the criteria that must be met. "Authorised person" means the deer owner or employee of the deer owner. It does not include a veterinary

Throughout the procedure the deer must be under the influence of **pain relief** authorised by a veterinarian. This includes (for yearling deer) high-pressure rubber rings designed for the purpose of inducing analgesia during velvetting (e.g. NaturO rings).

Velvetting is painful and must only be performed by a **veterinarian or authorised person**.

## ■ Velvetting

Call us about an animal welfare issue on **0800 00 83 33**



Email us your questions to **animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz**



**www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs** others to check too at

Are you doing it right? Encourage



If an animal's welfare is seriously compromised, higher penalties under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 apply.

Some breaches may also result in a criminal conviction. Individuals and go up to \$25,000 for businesses. animal welfare regulations start at \$300 for against animal mistreatment. Fines for breaching Regulations make it easier for MPI to take action

New Zealand's great animal welfare system enhances our reputation as world leaders – let's keep it that way.

## ■ Animal welfare matters

## ■ For more information

Many of the regulations come from the codes of welfare. These set out minimum standards and recommended best practices when caring for animals. Codes that may be relevant to you include:

- **dairy cattle**
- **deer**
- **dogs**
- **goats**
- **horses and donkeys**
- **llamas and alpacas**
- **pigs**
- **sheep and beef cattle**
- **transport within NZ**

You can find the regulations, our guidance on the regulations and the codes of welfare on our website at **www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs**

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



■ November 2022

## Animal Welfare Regulations

# Deer



## ■ Antlers

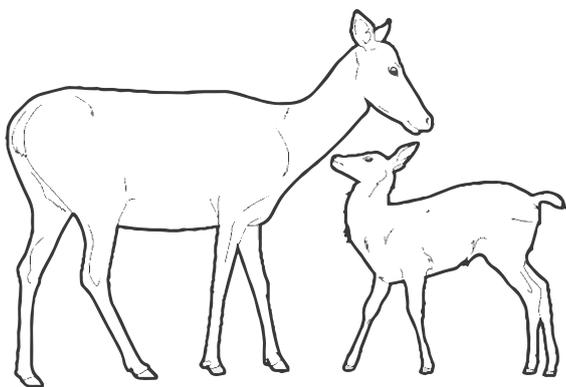
Transporting deer with antlers **increases the risk of injury** and should be avoided where possible.

- ✓ If you must transport them, communicate with your stock agent and transporter so they can plan the journey appropriately.

**Injured** antlers and pedicles are painful and can worsen during the journey.

- ✗ Do not transport deer with an injured antler or pedicle.

Young deer (**spikers**) can be transported to the works within 72 hours of having their first velvet removed, when the rubber rings are still attached.



## ■ For transporters

**Injuries** during transport cause significant pain and distress to deer. **Stags** with antlers, in particular, can injure themselves or others during transport.

- ✗ Do not load, transport, or unload deer in a manner that can cause injury.
- ✗ Do not transport a stag with antlers in a manner that causes injury to itself or others.
- ✓ You must **ensure** spikers arrive at the meat processor no later than 72 hours after having their first velvet removed, with rings still attached.

Deer with pre-existing conditions, such as lameness, can only be transported with a veterinary certificate.

- ✓ You must comply with **all** of the conditions on a **veterinary certificate**.



## ■ Fit for transport

On farm, on road and on arrival

Transport is stressful. Animals need to be well prepared and fit for the entire journey. Deer selected for transport must be:

- ✓ healthy and in good condition
- ✓ free of injury, defects and disease
- ✓ not recently de velvetted (except yearling deer).

Your deer are not fit for transport if they:

- ✗ are lame (cannot bear weight on one or more limbs when moving or standing still, or have a definite limp)
- ✗ are in late pregnancy, and then give birth on the truck, or within 24 hours of arrival at the meat processor or sale yard. Do not transport hinds within 21 days of their estimated fawning/calving date. You need to have a system in place to ensure compliance with this regulation.

- ! Manage and treat on-farm before transporting
- ! Consult your veterinarian if you're unsure if your animal is fit for transport

**If in doubt – leave it out**



Download the free **Fit for Transport** app from the Apple store or Google play store to check your stock on the spot

