Rodeos

Animal Welfare (Rodeos)
Code of Welfare 201X

A code of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999

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National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
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Preface

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1. Introduction

1.1 What is the purpose of this code of welfare?

Adequately maintaining the welfare of animals being used in rodeos requires experience, training and the observance of high standards. This code is to encourage all those responsible for the care of rodeo animals to adopt the highest standards of husbandry, care and handling, and to equal or exceed the minimum standards.

The minimum standards in this code have a legal effect under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) (see Appendix II). They set out the minimum standard of care which owners or persons in charge of animals need to achieve in order to meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act. Suggested indicators do not have a legal effect but they can be used to determine whether minimum standards are being met. The recommendations for best practice are intended to encourage standards of care over and above the minimum. Advice is given throughout this code which is designed to encourage owners and operators to strive for a high level of welfare. Explanatory material is provided where appropriate.

1.2 Who does this code apply to?

Under the Act the “owner” and the “person in charge” of an animal are responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare. For many animals being used in rodeos, the owner of the animals places them in the care of others who become the persons in charge, but this does not derogate from their responsibility to ensure that the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act are met. See also Appendix II in this Code.

1.3 What animals does this code apply to?

This code applies to all animals used in rodeos, and includes animals used in training and rodeo schools.

1.4 What happens if I do not follow the minimum standards in this code?

Failure to meet a minimum standard in this code may be used as evidence to support a prosecution for an offence under the Act. A person who is charged with an offence against the 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 basis and are included to encourage higher standards of animal welfare.

1.5 How does this code relate to other codes?

Other codes of welfare should be consulted where appropriate (see Appendix III) and the Ministry for Primary Industries website at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare). This code of welfare applies to all animals. However, further detail on the transport of livestock and species-specific requirements for animals are generally covered in relevant, species-specific, codes of welfare.
2. Responsibilities and Stockmanship

2.1 Responsibilities

The welfare of animals during a rodeo often involves changing responsibilities because different parts of the rodeo event may be carried out by different people. Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, both the owner and the person (or persons) in charge of animals have responsibilities for meeting the animals’ needs (see Appendix III). While the animals used in rodeos may sometimes be under the responsibility of others, this does not derogate owners or persons in charge from their responsibilities under the Act. In addition, responsibility may be shared between several people, particularly during the handover of tasks or animals.

The rodeo organiser is the person who is responsible for the running of the rodeo. Responsibility for meeting minimum standards relating to the provision, design and maintenance of facilities and equipment, the allocation of operational responsibilities and the competence and supervision of employee performance generally lies with the rodeo organiser. The rodeo organiser also has overall responsibility for the welfare of the animals. Whilst all duties are not necessarily performed directly by the organiser, the organiser needs to ensure that the rodeo staff and stock handlers are adequately performing their responsibilities. Each contestant is personally responsible for the animals he or she uses during an event, and during that period of use is considered to be the person in charge.

An animal welfare officer needs to be appointed to each rodeo and have his or her responsibilities specified in writing. The animal welfare officer has direct responsibility for the welfare of the animals and will work in liaison with the rodeo organiser and the veterinarian. The animal welfare officer’s role is to liaise with clubs, promoters, stock contractors, contestants and the veterinarian to coordinate and evaluate all steps taken to ensure the welfare of the animals.

The veterinarian is responsible for providing expert advice on the health, injury or disease status of an animal and its suitability for competition. Veterinarians need to be familiar with cattle, sheep and horses in order to deal effectively with, and provide expert advice on, the health and injury status of any animal used in the rodeo and any issues that may arise during the event. Veterinarians need to check for lame, sick and injured animals, or animals with defective eyesight and assess the body condition and weight of the animals to ensure their fitness to participate in a rodeo event.

At an operational level, those responsible for carrying out particular tasks during the rodeo event are likely to be considered the person(s) in charge for the purposes of the Animal Welfare Act and are responsible for ensuring that applicable minimum standards in this code of welfare are met. The ‘person in charge’ is defined in the Animal Welfare Act as “includes a person who has an animal in that person’s possession or custody, or under that person’s care, control, or supervision”. In practice, the identification of the person or persons in charge will depend on the minimum standard in question.

2.2 Stockmanship

Introduction

The importance of competency and stockmanship in the maintenance of animals’ welfare cannot be over-emphasised. All people involved in rodeos need to be competent in the care and handling of the animals and understand how their actions may affect the animals’ welfare. The knowledge, skills, abilities and attitude of the stock handlers are integral to the standard of welfare experienced by animals used in rodeos. Stockmanship includes the ability to identify an animal’s needs and ensure that action is taken to address those needs in a way that demonstrates an affinity with and an empathy for animals. Knowledge of the normal appearance and behaviour of animals being used is
essential and those in charge of the rodeo animals need to be able to recognise injuries or early signs of distress so that prompt action is taken or advice sought.

Owners and persons in charge of rodeo animals should ensure that their personnel have either the relevant knowledge and training or appropriate supervision to ensure that the health and welfare needs of the animals in their care are met. Handling techniques can be included as written procedures in a quality assurance system, which is easily accessible to all personnel.

In order that the welfare of animals used in rodeo events is safeguarded, rodeo organisers, contractors, stock owners and contestants should clearly understand and accept their responsibilities. All people involved with and participating in rodeo events need to be familiar with this code.

It is important that the judges and the animal welfare officer are empowered to disqualify any official or contestant who compromises the welfare of an animal.

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**Minimum Standard No. 1 – Stockmaship**

(a) Persons in charge of rodeo events must ensure that animals are cared for by a sufficient number of personnel who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with the minimum standards in this code.

(b) An animal welfare officer must be appointed and present at each rodeo.

(c) A veterinarian must be in attendance throughout the rodeo, unless called away to an emergency.

(d) In the absence of the veterinarian, the animal welfare officer must take on the responsibility for retracting animals from events where necessary.

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**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 1 – Stockmaship**

- Stock health and welfare is in accordance with the minimum standards listed in this code
- The number of personnel is appropriate for the event (e.g. for the number and type of animals)
- The veterinarian, or the animal welfare officer in the absence of the veterinarian, is the final arbiter on whether an animal is fit for competition
- Handlers are familiar with the minimum standards listed in this code and a copy of the minimum standards is available on site at all times
- Inexperienced handlers are supervised at all times while working with animals
- Job descriptions or other documentation related to the expectations of personnel duties include references to animal health and welfare
- Evidence of training / competence in the care and maintenance of stock and how the actions of staff may affect the animals’ welfare can be demonstrated

**Recommended Best Practice**

(a) The veterinarian should be experienced in treating all species of animals used in the rodeo.
(b) The veterinarian should complete a record of injuries and other defects, which should be included as part of the incident report (see section 9 – Welfare Assurance Scheme).

(c) A veterinarian is contracted to be present at the rodeo at all times and is not available to be called away to an emergency outside the rodeo event.

**General Information**

Quality assurance programmes should emphasise the importance of training of personnel.

The New Zealand Rodeo Association holds a number of training days for new contestants and for those wishing to learn more about rodeo events.
3. Food and Water

Introduction
Animals used in rodeo events, training and rodeo schools need to have their food and water requirements met in accordance with the species specific codes of welfare. Deprivation of food and water or changes in the volume or quality of food and water will compound the stress associated with rodeo events and can also result in metabolic disturbances and increase susceptibility to disease. Water is also important for regulation of body temperature.

Minimum Standard No. 2 – Food and Water

(a) Animals must have access to water that is palatable and not harmful to health in a quantity sufficient to satisfy their thirst.

(b) The provision of food and water must be appropriate to performance requirements as well as the species, age, physical state and condition of the animals to allow them to regulate body temperature and meet their health needs.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 2 – Food and Water

- Trough space and number of feeders is appropriate to the number and size of animals and competition at feeders is actively monitored
- Dung/manure appearance is ‘normal’ i.e no evidence of diarrhoea or constipation
- Water is provided in all pens at a temperature that does not inhibit drinking
- Water is clean, and does not become muddied
- Animals are not dehydrated
- Food that animals are offered is of a type they are accustomed to
- Food / water is offered while the animals are penned at the rodeo and is eaten / drunk

Recommended Best Practice

(a) Feed to which the animals are accustomed should be provided to the animals at a rodeo.

(b) Water should be provided in the holding pens, especially in hot weather.
4. Selecting and Accepting Animals for Rodeo

4.1 Selecting Animals

Introduction

Selecting and accepting the appropriate animals to compete in a rodeo are key processes to ensure that only animals that are able to cope with participating in a rodeo are selected. The responsibility for this is shared between the rodeo organiser and the stock contractor. Contract stock is to be used where possible and the rodeo organiser(s) needs to select the stock contractor supplying animals for rodeo events well in advance of the date of the rodeo. The stock contractor or the owners of non-contract stock (when used) are responsible for the appropriate husbandry and handling of their rodeo stock. They need to have knowledge of the minimum standards contained in this code and maintain the animals that are to be used in rodeo events in accordance with their species specific codes of welfare.

Animals suffering from disease, injury, or other abnormality may experience pain or distress. For this reason, all animals need to be inspected prior to being used in the rodeo and those that are not fit for use are not transported to the rodeo site. Personnel that are inspecting animals need to be competent at recognising normal and abnormal behaviour in the different species of animal used in rodeo events.

NAWAC call for comments:

NAWAC is aware that there are different minimum weight restrictions for animals used in rodeo events in different countries. NAWAC is seeking comments on the minimum weights of the animals used in rodeo and the effect that the weight of the animal has on its health and welfare. NAWAC has particular interest in the weights of the calves used in calf riding and in the rope and tie event.

Minimum Standard No. 3 – Selecting Animals

(a) All animals to be used must be inspected by the veterinarian prior to the commencement of the rodeo.

(b) Animals must not be used in a rodeo if they display injuries, signs of disease, abnormal behaviour, or have physical abnormalities that could compromise their welfare during the rodeo.

(c) Animals that are overweight, underweight, obviously pregnant, lactating, have young at foot, have not yet been weaned, or are physiologically compromised in any other way must not be yarded or used in the rodeo.

(d) Animals must not be used in a rodeo unless they are fit enough to withstand the process without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

(e) If a time event animal shows signs of fatigue, it must not be used.

(f) Horses must be at least 4 years of age.

(g) Horses used for bucking events must not be used more than 3 times on any one day (including practice for the event and the event itself).

(h) On each day, contract cattle must not be used on more than 3 occasions and non-contract cattle on no more than 2 occasions (including practice for the event and the event itself).

(i) The same cattle must not be used for both steer wrestling and roping events on any
one day.

(j) Animals that are likely to injure themselves if placed into a chute must not be used.

(k) Rodeo animals must meet the following minimum weights:

(i) Calves (for rope and tie) 120kgs

(ii) Calves (for calf riding with rider <40kgs) 200kgs

(iii) Calves (for calf riding with rider 40-50kgs) 250kgs

(iv) Bareback and saddle bronc horses 350kgs

(v) Steers (riders under 15 years) 275 kgs

(vi) Steers / bulls (riders of 15 years and above) 400kgs

(vii) Time event cattle (steer wrestling, team roping) 200kgs

(viii) Sheep 65 kgs

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**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 3 – Selecting Animals**

- Animals are selected and used in accordance with the Minimum Standard
- All animals meet the minimum standards as stated in species specific codes

**Recommended Best Practice**

(a) Only horses, steers and bulls should be used in rodeo events.

### 4.2 Handling

**Introduction**

Rodeos involve situations where animals may be subjected to a risk of injuries and distress and proper consideration needs to be given to the health and welfare of the animals used in all events. Distress and risk to both the animals and handlers is decreased when good handling practices are followed. Loading animals and subsequently releasing them from the chute for the different rodeo events can cause them stress, and the use of good handling practices during this procedure is essential.

**Minimum Standard No. 4 – Handling**

(a) Horses, cattle and sheep must be handled at all times in such a way as to minimise the risk of pain, injury or distress.

(b) Cattle, horses and sheep must be penned separately during yarding.

(c) Animals that are likely to cause injury or distress to other animals (such as those that are aggressive or have horns) must be managed appropriately to avoid injury to other animals.

(d) Personnel involved in handling rodeo animals must be competent at recognising normal and abnormal behaviour that indicates distress or suffering due to injury, disease, physiological state or other abnormality.
(e) Only the minimum force must be used when moving animals.

(f) Goads, including electric prodders, must only be used where there is sufficient room for the animals to move away from the goad and where:
   (i) the safety of the handler or another person is at risk,
   (ii) their use is essential to move difficult animals.

(g) Inexperienced handlers must not use electric prodders.

(h) Electric prodders must not be used on animals other than adult cattle.
   (i) Horses and cattle must not be prodded in the most sensitive areas, including the udder, eyes, nose, anus, vulva or testicles.
   (j) Electric prodders must only be used when necessary on chute-stalled stock, and then only instantaneously on the shoulder or rump of an animal to clear it from the chute on opening of the gate.

(k) Electric prodders must not be used while an animal is standing in a closed chute or while performing in the arena.

(l) Animals must not be abused, worried or tormented in any way by handlers.

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**Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 4 – Handling**

- Animals are not injured while being loaded into the chute or during release into the arena
- Aggressive or horned cattle are penned separately if there is not enough space for other animals to move away
- Animals that become excessively stressed in the chute to the point that they may injure themselves are released immediately
- Horned cattle that are likely to be aggressive have had the tips of their horns (outer 2.5 cm) removed
- Loading into chute, race or for transport does not require undue force
- Electric prods are used according to the minimum standard and only on adult cattle
- Electric prods are of minimum amperage, powered only by battery or dynamo, deliver a single charge per application and are not applied for more than one second continuously
- Use of stock-whips and other types of ‘contact’ goads are kept to a minimum

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**Recommended Best Practice**

(a) When encouraging animals to move, audible or visual measures (e.g. rattles, plastic bags, stones in a container) should be preferred to devices which rely on physical contact (e.g. waddys, alkathene hoses, stock whips, stock canes, and sticks).

(b) Animals in pens or yards should not be overcrowded, but allowed to be able to move away from handlers or other animals, where crowding is likely to contribute to distress and injury.

(c) Pens should be positioned at a distance away from the arena so that the animals contained within them are not disturbed unduly by animals in the arena.

(d) Care should be taken not to induce sudden fear or panic in animals in confined spaces such as in pens, corners and gateways, where flight might increase the risk of injury.

(e) Tails should not be lifted, pulled or twisted.
(f) Electric goads should not be applied to any animal for more than one second at any one time. If the desired effect is not achieved after four or five attempts, their use should be discontinued.

(g) Animals that may be aggressive or cause injury to other animals should not be used or penned at rodeo events.

(h) Sufficient pick up staff should be present to enable rodeo animals to be guided out of the arena following use as quickly and as calmly as possible.
5. Equipment

5.1 Arena

Introduction

The size of the arena and the condition of holding facilities, including fencing, yards, chutes, gateways and ground surfaces, are critical in protecting stock from injury. Careful planning and construction of arenas will make the handling and removal of stock from the arenas easier and will increase stock and contestant safety. Arenas which are too small create a potential danger to stock, contestants and spectators.

In general, the standard arena should have a suitable, soil based surface, rotary-hoed or softened to a depth of approximately 8-10cm. Other surfaces may be used provided that they are well drained, provide a secure footing and be at least as safe for the animals as an appropriate soil based surface.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Standard No. 5 – Arena</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) The arena must be of a size suitable for the events to take place and to minimise the likelihood of injurious contact with the perimeter fence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) All fittings and internal surfaces, including fences, chutes, gateways and holding yards, must be constructed and maintained to ensure that there are no hazards that are likely to cause injury to the animals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) The construction height and appearance of arena fencing should be clearly visible and discourage stock from attempting to push through the fence or jump over it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(d) The arena surface must provide traction and be free of hazards that may injure stock.</td>
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Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 5 – Arena

- The arena is free of holes, rocks, obstacles and any other hazards that may injure stock
- No injuries to animals occur as a result of the surface materials used in the arena
- A soil based arena softened with a minimum of 5cm surface material is used
- The perimeter fence is a minimum of 180 cm in height
- The time event chute has a minimum of 76 cm clearance above the height of the animal in the chute and at the gate, when the gate is open
- Yards, chutes etc are free of hazards that might cause injury

Recommended Best Practice

(a) Where it is thought that stock will pressure certain points of an arena more than others, care should be taken to ensure that the fencing is suitable.

(b) Animals should be run through the arena prior to the event to familiarise them with the positioning of the exit gate(s).
5.2 Gear

Introduction

Rodeo events are high paced activities and the use of well fitting gear is important to protect the animals. It is important that the gear is correctly fitted to reduce rubbing or slipping and minimise discomfort. For reasons of comfort, hygiene and safety it is necessary that all leather and synthetic equipment is maintained in clean, supple condition, free from cracks, build up of dirt, sharp edges or other features likely to cause chaffing, burns or abrasions.

Minimum Standard No. 6 – Gear

(a) All gear and equipment to be used in a rodeo must be adequately inspected prior to commencing the rodeo, to ensure that it will not cause discomfort.

(b) Equipment used on animals must be maintained in good condition and be fitted so as not to cause chafing or injury.

(c) Spurs must not be used in a way that injures the animal.

(d) The rowel must be dulled and not less than 3 mm in width at its narrowest part and there must be a minimum diameter of 2 cm to the point of the rowel.

(e) Fully locked rowels, or rowels that are capable of being fully locked, must not be used.

(f) Partially locked rowels, or rowels that are capable of being partially locked, must not be used in the saddle or bareback bronc riding events.

(g) Flank straps/ropes must be of the quick release type and covered with a soft material that lies against the hide of the horse.

(h) Ropes or straps with bells or other noise-making equipment must not be connected to animals.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 6 – Gear

- No sharp and cutting objects are placed or caught in or around the cinch, saddle, flank strap, bareback rigging, head-rein (plaited rein attached to the headstall) or headstall (halter)
- Every effort is made to ensure that equipment is fitted correctly for the individual animal on which it is being used
- Flank straps/ropes are placed on the animal in such a way that the lined portion evenly overlies both flanks and the abdomen
- Flank straps are be covered with material such as sheepskin or neoprene
- No sand, grit or other abrasives have accumulated in the lining of the flank strap
- Pads used under bareback rigging are of adequate thickness to prevent rubbing or chafing and extend at least 5cm behind the rigging to protect the horse’s back
- The pads are approved by the judges and the animal welfare officer prior to being used in competition
- When using a saddle, there is sufficient clearance under the gullet of the saddle to prevent rubbing or injury to the wither
- No locked rowels are used
• The minimum width of the front girth in the saddle and bareback bronc riding classes is 200mm

**Recommended Best Practice**

(a) Equipment should be checked carefully for abrasive edges or wear prior to each rodeo event.

(b) Equipment should be regularly cleaned to remove traces of potential abrasives such as grit, sand, sweat or dirt.

(c) Bits should contain no rough or sharp surfaces which may cause damage to the mouth.

(d) Ropes use in rodeo events should be pliable, at least 15mm thick and not be made of a material likely to cause burns or injuries to the hides of animals.

**General Information**

The type of gear and the way in which it is used can have a large effect on the health and welfare of the animals. The incorrect or severe use of any piece of equipment, including gear, bits, ropes and goads can have a potentially significantly harmful effect on animals and all personnel involved in rodeo need to be aware of this and have knowledge of how to use all gear correctly.
6. Special Requirements

There are a number of different events in rodeo, all of which can place different types of stress on the animals involved. Events and procedures in rodeos need to be specifically designed to prevent suffering and minimise the impacts of the welfare of the animals used.

6.1 Saddle and Bareback Bronc Riding

Introduction

This event involves releasing a horse from a chute into the arena, where it will buck in an attempt to dislodge the rider from its back. There are two types of event; saddle bronc riding where the horse is fitted with a saddle and bareback bronc riding where the horse is fitted with bareback rigging only. In both events the horse will be fitted with a flank strap which runs around the body of the horse just in front of the back legs, which will encourage the horse to buck. Ensuring that all equipment used in these events is fitted properly and is kept clean and free from sharp edges or objects that could rub or cut the horse is essential for the welfare of the horses involved.

### Minimum Standard No. 7 – Saddle and Bareback Bronc Riding

(a) The flank strap must not be so tight as to restrict the movement of the horse.
(b) A minimum of two pick up riders must be present in the arena during each ride.

### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 7 – Saddle and Bareback Bronc Riding

- Horses are able to move freely whilst in the arena
- Horses are directed from the arena calmly and efficiently following the completion of the ride

**General Information**

The pick up riders operating in the arena direct the animals to the exit chute from the arena following the completion of the ride. A sufficient number of riders performing this role will enable the animals to be directed as calmly and efficiently from the arena as possible.

6.2 Bull and Steer Riding

Introduction

This event involves a bull or steer being released into the arena where it will buck to dislodge the rider from its back. The animal is fitted with a front ‘bull rope’ which wraps around its body and which the rider holds onto to maintain his seating. This bull rope needs to be a quick release type of rope that will fall away from the animal as soon as the rider is displaced or dismounts. The animal is also fitted with a flank strap to encourage bucking. Again, maintenance of the equipment used in this event is essential to ensure the animal’s welfare.
Minimum Standard No. 8 – Bull and Steer Riding

(a) Equipment used for bull and steer riding must be fitted so as to fall off the animal once the rider falls or dismounts, to prevent possible injury to animals.
(b) The flank strap must not be so tight as to restrict the movement of the cattle.
(c) A minimum of two bull fighters must be present in the arena during each ride.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 8 – Bull and Steer Riding

- The bull rope quickly falls away once the rider is thrown or dismounts
- Bulls and steers are able to move freely whilst in the arena
- Bulls and steers are directed calmly and efficiently from the arena following the completion of the ride

Recommended Best Practice

(a) The equipment used should be a loose rope with or without a handhold.
(b) There should be no knots or hitches preventing the rope from falling from the animal after the contestant has been thrown or dismounted.
(c) A contestant should not re-set and re-pull the rope more than twice if the animal is standing quietly in the chute.

6.3 Rope and Tie

Introduction

Rope and tie, team roping and steer wrestling are time events that are performed at a fast pace over a set time period.

In the rope and tie event, a calf is released from the chute which then triggers the release of the horse and rider, who will rope the calf in the arena, affix the rope to the horse’s saddle, dismount, put the roped calf on the ground and tie three of the calves legs using a pigging string, while a well trained horse will effectively maintain the tension on the rope. The calf needs to remain tied for six seconds for the tie to be considered successful. Cattle used in these events can be subjected to physical stressors and need to be fit, healthy and without defects. These events are not to exceed 30 seconds from the time of release of the barrier to the end of the event.

NAWAC call for comments:

NAWAC have concerns about the welfare implications of this event. Incorrect technique such as dragging or ‘busting’ the calf in this event can negatively impact the calf by subjecting it to unreasonable physical stress, which can result in injury. The committee is aware that this event has been prohibited in some Australian states due to animal welfare concerns. NAWAC is seeking comment in relation to this rodeo event.
Minimum Standard No. 9 – Rope and Tie

(a) Calves must be handled using the minimum force and in a way that minimises pain and distress at all times during the event.

(b) Personnel must not twist, pull or manipulate the tail of calves in any other way to encourage them to move.

(c) All reasonable precautions must be taken to ensure that calves are not busted, dragged or harmed in any other way during calf roping.

(d) A neck rope must be fitted to horses used for roping and tying and the catch rope must pass through it before being tied to the saddle horn.

(e) When roping, if the rope falls around the body of the calf, the competitor must not continue with the rope and tie.

(f) The calf must be tied for the minimum time to meet competition standards and released by experienced handlers immediately after the tie has been signalled.

(g) Event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the calf.

(h) On each day, contract calves must not be used on more than 3 occasions and non-contract calves on no more than 2 occasions.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 9 – Rope and Tie

- The rope and the reins are adjusted in a manner that will prevent the horse from dragging the calf
- Any contestant who drags, busts or causes a calf an unnecessary amount of pain or distress is disqualified
- The calf exits the arena alert and uninjured

Recommended Best Practice

(a) All calves should be habituated by being walked or run through the arena from the release chute to the exhaust pen, and being held by a neck rope, thrown and tied, prior to the event.

(b) Calves that have not been used in an event on any day should be given priority for use over those that have already been used earlier in the day.

(c) A contestant should be disqualified from the event if an animal is busted, or if the rope horse drags the animal after it is roped and thrown.

(d) Calves should not receive rope burns to any part of their body.

(e) Calves should be closely monitored for any signs of pain and/or distress during and following their use in training or by novice contestants.

General Information

Following completion and signalling of the tie, the contestant will walk quickly to his horse to loosen the contact of the catch rope on the calf. Two other handlers will simultaneously untie the calf, ensuring that the catch rope is not attached at either end when the calf is released to regain its feet.
6.4 Team Roping

Team roping involves two ropers, the header and the heeler, both on horseback. The header will rope the steer around both horns, the head and one horn, or the neck, and the heeler then ropes the steer around the hind legs. The time recorded is that after the steer is stopped and there is slack in both the header and heeler’s ropes. This again is a fast paced event and the steer needs to be in good physical condition with no defects.

Minimum Standard No. 10 – Team Roping

(a) Cattle horns must be wrapped with protective material to protect the ears and base of the horns from rope burns.
(b) Event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the steer.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 10 – Team Roping

- Horns of cattle suffer no damage resulting from the rope

Recommended Best Practice

(a) Animals should not receive rope burns to any part of their body.
(b) Ropes should be removed from the steer immediately following the completion of the event

6.5 Steer Wrestling

Introduction

In the steer wrestling event, a mounted rider chases a steer, drops from the horse to the steer and wrestles the steer to the ground. The time is flagged when the steer has all four hooves off the ground and legs pointing out straight. The steer needs to be healthy and in good physical condition to withstand the physical stress during this event.

Minimum Standard No. 11 – Steer Wrestling

(a) The steer must not be knocked down or thrown before it is brought to a stop and the catch is made.
(b) Pressure must not be placed on the eyes, lips or nose of the steers when wrestling them to the ground.
(c) Event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the steer.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 11 – Steer Wrestling

- Steer is thrown using the recognised technique
- The steer leaves the arena alert and uninjured
Recommended Best Practice
(a) Animals should not receive rope burns to any part of their body.
(b) Animals that have not been caught and thrown in previous rounds should be given preference in subsequent rounds rather than reusing animals that have been successfully thrown.

6.6 Calf and Sheep Riding

Introduction
Calf and sheep riding events are designed to enable younger and lighter competitors to participate in the rodeo events. The weight restrictions are designed to ensure that the animals involved in these events are not placed under undue stress, but animals also need to be fit, healthy and have no defects.

NAWAC call for comments:
NAWAC have concerns about the welfare implications of sheep riding in rodeos. NAWAC is seeking comment in relation to the use of sheep for this event.

Minimum Standard No. 12 – Calf and Sheep Riding

(a) No rider must weigh more than 20 kg in the sheep riding class.
(b) Sheep and calves must not be ridden more than once on any one day.
(c) The rider’s weight must be kept behind the shoulder of the animal.
(d) Sheep and calves must not be ridden with the rider facing backwards.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 12 – Calf and Sheep Riding
- Calves, sheep and riders meet minimum weight requirements
- Calf or sheep does not buckle under the weight of the rider at any point
- Calf or sheep is immediately removed from the arena following the completion of the ride using the least amount of force possible

Recommended Best Practice
(a) Sheep used in this event should not be heavily fleeced.
(b) Sheep should not be used in rodeo events.

General Information
Child contestants need to be supervised at all times when competing or when around the animals to ensure the welfare of the animals is not compromised.
It is important that the majority of the child’s weight is kept behind the shoulder of the animals being ridden in this event as placing too much weight in front of the animal’s shoulder can cause the animal to collapse in its front legs. Riding a calf or a sheep with the rider facing backwards is likely to place more weight on the front on the sheep or calf and cause it unnecessary stress and so it is important that the animals are not ridden in this way.

Care needs to be taken to ensure that sheep do not become heat stressed, both during the rodeo event and during penning. Sheep are less likely than cattle to take on water during the day. They are also often fleeced, which may increase the potential for the sheep to overheat in warmer weather. Attention needs to be paid to shelter and shade for sheep and consideration given to the thickness of its fleece when using animals in this event.

6.7 Barrel Racing

Introduction

Barrel racing is an event where the riders guide their horses around three barrels in a cloverleaf pattern in the least amount of time as possible. Horses are required to move at speed and turn quickly during this event and it is important that they are fit, healthy and appropriately trained to perform this event.

Minimum Standard No. 13 – Barrel Racing

(a) Horses must be ridden in a manner that minimises pain and distress during this event.
(b) Gear that is likely to cause a horse pain must not be used during this event.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 13 – Barrel Racing

- Horses show no signs of injury following the race
- Horses do not fall during the race
- Bits do not cause injury to the horses mouth or are used with such force that they snap in the horse’s mouth
- Whips are not used in a manner to cause distress or injury
- Spurs do not leave marks on the hide of the horses

Recommended Best Practice

(a) Sufficient space should be provided past the finishing line of this event to allow horses to stop without risk of injury.

General Information

Horses need to be trained to turn quickly to perform in this event. Appropriate training will minimise the need for severe tack and harsh handling during the race as the horse will turn using less pressure on the bit and less pressure by the rider on the horse’s sides. This needs to be taken into account when preparing for this event.
Provision of sufficient space past the finishing line of this event can prevent injury as a result of the horse being pulled up too suddenly or running into fencing or other horses waiting on the other side of the finishing line.
7. Health, Injury and Disease

Introduction

Rodeos involve situations where animals may be subjected to a risk of injuries and distress and proper consideration needs to be given to the health and welfare of animals used in these events. Events and procedures need to be specifically designed to prevent any suffering and minimise the impacts on the welfare of animals used. People who have responsibilities in the organisation and running of rodeos are required to have the appropriate training, competence and knowledge to ensure that the animal welfare needs are met.

Minimum Standard No. 14 – Health, Injury and Disease

(a) Signs of ill-health or injury must result in timely preventative or remedial action, as appropriate.

(b) Where an animal is injured in the arena and is unable to move on its own accord, it must be removed from the arena by a conveyance for treatment or destruction.

(c) A conveyance capable of removing any rodeo animal from the arena for treatment must be kept on site at all times during the rodeo.

(d) Medication must only be used in accordance with registration conditions and manufacturer’s instructions or professional advice.

(e) Non-therapeutic medicines must not be given to any animal used in any rodeo event.

(f) Any animal that becomes excessively excited, goes down in a chute, or attempts to jump out of the chute in a manner that may cause it to injure itself must be released immediately.

(g) Stock must not be exposed to fireworks that are likely to cause them fear or distress.

(h) All rodeo animals must be inspected by the veterinarian prior to the start and in the case of multiple events, also at the end of each day, to ensure that they are fit to compete on ensuing days.

(i) All rodeo animals must be provided with the means to minimise the effects of heat or cold stress.

(j) If either the animal welfare officer or the veterinarian considers that any individual animal is not fit to compete, then that animal must not be used in any event.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 14 - Health

- Any and all injuries to animals that have been sustained during rodeo events are treated immediately
- Stimulants, sedatives and hypnotic drugs are not given to any animal used in rodeo events, unless administered by a veterinarian for therapeutic purposes
- A conveyance is held on site for immediate use if required to remove an animal from the arena
- Rodeo animals are provided with access to water and to shelter to enable them to...
thermoregulate effectively in extreme climatic conditions

**Recommended Best Practice**

(a) Stock should be removed from the arena immediately after completion of an event.

(b) Animals (such as pets) that could cause disturbance to stock should not be allowed in the arena or in the line of sight of stock.

**General Information**

The animal welfare officer at a NZRCA rodeo has the ability to prevent animals from competing if he/she considers that an animal is not fit to compete in any rodeo event. The animal welfare officer cannot override a veterinary decision to put an animal out of an event, but he/she is able to override the veterinarian’s decision to let the animal compete, if necessary.
8. Emergency Humane Destruction

Introduction

Animals may become injured during a rodeo event and it may be necessary to humanely kill an animal in order to prevent it suffering further pain or distress. Humane killing depends on rapidly inducing insensibility. This can be achieved by causing sufficient brain damage to render the animal insensible and then cutting the major blood vessels of the neck to cause heart failure and death. However, in some emergency situations it may be more appropriate to kill the animal as quickly as possible by a throat cut to prevent or minimise further pain or distress. The overriding consideration during killing is to prevent the animal from suffering further pain or distress.

Humane killing requires that brain activity ceases as rapidly and as painlessly as possible, and that death ensues as soon as possible. This is usually undertaken either by directly damaging the brain (a blow or shot to the head, with a firearm or captive bolt).

Minimum Standard No. 15 – Emergency Humane Destruction

(a) Horses, cattle and sheep must be handled, restrained and killed in such a manner as to minimise unnecessary pain and distress prior to death.

(b) Persons undertaking destruction must be competent in the handling and killing of horses, cattle and/or sheep.

(c) Equipment kept for emergency humane destruction must be well maintained in order to operate efficiently.

(d) Animals being killed must be rapidly rendered insensible and remain in that state, until death.

(e) The spinal cord must not be severed or broken in any animal, until after death.

(f) Animals rendered insensible by a blow or shot to the brain must be bled out immediately to ensure death occurs before recovery from stunning.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 15 – Emergency Humane Destruction

- Humane destruction protocols are documented
- Acceptable methods are used. These include:
  (i) Firearms
  (ii) Captive Bolt
  (iii) Intravenous chemical euthanasia by a veterinarian

Recommended Best Practice

(a) Free-bullet firearms should never be used at point blank range. Instead shotguns and rifles should be used between 5 and 25 cm from the head.

(b) Shotguns should not be used to destroy adult beef cattle, only horses or calves.

(c) Captive bolt firearms, of a suitable design and calibre, should be used to render animals insensible.
**General Information**

Whenever a firearm is used, it is very important that the operator is competent to use the gun and takes care to ensure their safety and that of other animals.

There are two types of captive bolt firearm – penetrating and non-penetrating. A penetrating captive bolt enters the skull and comes into contact with brain tissue; a non-penetrative captive bolt employs a “mushroom” percussive head. Both methods provide a concussive blow to the skull, resulting in insensibility because of brain tissue damage, although the damage caused by the penetrating captive bolt will result in less chance of the animal regaining sensibility. See Appendix 1: Captive Bolt and Free-Bullet Firearm Stunning sites

For further information on emergency humane destruction see *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock*. Handlers who are inexperienced with the procedure should consult a veterinarian.
9. Welfare Assurance System

Introduction

Welfare assurance or quality management schemes that provide for minimum standards, and recommended best practices provide assurance to the public and to organisations responsible for auditing compliance that a strong emphasis is being placed on the welfare of animals.

To ensure that standards of animal welfare and husbandry are maintained the organiser of each event or series of events should implement a quality assurance system that provides for written procedures. The adoption of a generic (e.g. New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association) quality assurance programme will meet this recommendation.

Recommended Best Practice

(a) The elements of the quality assurance system should provide for the minimum standards and the recommendations for best practice of this code.

(b) The quality assurance system should provide for all incidents resulting in significant sickness, injury or death of animals to be investigated and documented. Where the results of an investigation may have implications for current management practices, a report outlining the incident and implications should be forwarded to the NZRCA or the event organising body (e.g. AMP society) for consideration.

(c) The quality assurance system should require continual review of existing systems, procedures and training schedules that could enhance the welfare of animals during rodeos.

(d) The quality assurance system should include a record of issues identified and the remedial action taken.

(e) The quality assurance system should include a record of training for staff and competitors at the rodeo event.

General Information

While the quality system should be based on the general principles of Standard AS/NZS ISO 9002 or similar, it is not essential that the quality system be certified under the JASANZ (Joint Accreditation Standards for Australia and New Zealand) certification scheme.
Appendix I: Captive Bolt and Free-bullet Firearm Stunning Sites

**Cattle**

The optimum position for cattle is at the intersection of two imaginary lines drawn from the rear of the eyes to the opposite horn buds.

**Sheep**

The optimum free-bullet firearm position for hornless sheep and goats is on the midline.

The optimum position for captive bolt stunning of hornless sheep is on the highest point of the head, and on the midline, aiming straight down.
The optimum position for heavily horned sheep is behind the poll, aiming towards the angle of the jaw (both free bullet and captive bolt).

**Equines**

The optimum position for equines is at right angles to the frontal surface, well above the point where imaginary lines from eye to ear cross.

Figure source: Based on Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK. www.hsa.org.uk.
Appendix II: Interpretation and Definitions

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<tr>
<td><strong>animal</strong></td>
<td>As defined in the Act:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“(a) Means any live member of the animal kingdom that is –</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A mammal; or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A bird; or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A reptile; or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An amphibian; or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A fish (bony or cartilaginous); or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Any octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); or</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>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</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(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</td>
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<td>(c) Includes any marsupial pouch young; but</td>
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<td>(d) Does not include –</td>
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<td>A human being; or</td>
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<td>Except as provided in paragraph above, any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage.”</td>
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<td><strong>available technology</strong></td>
<td>NAWAC takes to mean technologies which are used practically to care for and manage animals, for example, existing chemicals, drugs, instruments, devices and facilities.</td>
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<td><strong>animal welfare officer</strong></td>
<td>an official appointed by the rodeo organiser(s) to be responsible for overseeing animal welfare at a rodeo in conjunction with the veterinarian.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>bareback bronc riding</strong></td>
<td>riding a horse using rigging and no saddle.</td>
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<td><strong>barrel racing</strong></td>
<td>a timed event in which an individual horse and rider complete a clover-leaf pattern around three barrels.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>bull or steer riding</strong></td>
<td>riding a bull or steer using a girth rope.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>busted</strong></td>
<td>throwing a calf so that it rotates 180°, landing on the broad of its back.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>calf</strong></td>
<td>bovine under one year of age.</td>
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<td><strong>chute</strong></td>
<td>a stockade from which animals are released into the arena.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>chute fighters</strong></td>
<td>animals that regularly resist being held in the chutes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>chute-stalled stock</strong></td>
<td>animals that refuse to leave the chute when the gate is open.</td>
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cinch
a device (usually a strap or buckle) that connects the saddle or bareback rigging to the girth.

contract stock
stock maintained for use in rodeo events.

flagged
when the flag judge drops his/her flag to signify the end of the event.

flank strap/rope
a rope or strap that is tied over the lower back and around the flanks of a horse or bull.

good practice
NAWAC takes 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.

gullet
the underside of the front of the saddle.

hazer
a rider who keeps the steer running in a straight line.

ill-treat
As defined in the Act: “in relation to an animal, means causing the animal to suffer, by any act or omission, pain or distress that in its kind or degree, or in its object, or in the circumstances in which it is inflicted, is unreasonable or unnecessary.”

judge
a judge who has been appointed by a rodeo association to officiate at a rodeo.

minimum standards
Minimum standards provide the details of specific actions people need to take in order to meet the obligations in the Act. They are identified in the text by a heading, and generally use the word “must” or similar. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.

non-contract stock
stock not regularly used in rodeo events, (also called club stock) and which are only used once at a particular rodeo.

owner
As defined in the Act: “in relation to an animal, includes the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who –

Owns the animal; and

Is a member of the parent’s or guardian’s household living with and dependent on the parent or guardian.”

person in charge
As defined in the Act: “in relation to an animal, includes a person who has an animal in that person’s possession or custody, or under that person’s care, control, or supervision.”
**recommended best practice**

NAWAC takes to mean the best practice agreed at a particular time, following consideration of scientific information, accumulated experience and public submissions on this code. It is usually a higher standard of practice than the minimum standard, except where the minimum standard is best practice. It is a practice that can be varied as new information comes to light. Recommendations for best practice will be particularly appropriate where it is desirable to promote or encourage better care for animals than is provided as a minimum standard.

Recommended best practices are identified in the text by a heading, and generally use the word “should”.

**rigging**

a girth strap and handle used in bareback riding.

**rodeo**

any event that is open to the public and which may include:

- bareback bronc riding
- barrel racing
- bull or steer riding
- calf riding
- rope and tie
- saddle bronc riding
- steer wrestling
- team roping

and includes any rodeo school in which animals and riders are trained to compete in rodeos.

**rodeo organiser**

an official of the organising association, and who is responsible for the running of the rodeo.

**rodeo school**

an officially organised event for the purpose of instructing students in correct techniques of various rodeo disciplines, training of time event horses and for teaching trainee judges.

**rope and tie**

catching by lasso, throwing and tying a calf by the legs (previously known as calf roping)

**roping event**

a calf roping or team roping event

**rough stock**

animals used for bareback, saddle bronc and bull riding events.

**rowel**

a spoked revolving disk at the end of a spur.

**saddle bronc riding**

riding a horse that bucks, using a saddle.

**scientific knowledge**

NAWAC takes 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.

**steer wrestling**

catching and throwing a horned steer by one rider with the use of a hazer (also may be known as bull dogging).

**stock contractor**

a person who provides stock for rodeo events.
**team roping**

a steer roping event involving two horse riders, one acting as a header (the person who ropes the horns or head) and the other as a heeler (who rides in and ropes the steer around the back legs) which results in the steer being brought to a standstill between the two riders.
Appendix III: Legislative Requirements

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) imposes obligations on every person who owns or is in charge of an animal. This code has been issued pursuant to section 75 of the Act and will provide guidance on how to comply with the legislative requirements. However, this code does not provide an exhaustive list of the Act's requirements, and owners and those in charge of animals should note that they must comply with the minimum standards in this code and the general provisions in the Act. A copy of the Act is accessible at: http://www.legislation.govt.nz.

Contents of Codes

Section 69 of the Act provides that 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 specified in the code (being types of entertainment in which animals are used)
- the transport of animals
- the procedures and equipment used in the management, care or killing of animals or in the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals.

In deciding to issue a code of welfare, the Minister must be satisfied as to the following matters set out in section 73(1) of the Act:

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

Despite the provisions of section 73(1), section 73(3) of the Act allows NAWAC, in exceptional circumstances, to recommend minimum standards and recommendations for best practice that do not fully meet the obligations of:

- sections 10 and 11 – obligations in relation to physical, health and behavioural needs of animals
- section 12(c) – killing an animal
- section 21(1)(b) – restriction on performance of surgical procedures
- section 22(2) – providing comfortable and secure accommodation for the transport of animals
- section 23(1) and (2) – transport of animals
- section 29(a) – ill-treating an animal.

In making a recommendation under section 73(3), section 73(4) requires NAWAC to have regard to:

- the feasibility and practicality of effecting a transition from current practices to new practices and any adverse effects that may result from such a transition
- the requirements of religious practices or cultural practices or both
- the economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.

This code provides for the physical, health and behavioural needs (as defined in section 4 of the Act) of animals being presented for slaughter. 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.

This code also takes account of:

• good practice

• scientific knowledge

• available technology.

**Legal Obligations of Owners and Persons in Charge of Animals**

The owner or person in charge of an animal has overall responsibility for the welfare of the animal in his or her care. The legal obligations set out below are not an exhaustive list of the obligations in the Act.

(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

(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:

(iv) ill-treat an animal

(v) 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

(vi) 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

(vii) 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

(viii) kill an animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

**Regulations Review Committee of Parliament**

Codes of welfare are deemed to be regulations for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989. As such, they are subject to the scrutiny of the Regulations Review Committee of Parliament.
Any person or organisation aggrieved at the operation of a code of welfare has the right to make a complaint to the Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

This is a parliamentary select committee charged with examining regulations against a set of criteria and drawing to the attention of the House of Representatives any regulation that does not meet the criteria. Grounds for reporting to the House include:

- the regulation trespasses unduly on personal rights and freedoms;
- the regulation is not made in accordance with the general objects and intentions of the statute under which it is made; or
- the regulation was not made in compliance with the particular notice and consultation procedures prescribed by statute.

Any person or organisation wishing to make a complaint 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.

**Strict Liability**

In the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 committed after 19 December 2002, evidence that a relevant code of welfare was in existence at the time of the alleged offence and that a relevant minimum standard established by that code was not complied with is rebuttable evidence that the person charged with the offence failed to comply with, or contravened, the provision of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to which the offence relates. (See sections 13(1A), 24(1) and 30(1A) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, as amended by the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2002.)

**Defences**

It is a defence in the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 if the defendant proves that there was in existence at the time of the alleged offence a relevant code of welfare and that the minimum standards established by the code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. (See sections 13(2)(c), 24(2)(b) and 30(2)(c).) If a defendant in a prosecution intends to rely on the defence under section 13(2)(c) or 30(2)(c), the defendant must, within seven days after the service of the summons, or within such further time as the Court may allow, deliver to the prosecutor a written notice. The notice must state that the defendant intends to rely on section 13(2) or 30(2) as the case may be, and must specify the relevant code of welfare that was in existence at the time of the alleged offence, and the facts that show that the minimum standards established by that code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. This notice may be dispensed with if the Court gives leave. (See sections 13(3) and 30(3).)

The strict liability provisions and the defence of equalling or exceeding the minimum standards established by a code of welfare apply to the following offences:

- **Failing to Provide**

  Section 12(a): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 10 (which provides that the owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must 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).
• Suffering Animals

Section 12(b): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails, in the case of an animal that is ill or injured, to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 11 (which provides that the owner of an animal that is ill or injured, and every person in charge of such an animal, must, where practicable, ensure that the animal receives treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal).

Section 12(c): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, kills the animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

• Surgical Procedures

Section 21(1)(b): A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, acts in contravention of or fails to comply with section 15(4) (which provides that no person may, in performing on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure, perform that surgical procedure in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress).

• Transport

Section 22(2): A person commits an offence who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any provision of section 22(1) (which provides that every person in charge of a vehicle or an aircraft, and the master of or, if there is no master, the person in charge of, a ship, being a vehicle, aircraft or ship in or on which an animal is being transported, must ensure that the welfare of the animal is properly attended to, and that, in particular, the animal is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation and is supplied with proper and sufficient food and water).

Section 23(1): A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, confines or transports an animal in a manner or position that causes the animal unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Section 23(2): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or the person in charge of, an animal, permits that animal, without reasonable excuse, to be driven or led on a road, or to be ridden, or to be transported in or on a vehicle, an aircraft, or a ship while the condition or health of the animal is such as to render it unfit to be so driven, led, ridden or transported.

• Ill-treatment

Section 29(a): A person commits an offence who ill-treats an animal.

Inspection of Premises

Section 127(1): Inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 have the power to enter any land or premises (with the exceptions of dwellings and marae), or any vehicle, aircraft or vessel, at any reasonable time, for the purpose of inspecting any animal.

Inspectors include officers of the MPI Compliance Directorate, inspectors from approved organisations (e.g. Royal New Zealand SPCA) appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries, and the Police.

Liability of employers, principals, directors and officers of bodies corporate

Sections 164 and 165 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 set out further provisions relating to offences committed by employers and charges against bodies corporate.
Appendix IV: Codes of Welfare

Codes of Welfare

- Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Sheep and Beef Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2010

Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards

- Sea Transport of Sheep from New Zealand, September 1991
- Welfare of Horses, February 1993
- Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments, August 1993
- Sale of Companion Animals, September 1994
- Welfare of Animals at Saleyards, May 1995
- Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock, December 1996
- Welfare of Ostrich and Emu, September 1999

Guidelines

- Welfare of Livestock from which Blood is Harvested for Commercial and Research Purposes, March 2009
- Welfare of Yearling Fallow Deer During the Use of Rubber Rings to Prevent Antler/Pedicle Growth, September 1997
- Welfare of Red and Wapiti Yearling Stags During the Use of Rubber Rings to Induce Analgesia for the Removal of Spiker Velvet, September 1998
Codes and Guidelines may be obtained from:
Animal Welfare Standards
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
WELLINGTON 6140
Tel: 04 894 0151
Email: animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

Or can be inspected at:
Ministry for Primary Industries
Pastoral House
Reception
Level 4
25 The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6011

Codes and guidelines are available on MPI’s website.
The web page address is: http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare