



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

NAWAC 98/18

General Meeting

13 November 2018
09:30 am – 4:30 pm

Level 7, TSB Building, 147 Lambton Quay
Wellington

MINUTES

Committee members: Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Graeme Doole, Katie Milne, Ruth Palmer, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Grant Shackell, Iain Torrance, Ingrid Visser, Julie Wagner

In attendance: Privacy

Apologies:

Welcome: Ruth Palmer, Ingrid Visser

Any Other Business Part One (Open to the Public): C3 on the agenda (Select Committee and farrowing crates) was moved to the Open section.

Any Other Business Part Two (Public Excluded):

PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

GENERAL

O 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

Moved (G Verkerk / I Torrance)

That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 15 August 2018 (83/18) be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The motion was put: carried.

O 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed the list of actions (84/18). For action items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Action 1, in regards to the review underway, remains in progress. There has been no further communication.
- Action 2, in regards to familiarising A&P shows with the rodeo code, remains in progress.
- Privacy

Action: NAWAC to follow up on letter if necessary.

- Action 6, in regards to updating NAWAC guidelines, in progress.
- Action 7, in regards to implementation of the disbudding regulation, is in progress. G Verkerk rang Privacy at MPI to discuss work done with veterinarians so far. Most work has been around fitness for transport and certification. However, dairy cattle vets have been working on a guideline that will help them share anaesthetic with farmers and teach farmers to use it properly. Suggested to ask Privacy later in the day, as she is managing implementation.
- Action 8, in regards to the website, is still in progress. Examining options for a higher profile.
- Other actions are complete.

O 3. NAWAC correspondence

Privacy listed recent correspondence sent and received. There were no comments.

O 4. Work programme update

The work programme update (87/18) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme updates not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Wildlife – Parts of the wildlife workplan is later in the agenda, but it was noted that the snares advice is ready to go to the Minister. It will be sent after the dairy cattle amendment which is the priority.
- Poultry – this workstream has been on hold during 2018 due to limits on resourcing.
- Temporary Housing – Code came into force 1 October.
- Exhibition, Entertainment and Encounter – The opinion piece is still under development. Rodeo has taken priority due to attention on the issue. However G Verkerk noted that in her

recent meeting with the Minister, the opinion piece is one of the priorities he identified. The Minister would like to see this paper by the end of 2019.

In terms of rodeo, G Verkerk and G Doole had meeting with the NZ Rodeo Cowboys Association to talk through findings of NAWAC's report. There was lot of engagement around the rodeo welfare committee, and a Terms of Reference document is being drafted. G Verkerk and Privacy travelled to Winchester and met with rodeo cowboy welfare officers before the first event of the year. G Verkerk discussed sentience and mental state of animals with them, as well as alternatives to calf roping (e.g. mechanical calves). The industry has been put in touch with the greyhound racing industry to share lessons/experience from the greyhound welfare committee. Noted Animal Law Association's private case against a cowboy in Whangarei.

An update on greyhounds was provided as well. Greyhound Racing New Zealand is now sending quarterly updates to the Ministers of Agriculture and of Racing, which are available to NAWAC on their workspace. A new hoop arm lure reported to reduce some aspects of injuries, is being rolled out nationwide, the latest education campaign for trainers focuses on transport, and a policy on socialisation and behaviour is under development. The welfare committee now has a budget and Privacy

- Implementation of standards – an update was provided on the shelter research, which is progressing well. Privacy is drafting a discussion paper on body condition score issues for a workshop to discuss further and determine if regulatory or non-regulatory interventions are required.
- Animal sentience – videos from the workshop are being uploaded to MPI's website.
- Codes review – the recommendations from the subcommittee are being fed into work programme. A work programme to develop a timeline for potential review of all codes being led by MPI. Noted Welfare Pulse article giving an update on the survey. Farm to Processor animal welfare forum held a discussion on codes of welfare, and agreed that each sector would do a gaps analysis on their 'own' codes. Privacy will give update.

O 5. Committee members' reports on recent presentations and attendance at conferences

K Milne – Recently visited Rome for various meetings, including being able to spend some time observing the food security meetings at the United Nations.

J Wagner – Attended animal remedy, plant and protection annual meeting where there were updates on M. bovis. Also attended parasitology annual meeting.

K Schutz – Travelled to Chile to present at an animal production society meeting. Discussed shelter & mud, as Chile has similar rain and sun levels as NZ. Also went to Melbourne to present at the animal welfare forum for RD&E. Gave presentations about the importance of natural behaviours.

G Shackell – Travelled in Europe and saw a few examples of animals on exhibition, including a place in Wales where there's a daily feeding of wild red kites and a bird park in Singapore with live flight shows.

N Poutu – Attended annual Sika show, and worked on the DOC stand. Noted opposition to Tahr cull. DOC looking at PredatorFree 2050 and community management and how hunters can be integrated. Working directly with some trap manufacturers, and the Animal Welfare Act and associated guidelines have been a good tool to establish humaneness of killing. Still seeing relatively little animal welfare considerations in some of these forums.

G Doole – Noted project underway at DairyNZ under the Dairy Tomorrow strategy. Goal to be world leading in animal care.

I Visser – Due to present at a series of presentations coming up in China next month. Invited by the China cetacean alliance, who are concerned about boom of aquariums in the country. Noted that Russia captured ~100 belugas in the last few weeks.

O 6. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI

The committee thanked MPI for the update (88/18); there were no further comments.

PRESENTATIONS

O 7. Privacy

Privacy

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

O 8. Policy (Surgical and Painful Procedures) (11:15)

Privacy arrived to give an update from the Policy team on the next tranche of animal welfare regulations. Gave background on process so far, and described current focus as engaging with stakeholders. Some NAWAC members have attended some of these meetings. Many stakeholders have identified new procedures that were not identified before the public consultation process. Privacy

[Redacted]

Questions were raised over training farmers in the use of anaesthetic, for example for disbudding. It was noted that the dairy cattle branch of NZVA is preparing a guidance document.

Action: MPI to share draft guidelines from NZVA regarding anaesthetic for disbudding with NAWAC when these are available.

The difficulties of wording regulations for 'grey areas' such as treatment of abscesses which when minor may be successfully treated by an animal owner/carer, but which may also be more serious or have the potential for complication which would require veterinary intervention was described, as well as the need to avoid being too specific, in case new procedures are then not covered in the future. With some of these matters, it may need to be accepted that the Act itself will need to be relied on to guide outcomes, i.e. if something goes wrong with an owner/carer treatment and the welfare of the animal is compromised as a result, then this could lead to compliance action being taken as a result of the Act being breached.

Privacy

[Redacted]

NAWAC agreed to retain regulations subcommittee for consultation purposes.

Action: MPI to share Surgical and Painful procedures summary document.

O 9. Regulations implementation and Chief Executive's forum (11:30)

Privacy arrived to give an update on the Sector Liaison work.

She described and displayed the material produced for the regulations implementation project including pamphlets, posters, saleyard signs, social media campaigns, written articles, and an updated Fit for Transport app.

The latest focus has been on reaching more sheep and beef farmers, which involves events, more 1-on-1 discussions and written collateral e.g. in rural publications.

The implementation of the disbudding regulation was raised. At this stage, the vets are developing their guidance on how to implement Veterinary Operating Instructions. Noted cynicism from farmers and others about veterinary professional readiness for these changes – concerns have been raised about farmers not being trained in time. Privacy considers that there is a working model out there (for deer velvetting) and so there is no reason it should be different for calf disbudding.

Privacy then discussed the animal welfare framework and the work of industry groups in supporting it. The workshop in August of the Animal Welfare Chief Executive's Forum was described, in which they had presentations from the Minister and MPI, and also animal activists and then workshoped how the framework could be supported. The Forum is now looking at the codes of welfare and how they can be updated and better implemented. The industries are also sharing their own animal welfare strategies with MPI.

Action: Share the outcomes paper from the workshop with NAWAC.

At the Farm to Processor meeting in October, one workstream was initiated to review current standards, to determine if they are up to date and adequately represent Recommended Best Practice, and then to feed this into NAWAC's code review process and consider how to implement any new standards. This will be discussed at December's Chief Executives Forum, and if they agree, NAWAC will be formally informed about this work. G Verkerk recognised that the codes need some work, and some parts of some codes no longer reflect current practices (e.g. dairy cow inductions), so work that can help update these is welcomed, though resourcing may be an issue if lots of changes come at once.

Action: Request early warning from Farm to Processor and Chief Executive's Forum if big changes are coming to codes of welfare.

Action: Send NAWAC the link to leaflet PDF's and ordering portal.

O 10. LGOIMA (12:00pm)

Privacy had not been able to find a suitable presenter from within MPI, but has a contact at the Ombudsman's office, and hopes that someone can come to the next meeting. This will assist NAWAC to consider further opportunities to increase the transparency of its processes and considerations.

Noted the changes to NAWAC's agenda structure as a result of advice gathered so far.

**PART TWO
(CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC)**

DRAFT RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

(G Verkerk / J Wagner):

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| C 1. | Wildlife (1080 and deer; Guideline 09; glueboard report) | N Poutu / Privacy |
| C 2. | Dairy housing code of welfare amendment | G Verkerk |

THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED WHILE THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED, THE REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER, AND THE SPECIFIC GROUNDS UNDER SECTION 48(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987 FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C 1.	<i>Wildlife (1080 and deer; Guideline 09; glueboard report)</i>	<i>That the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation.</i>
C 2.	<i>Dairy housing code of welfare amendment</i>	<i>That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 48(2)(a)(ii)</i>

I also move that:

Privacy

Be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of meeting procedure and the subject matter under discussion. This knowledge is relevant background information to assist the committee in its deliberations.

C 1. Wildlife (1080 and deer; Guideline 09; glueboard report)

Glueboard report: the report had been circulated prior to the meeting (91/18). The main point is that there has been a big drop in the number of traps used and in applications.

Noted that MPI is now receiving a few one-off applications for short-term use where there is an infestation that can't be managed with other traps. The exemption only lasts until infestation is under control.

A few incidents of non-target animals being caught were noted (generally these are skinks or sometimes birds).

Action – NAWAC to write to Minister and forward report for his information.

1080 and deer: **Privacy** explained that a full discussion has been deferred so that secretariat can gather more information on the issue. At the moment information is being sought from OSPRI and ACVM. Already have DOC's policy. Other groups were suggested by committee members including the NEXT foundation and Zero Invasive Predators. NAWAC should expect further discussion in February 2019.

Guideline 09: Memo 92/18 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was summarised by **Privacy**. Several changes were suggested to the guideline.

There was one question in regards to the requirement to brand or mark the trap. Does this apply to the setting as well? It was explained that all of the trap testing requirements take into account the setting. Noted that community groups are making boxes/settings. This means that the mechanism will have to include in its instructions what the setting/box looks like. A mark or brand on the box is not necessarily required as long as the mechanism/trap itself is clear about what it requires. The wording on this should be clarified.

Moved (N Poutu / I Torrance)

That with slight amendment as described, Guideline 09 should be amended according to memo 92/18.

The motion was put: carried.

Privacy gave a quick update on the Statutes Amendment Bill. The Animal Welfare Act has now been amended to allow remote monitoring. Royal Assent was received in September this year.

There is currently a guideline for remote monitoring online. This will need to be updated to reflect changes to the Act. NAWAC agreed to drafting of a minor amendment rather than refreshing the whole guideline, and to delegate this to the Secretariat.

Privacy had also recently approached a few groups to see who would be interested to test more traps against the NAWAC guideline, in particular for community groups using traps. There was discussion about how NAWAC would like to engage with this work.

N Poutu suggested that NAWAC has an opportunity to engage to ensure that testing gets most value for money – to encourage testing as more than just a marketing exercise. NAWAC could have an eye over the process to give advice on prioritisation. NAWAC considers this to be a reasonably high priority as more of the public engage in trapping and pest management.

C 2. Privacy [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

PART ONE CONTINUED (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

STRATEGY AND PLANNING

Primary Production Select Committee – Farrowing Crate Petition

G Verkerk gave an update after presenting to the Primary Production Select Committee in October. MPI also presented on the same day. SAFE and NZPork presented a week later, and all presentations are available online to view.

The Select Committee have not released their report yet. MPI reported that the Select Committee had been waiting for additional information from MPI. The information includes whether MPI can apply minimum standards to pork imports, and the extent to which New Zealanders prefer New Zealand pork.

G Verkerk is anticipating updates for NAWAC's next meeting.

O 11. Meeting dates 2019

Meeting dates were discussed and, subject to NAEAC's discussion and agreement (as they are usually back-to-back), the meeting dates were set as:

- Wednesday 13 February
- Wednesday 22nd May
- Thursday 23rd May for a stakeholder workshop to consider elements of the opinion paper about use of animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter
- Monday 19 August
- Tuesday 20 August for joint NAWAC/NAEAC meeting focusing on 5 domains and assessment of positive welfare, and Maori world-view about animals and their use
- Wednesday 13 November

I Visser will be an apology in February 2019.

O 12. Prioritisation 2019

NAWAC workshopped their top priorities, beginning from the issues register circulated prior to the meeting (90/18) and supported by Guideline 12.

Action: Privacy to share draft workplan for agreement in February 2019.

With no further items of business, the meeting was closed at 4:30pm.