

# National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee  
C/o Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
P O Box 2526  
Wellington  
New Zealand

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## 1. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Photo 1

Although preparing codes of welfare has been the dominant activity, NAWAC undertook a wide range of other activities during 2000. Nevertheless I shall emphasise codes of welfare.

One word that comes easily to mind when I think of NAWAC and related activities during the year 2000 is “learning”.

There has been learning on all sides. NAWAC members learnt that the way the previous voluntary codes of recommendations and minimum standards had been written, albeit with great conscientiousness, skill and commitment by those who did the work, was not robust enough legally to meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Industry, professional, welfare and other groups learnt that animal welfare imperatives now have a heightened status, not the least because the previous voluntary codes have now been replaced by codes of welfare with legal status under the Act. NAWAC members and MAF learnt that it would be no simple matter to provide a legally robust format for these replacement codes of welfare. Members of code writing groups from different industry, professional, welfare and other groups learnt, along with NAWAC and MAF, that it would be a protracted and frustrating process, involving numerous iterations, for us to reach a stage where we could provide reasonably coherent and stable general guidelines on how to prepare a draft code of welfare. And those preparing draft codes learnt new and effective ways of dealing with specific topics in each code area with the required precision, so that these examples are now available for use by those who will prepare other draft codes. Numerous people contributed to this process – I thank them all.

Another word is “reassurance”. Although the Animal Welfare Act is clear regarding the legal status of codes of welfare, the way they are to be drafted and the requirement for public consultation before they are finalised, the shift from the previous approach has understandably created some uncertainty among those affected by or with an interest in the codes. Consequently, with NAWAC’s support, I have spent a considerable amount of time during the past year reassuring those directly involved in animal-related industries or activities, and those who have reservations about facets of those industries or activities, that they will be able to have input into preparing draft codes and/or commenting on draft codes before they are finalised and sent to the Minister for his approval. NAWAC has a strong commitment to meaningful consultation.

The final word is “appreciation” – for the numerous people who have contributed, for the willingness of those with widely divergent orientations to participate in different aspect of the process, and for the goodwill evident during it. Finally, special appreciation to members of NAWAC and MAF who, despite our preoccupation with codes of welfare, nevertheless completed a substantial amount of other work designed to promote animal welfare. The scope of our entire workload and achievements during the past year is indicated in this annual report which I commend to you.

*David Mellor*  
Chairman

## 2. BACKGROUND

With the passage of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, which came into force on 1 January 2000, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee was given legislated status. Thus, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC), established in September 1988, was granted a legal framework and given a slightly altered name.

Appendix 2 lists the committee's annual reports. For additional information, including previous annual reports, readers are invited to visit the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's website at <http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/animal-welfare>

## 3. LEGISLATION

The work of the committee has continued largely unaffected by the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, although the functions of the committee are now enshrined in law.

The pressure to complete the revision of the deemed codes has been felt by all those involved and it is recognised that the process which now involves full public consultation will be slower than previously.

The Act itself was amended late in 2000. The Animal Welfare Amendment Act added adhesive traps to the definition of traps in the Act. The amendment came into force on 15 November 2000 and would allow glue traps to be made restricted or prohibited traps.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP

NAWAC members are appointed by the Minister of Agriculture in accordance with sections 58 and 59 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. The committee has a maximum of 11 members, and a member's term of office may not exceed three years, although members may be reappointed.

Under the transitional provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, those individuals who were members of AWAC when the Act came into force on 1 January 2000 continue in office until the expiry of their term of appointment.

While the Minister has the authority to appoint members, in recent years it has been the policy of successive governments to require appointments to statutory committees to be considered by the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee and the Cabinet.

In selecting members (other than the chairperson and the chairperson of NAEAC), the Minister is required to have regard to the need for the committee to possess knowledge and experience in the following areas:

- veterinary science
- agricultural science
- animal science
- the commercial use of animals
- the care, breeding and management of companion animals
- ethical standards and conduct in respect of animals
- animal welfare advocacy
- the public interest in respect of animals
- environmental and conservation management
- any other area the Minister considers relevant.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Expiry of Appointment</b>
<b>Professor David J Mellor</b> BSc (Hons), PhD, Professor of Animal Welfare Science, Professor of Applied Physiology and Bioethics, Director, Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre, Massey University (independent Chairperson)	31.10.02
<b>Mr A C David Bayvel</b> BVMS, DTVM, MPP, MACVSc, MRCVS, Director Animal Welfare, MAF Biosecurity Authority (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry nominee, ex officio)	N/A
<b>Dr Mark W Fisher</b> BSc, MSc, PhD, Dip Arts, Senior Scientist, AgResearch, (nominated by the New Zealand Society of Animal Production)	31.10.03
<b>Dr Neville G Gregory</b> BSc (Hons), PhD, Research Scientist, South Australian Research and Development Institute	31.10.02
<b>Mrs Wyn Hoadley</b> LLB (Hons), MA, Dip Tchg, Barrister (Chairperson of the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee)	31.10.02
<b>Ms Judith N Jones</b> LLB, MBS (Distinction), Dip Tert Teach, Lecturer, Dispute Resolution Centre, Massey University (nominated by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Consumers' Institute of New Zealand)	Resigned
<b>Mrs Peggy N Loague</b> QSM, JP, President, Royal NZ Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, (nominated by the RNZSPCA and the Australian & New Zealand Federation of Animal Societies)	31.10.00
<b>Mr Alistair R Polson</b> B Ag Sc, Farmer, (nominated by Federated Farmers of New Zealand)	31.10.01
<b>Dr Janet A Quay</b> BVSc, Veterinarian, (nominated by the New Zealand Veterinary Association)	31.10.02
<b>Mr Bruce Warburton</b> MSc, Senior Scientist & Team Leader, Landcare Research NZ Ltd (nominated by Landcare Research NZ Ltd)	31.10.01

Dr Mark Fisher was appointed for a second three-year term. Mr Peter Mason, RNZSPCA President, was appointed early in 2001 to replace Mrs Peg Loague. Mrs Loague retired from the committee having served two terms. Ms Jones resigned late in 2000 and had not been replaced at the time of writing.

The committee is required by law to elect a deputy chairperson at the first meeting of each year. The Deputy Chairman for 2000 was Dr Neville Gregory.

Mrs Kathryn McKinnon replaced Ms Kate Horrey during the year as secretary of the committee. Mrs Pam Edwards, Ms Linda Carsons and Mrs Margaret Handscomb of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Biosecurity Authority assist with the work of the committee.

## 5. FUNCTIONS

The functions of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, as set out in the Animal Welfare Act, are to:

- advise the Minister on any matter relating to the welfare of animals in New Zealand, including
  - areas where research into the welfare of animals is required
  - legislative proposals concerning the welfare of animals
- make recommendations to the Minister on
  - declaring procedures not to be manipulations
  - declaring procedures to be significant surgical procedures and classifying surgical procedures as prohibited or restricted
  - declaring traps or devices to be prohibited or restricted and any conditions on the sale or use of restricted traps
  - the issue, amendment, suspension, revocation or review of codes of welfare
- promote, and assist others to promote, the development of guidelines for
  - the use of traps or devices
  - the hunting or killing of animals in a wild state.

## 6. OPERATIONS

NAWAC meets four times a year.

## MEETING ATTENDANCE 1998 - 2000

Member	03/04/98	03/08/98	11/12/98	05/03/99	21/05/99	20/08/99	17/11/99	17/02/00	24/05/00	23/08/00	23/11/00
Prof E D Fielden	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Prof D J Mellor	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr A C D Bayvel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mrs F L Clement	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dr M W Fisher	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Dr N G Gregory	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Mrs W N Hoadley	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ms J N Jones	-	-	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	-
Mrs P N Loague	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x
Dr M B Orr	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Mr A R Polson	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Dr J A Quay	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr K Robinson	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Mr B Warburton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Present

x Absent

- Not applicable

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

### 7.1 NAWAC News

*NAWAC News* was published in 2000.

### 7.2 Conferences

From time to time, various NAWAC members or members of NAWAC's secretariat are able to attend conferences of relevance to the committee. The flow of information and proceedings benefits NAWAC's work.

During 2000, the following conferences were attended:

- ERMA NZ Seminar, 'Technology in New Zealand: scientific issues and implications,' Wellington, May 2000
- Pork Expo and World Pork Congress, Auckland, May 2000
- RNZSPCA 67th Annual Conference, Christchurch, June 2000
- New Zealand Veterinary Association Conference, Auckland, June 2000
- Australian Veterinary Association Congress, Perth, Australia, June 2000
- 11th NZ Companion Animal Council Workshop, 'Making every pet a wanted pet', Christchurch, August 2000
- Expo 2000, 'Safeguarding animal health in global trade', Hanover, Germany, October 2000
- ANZCCART conference, 'Farm animals in research - Can we meet the demands of ethics, welfare, science and industry?' Adelaide, Australia, November 2000
- Australasian Wildlife Conference, Queenstown, December 2000

## 7.3 Liaison with Other Bodies

### 7.3.1 National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

The committee is clearly required to have a close association with the activities of the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. NAEAC's chairperson being an ex officio member of NAWAC facilitates this inter-committee liaison.

### 7.3.2 Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Advisory Council

Liaison between NAWAC and the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Advisory Council is facilitated by the appointment of NAWAC's chairperson and MAF's Director Animal Welfare (also an NAWAC member) to the council. This ensures that the management of potential risks to animal welfare posed by agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines receive appropriate consideration.

MAF's Director Animal Welfare is also a member of the Animal Remedies Board.

### 7.3.3 Independent Biotechnology Advisory Council

This body was established by the Government in May 1999 to meet the need for advice and informed public debate on biotechnology. Appropriate links have been maintained between NAWAC, the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee and the Independent Biotechnology Advisory Council throughout 2000.

## 8. STRATEGIC PLAN AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

NAWAC's revised strategic plan was issued in March 1998 and covers the years 1998 to 2003.

The agreed AWAC mission statement remains:

*"To facilitate the development of animal welfare policy and practice for New Zealand".*

The following specific elements are included in the statement:

- To review legislation;
- To specify / design animal welfare standards;

- To facilitate awareness of, and to update, codes of welfare;
- To advise on areas requiring further research;
- To consult with relevant interest groups on all activities;
- To advise the Minister on animal welfare issues;
- To produce an annual report for the Minister;
- To assess relevant information;
- To keep informed on national and international trends.

The strategic plan provides the basis for the development of an annual operational plan.

## 9. CODES OF WELFARE

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, as it then was, had, over several years issued 22 codes of recommendations and minimum standards for the welfare of various types of animals or animals in different situations. Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 such documents will be known as codes of welfare. They are issued by the Minister of Agriculture on the recommendation of NAWAC, rather than directly by NAWAC.

In this new system, the legislation requires a period of public notification for each draft code. This involves advertising the availability of draft codes in the public notices columns of major daily newspapers. Members of the public and relevant interest groups will thus have an opportunity to make submissions to NAWAC on draft codes of welfare before they are issued. This mandatory notification system will be supplemented by notifying the availability of the draft codes in *Biosecurity* and *Rural Bulletin* as well as sending copies directly to organisations and individuals known to have an interest in the subject matter of any particular code.

### 9.1 Transitional Provisions

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 provides that six codes of recommendations and minimum standards are deemed to be codes of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act for a period of three years, that is until 31 December 2002. Such codes can be revoked prior to that if a new code is issued. The codes concerned are listed in appendix 1.

### 9.2 Codes of Welfare Issued during 2000

No new codes were issued during 2000. However, a number of codes are being reviewed and revised and are expected to be publicly notified in 2001.

### 9.3 Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards

The remaining codes of recommendations and minimum standards continue in existence as voluntary codes. A list of these appears in appendix 1.

### 9.4 Publication and Availability

An agreed number of copies of each code are issued free to industry groups affected by the code and key national stakeholder organisations (e.g. RNZSPCA, Federated Farmers of New Zealand and the New Zealand Veterinary Association) to create awareness. A nominal charge of \$5 is made for subsequent copies. Recipients are welcome to photocopy as many additional copies as they wish, as the documents are not protected by copyright.

Most of the codes are also available via the Internet (<http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/animal-welfare/>).

Alternatively, codes are available from:

Animal Welfare Group  
Biosecurity Authority  
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry  
P O Box 2526  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Telephone: 04-474 4129  
Facsimile: 04-498 9888  
E-mail: [nawac@maf.govt.nz](mailto:nawac@maf.govt.nz)

Codes are also promoted at field days and other appropriate conferences and in *Biosecurity* and *Rural Bulletin*. When new codes are issued, they will also be available on the Internet.

## 10. RESEARCH

One of the terms of reference for the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee is to recommend specific areas where research into animal welfare matters is required.

Animal welfare is a complex and often emotive subject and it is, therefore, of the utmost importance that attempts to improve existing practices are soundly based. New and ongoing research is essential to identify problems, to develop objective assessments of welfare, and to design and evaluate potential alternatives as well as improved systems of husbandry, transport and slaughter of farmed and other species.

There is no shortage of expertise, enthusiasm and initiative within the research community to tackle many of the problems that exist. In a number of instances the main, even the only, constraint is shortage of funds.

In recent years it has been pleasing to note that animal welfare research has been recognised by Government in its decision-making on science priorities. Both the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, as well as a number of the live-stock industries continue to emphasise the need for such research on the different animal species farmed for both local consumption and export.

NAWAC itself is pro-active in not only encouraging institutions to apply for Public Good Science Fund grants for animal welfare research, but also provides details of animal welfare priorities to private sector funding agencies in an attempt to encourage additional funding of applied research that will be of direct benefit to a specific industry sector.

## 10.1 Operational Research

MAF, to fulfil its responsibilities to Government, also funds a number of animal welfare projects from its operational research budget. During the 2000/2001 financial year, eight projects were funded initially:

- Short scrotum castration in lambs – AgResearch Ltd;
- Welfare implications of intensive grazing systems for beef production – AgResearch Ltd;
- Electric current profiles during livestock stunning - South Australian Rural Development Institute;
- Pig free range management systems - Massey University;
- Chronic pain in calves - Massey University;
- Alleviation of dehorning distress in calves - Massey University;
- Transporting ostrich and emu – Corporate Logistics Ltd;
- Velvet antler removal from stags; evaluation of post-operative pain - Massey University.

Late in 2000 additional funds became available and a further three projects were able to proceed:

- The impact of colostrum collection on the welfare of dairy calves - AgResearch Ltd;
- Broiler welfare, a review of the latest research projects in progress internationally - AgResearch Ltd;
- Layer hen welfare in modified cage or alternative systems - AgResearch Ltd.

A list of operational research topics funded by MAF since 1993 may be found in appendix 3. Some projects received partial funding from relevant industry groups.

Many operational research projects result in articles published in scientific journals enabling access to the information by scientists, veterinarians and interested members of the public. Reference details are provided in appendix 3. In addition, from time to time MAF Policy publishes a document that summarises the results. For details of the latest issue, contact MAF Information Bureau (PO Box 2526, Wellington, telephone (04) 474 44100, facsimile (04) 474 4111.

## **10.2 Research Topics Identified by the Committee**

The committee has identified a number of specific topics, outlined below, which need to be addressed and/or where further work is required. This list is neither exhaustive nor developed in priority order.

### **10.2.1 Behavioural and Physiological Responses to Stress**

A significant section of the general public has concerns about the behavioural needs of animals subjected to a range of husbandry practices e.g. close confinement, prolonged yarding and/or transport, separation from herd mates etc. Fundamental studies to develop measuring techniques that will objectively evaluate both positive (pleasure/enjoyment) and negative (stress/distress) factors are needed; these will permit proper assessment of the welfare effects of management practices on the animal including their impact on productive capacity.

A clearer understanding of sickness behaviour, how and why it may differ under different production systems, could be important. It is generally believed for example that surveillance and recognition of sickness is better under intensive as opposed to extensive systems of husbandry. Recent evidence suggests this may not be so because of the ways sickness behaviour is displayed under different systems. Those who work with and have responsibility for stock management need to be aware of such matters that could impact on the recognition, treatment and prevention of problems that affect the welfare and productivity of the animals concerned.

### **10.2.2 Extensive Livestock Production**

The primary industries in New Zealand are concerned with extensive stock production. As such they have much to recommend them with regard to animal welfare and meeting environmental objectives of sustainability. Despite this, there are some negative aspects to these positive production systems and it is important that these be identified and investigated with the objective of developing methods that will replace or reduce any negative impact.

Specifically, further attention needs to be focused on an evaluation of extensive outdoor pastoral systems for livestock in this country with particular reference to welfare problems associated with nutrition, disease and injury, transport and handling. The use of dogs in meat works is a specific case in point - this is being challenged by some purchasers of the ultimate product. We need to know whether this does result in stress to the animals, the majority of which are well accustomed in this country to being worked by such methods. To eliminate the dog from this environment is likely to result in an increase in both manpower and cost - is that justified? Bruising and emaciation in cull dairy cows is another issue coming under the spotlight - when and why is this occurring and how can it be minimised?

Transport issues continue to require attention. Factors affecting the microclimate in transporting vehicles, loading densities, partitioning stock of different classes, loading and unloading methods and facilities require careful evaluation. Environmental conditions hazardous to stock undergoing long distance journeys including preconditioning factors and the requirements for feed, water and rest during transit need to be assessed and appropriate recommendations implemented.

Particular attention needs to be given to an evaluation, and methods of predicting and alleviating, the adverse effects of climatic conditions on the welfare of stock subjected to extensive systems of management e.g. the importance and need for shelter and shade, provision and distribution of food/water in emergencies etc. With the move to highly prolific and milking breeds of sheep, methods of circumventing losses at lambing associated with inclement weather become increasingly important; the increase in dairying in southern regions indicates that strategies for preventing losses associated with hypothermia require more consideration than has previously been the case for animals farmed in the north.

### **10.2.3 Routine Procedures**

While, as a result of recent investigations, objective information is now available on which to base decisions concerning techniques for routine operations such as castration and tailing of lambs, disbudding and dehorning of calves, and develveting of deer, procedures such as amputation of tails in cattle, mulesing, pizzle dropping, beak and claw trimming of hens and induction of parturition in cattle still require consideration. Attention must be paid to the justification of these practices, the issue of chronic pain addressed, and practical modification and/or alternatives sought where significant compromise of welfare occurs.

### **10.2.4 Disease Prevention and Control**

Continuing research effort is required into the prevention and control of a number of specific disease conditions that occur from time to time in our pastoral farming system and which have serious welfare implications e.g. facial eczema, ryegrass staggers, internal and external parasitism, deficiencies and/or imbalances in micro-elements.

### **10.2.5 Nutritional Diarrhoea in Sheep and Cattle**

There is a poor understanding of the causes of diarrhoea associated with the feeding of lush pasture in both sheep and cattle. The welfare costs are high for the animals (discomfort, dehydration, ill-thrift, attraction to flies, skin and udder irritation) and in management terms for the farmer with the need for dagging, crutching, tail docking etc. Resolution of the problem is difficult without better knowledge of the underlying causes of the syndrome.

### **10.2.6 Winter/Early Spring Management of Dairy Cattle**

Depending to some extent on seasonal influences, this is a particularly sensitive period where the welfare of individuals in the herd can be compromised. Social and other stresses, during this period, need to be evaluated to ensure that management procedures are such that unreasonable demands are not imposed on the cattle. The development of very large herds tends to exacerbate such problems where longer times may be spent away from food supplies and/or opportunities for an increase in stressful behavioural interactions exist. Lameness may also become a significant problem (see 10.2.7 which follows).

### **10.2.7 Lameness in Cattle**

A significant welfare problem in many herds is the issue of lameness, in many cases exacerbated by the ongoing increase in herd size, distance walked and quality of race. Strategies to deal with the problem need to be carefully addressed whether by extending existing knowledge or by seeking (and applying) new knowledge.

### **10.2.8 Bobby Calf Trade**

The bobby calf trade poses important welfare risks because it may be prolonged and involves three phases during which the calves may become hungry, cold and distressed - on the farm, during transportation and in the meat works yards. Research into well-being during any one of these phases, while important, is only part of the solution to the problem of minimising bobby calf distress. The required outcome is improved welfare (less distress) for the calves and a better quality product, preferably without reducing profits - careful co-ordination of all three phases is essential to achieve this. Investigating how this may best be done, and then implementing soundly based recommendations that will enhance welfare could result in both a better product and an improved image for the trade.

### **10.2.9 Live Sheep Trade**

Although the volume of the trade has reduced considerably, continued attention needs to be given to welfare problems associated with live sheep shipments to the Middle East, with particular reference to recurrent problems of pneumonia and inanition. Further refinement of procedures that affect welfare at the time of, and immediately after, disembarkation is a key area that merits a great deal more attention.

### **10.2.10 Preparation of Sheep for Slaughter**

In order to ensure that clean carcasses are presented for killing, sheep have traditionally been washed in the yards before stunning. The methods used are generally stressful and can impair meat quality. There is a short period of time between stunning and throat cutting when the sheep is unconscious - if cleansing processes (should they be necessary) could be developed during this period there would be a reduction in pre-slaughter stress and a probable improvement in product quality. Modern meat plants are renowned for innovative technology and should be encouraged to address the problems of stress that occur using crude washing techniques.

### **10.2.11 Vertebrate Pest Control**

Research must continue with the objective of devising more effective and humane methods of vertebrate pest control especially for possums, rabbits, wild cats, ferrets, rats, and mice. The relative humaneness of commercially available kill-traps needs to be assessed, better systems devised where indicated, and biological and other methods of control sought to replace poisons such as 1080 and phosphorus. For example, there is a demand for the development of new generation species-specific poisons. Mode of action and the duration and intensity of impact must be assessed to assist decisions in respect to the acceptability or otherwise of pesticides.

### **10.2.12 Transport and Processing of Seafood**

An evaluation of commercial practices in respect to the killing and/or transport methods used for eels and crayfish to ensure welfare aspects are adequately addressed is warranted.

### **10.2.13 Bioassays**

Development of alternatives/modifications to specific toxicity testing using mouse bioassay for shellfish toxicity as well as the in vivo tests used for evaluating the efficacy of animal vaccine are important. Current methods have a serious welfare impact on the animals concerned.

## 10.2.14 Other Research

Apart from the above relatively specific areas of research, the committee believes certain surveys and critical analyses of topics, some of which may already have considerable material published in the literature, are required. This type of research also requires funding. Areas identified by the committee include:

- regular updates of reviews of research carried out on intensive or novel methods of animal husbandry e.g. caged layer hens, pigs kept in stalls, organic farming etc. A particular issue for the pig industry for example is the development of systems, both indoor and outdoor and group-based, which are appropriate in areas of moderate or high rainfall;
- human factors and their influence on animal welfare and productivity with the objective of assessing needs for better training and handling skills when working with animals;
- design of a system for rapid data retrieval concerning alternatives to the use of experimental animals in research, testing and teaching;
- many owners of hobby farms (the ten-acre block), although well intentioned, often lack knowledge of animal husbandry. Identification of the extent of the problem of poor welfare on these properties needs to be attempted and steps taken to find the best methods of motivating such owners to adopt practices that will enhance the welfare of the animals on these units;
- the collation and production of current best practice information (state of the art) on anaesthesia and pain control in animals, especially for those using them in research and teaching, has the potential (where implemented) to improve welfare in this area to a considerable extent;
- investigations into national and international attitudes and perceptions concerning how farm animals are managed in New Zealand;
- since New Zealand farming conditions and practices are, in many cases quite different from (even at odds with) those of our trading partners an important question is, will quality assurance schemes (a number of which are now being implemented in our animal production industries) be acceptable to our customers and to the public in general? Finding out the most practical and acceptable approach to dealing with this issue requires attention the continual increase in animal productivity/performance that is occur-

ring inevitably comes at some cost, either to the livestock producer or the animal, or both. Is there an end point, and, if so, how is it to be determined?

- the impact on animal welfare of the developing technologies such as cloning and transgenesis e.g. many efforts have and are being made to genetically modify animals to produce products for specific purposes (human health etc); while the objective is generally laudable any potential negative welfare impact on the animal requires careful consideration.

## 11. THE YEAR'S ISSUES

### 11.1 Deer Velveting

The deer velveting training and accreditation programme is subject to annual audit. Members of the National Velveting Standards Body (NVSBS) attended the August NAWAC meeting to discuss the outcome of the 1999/2000 audit.

The NVSBS explained the current tagging system for velvet which indicates the velvet has been removed in accordance with NVSBS criteria. The NVSBS proposed that the NAWAC code of welfare should state that velvet must be removed in accordance with this criteria. The committee appreciated the clear and concise presentation.

### 11.2 De Foie Gras Production

The possibility of foie gras production commencing in New Zealand was addressed by the committee and it was unanimously concluded that the process is not acceptable in this country on animal welfare grounds.

### 11.3 Poultry Industry Subcommittee

The Layer Hen Subcommittee became the Poultry Industry Subcommittee and met once in 2000. This committee now addresses issues concerning the broiler industry as well as egg production. Its terms of reference are as follows:

The principal function of the committee is to maintain an overview of the various commercial husbandry systems used in relation to poultry (including those kept for breeding, egg production and meat production) in New Zealand with a view to reviewing the existing codes relating to poultry (layer hens and broiler codes) and to advise NAWAC on the development of further codes, recommending changes where considered necessary to enhance the health and welfare of the birds.

In undertaking this task, it is expected that:

- the subcommittee will keep abreast of national and international developments in poultry welfare, science and husbandry systems;
- issues of productivity, product safety, sustainability of the system and cost will remain within the realm of commercial reality;
- and the views of the general community in respect of various egg and poultry meat production systems will be given appropriate consideration.

#### **11.4 Electroimmobilisation**

The Animal Welfare Act empowers the Governor-General to make an Order in Council, on the advice of the Minister of Agriculture after consultation with NAWAC, prohibiting or restricting the use of particular traps or devices.

In 2000, a letter was sent to the Minister recommending an Order in Council be made prohibiting the use of electroimmobilisation devices (except for scientific research purposes).

#### **11.5 Slaughter of Crayfish and Eels**

NAWAC briefed the Minister on its concerns regarding the slaughter of crayfish and eels and the outcome of the MAF-funded operational research on crayfish was published. A press release on appropriate methods of killing crayfish received considerable media attention early in 2000.

#### **11.6 Vertebrate Pest Control**

Information on the Rodex 4000 device designed to assist with the control of rabbits came before the committee. Further information is being sought.

#### **11.7 Kosher Slaughter**

With the assistance of MAF Policy, a public discussion paper was prepared during 2000 covering all aspects of religious slaughter. It was released for public comment in 2001. Submissions received will assist in the preparation of the slaughter code of welfare.

#### **11.8 Biological Wool Harvesting**

The committee received a visit from company representatives and members of the MAF Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Group who presented information on biological wool harvesting. The efficiency of this method was noted, as were questions as to its safety on in-lamb ewes.

## **11.9 Slaughter of Induced Calves by Concussion**

A report was received on the use of concussion as a slaughter method for induced calves. It was shown that concussion was successful on calves on the day of birth, but not once they had attained five days old.

## **11.10 'Bobby' Lambs and Goats**

With the increase in sheep and goat milking, the committee saw a need to identify the most commonly used methods of disposal for 'bobby' lambs and goats. This is ongoing.

## **11.11 Body Scoring - Spent Hens and Boner Cows**

Both of these issues are causing some concern and the committee approached both the Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand and the New Zealand Dairy Board for further information.

## **11.12 Rodeos**

Children using spurs in calf riding at rodeos was an issue brought before NAWAC during 2000. Both the New Zealand Veterinary Association and the New Zealand Rodeo Association have responded with information.

## APPENDIX 1

### Published Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards

No. Code	Publication date
1* Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Circus Animals and Information for Circus Operators	November 1999
2 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Sea Transport of Sheep from New Zealand	September 1991
3 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Sheep	revised edition July 1996
4 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dairy Cattle	June 1992
5 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Deer During the Removal of Antlers	July 1992 plus amendments August 1994 & August 1997
6* Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Used in Rodeo Events	November 1999
7 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Horses	February 1993
8 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Bobby Calves	revised edition July 1997
9 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments	August 1993
10 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Slaughter at Licensed and Approved Premises	July 1994
11 Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Sale of Companion Animals	September 1994
12 The Animals Protection Act 1960 and Its Implications for Those Responsible for Farm Animals	Deleted
13* Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Pigs	November 1999

<b>14*</b> Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Exhibit Animals and Information for Animal Exhibit Operators	November 1999
<b>15</b> Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Transported within New Zealand	November 1994
<b>16</b> Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals at Saleyards	November 1995
<b>17</b> Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes	August 1995
<b>18*</b> Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Layer Hens	November 1999
<b>19</b> Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock	December 1996
<b>20</b> Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dogs	May 1998
<b>21</b> Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Ostrich and Emu	June 1998
<b>22*</b> Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Broiler Chickens	November 1999

**\* Codes revised as deemed codes under the Animal Welfare Act 1999**

## APPENDIX 2

### Other Publications

#### Guidelines

Guidelines for the Welfare of Livestock from which Blood is Harvested for Commercial and Research Purposes April 1996

Guidelines for the Welfare of Yearling Fallow Deer During the Use of Rubber Rings to Prevent Antler/Pedicle Growth September 1997

Guidelines for the Welfare of Red and Wapiti Yearling Stags During the Use of Rubber Rings to Induce Analgesia for the Removal of Spiker Velvet September 1998

#### MAF Policy Guides to the Animal Welfare Act

Guide to the Animal Welfare Act 1999 December 1999

The Use of Animals in Research, Testing And Teaching – Users Guide to Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 May 2000

#### Annual Reports

1990 Annual Report  
1991 and 1992 Annual Report  
1993 Annual Report  
1994 Annual Report  
1995 Annual Report  
1996 Annual Report  
1997 Annual Report  
1998 Annual Report  
1999 Annual Report

#### AWAC News/NAWAC News

Issue 1 - December 1997  
Issue 2 - December 1998  
Issue 3 - July 2000  
Issue 4 - May 2001

Year	Institution / Research leader	Topic	Status	Report Title/Publication Reference
1993/94	Massey University Prof D J Mellor	Castration of lambs – identification of most suitable method by comparing castration techniques.	Final report received.	A S Dinniss, D J Mellor, K J Stafford, R A Bruce & R N Ward, <i>Acute Cortisol Responses of Lambs to Castration Using a Rubber Ring and/or a Castration Clamp with or without Local Anaesthetic</i> , NZ Veterinary Journal, Vol 45(3), 1997. A S Dinniss, K J Stafford, D J Mellor, R A Bruce & R N Ward, <i>The Behaviour Pattern of Lambs after Castration Using a Rubber Ring and/or a Castration Clamp with or without Local Anaesthetic</i> , NZ Veterinary Journal, Vol 47(6), 1999
1993/94	Animal Behaviour & Welfare Research Centre Dr L R Matthews	Survey of attitudes toward and awareness of animal welfare issues in 4 sectors: . Veterinarians and livestock officers . Farmers and industry leaders . Members of animal welfare groups . General public	Final report received.	L R Matthews, A Loveridge, B Guerin, <i>Animal Welfare Issues and Attitudes in NZ</i> , ABWRC, 1994.