



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is an independent statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on animal welfare matters. Its functions include recommending codes of welfare for issue, and making recommendations on legislative proposals including regulations relating to surgical procedures and traps and devices, and identifying research needs. It also promotes the development of guidelines for the use of traps and devices, and hunting and killing animals in a wild state.

Key items discussed at the 17 May meeting were:

- **Regulations** - The Animal Welfare Act has been amended to provide for regulations to set mandatory animal welfare standards and broadens the range of enforcement tools. The first two sets of regulations, live export and young calves, commenced on 1 August. NAWAC received an update on the progress of the remaining 77 regulations.
- **Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter** – NAWAC received an update on the greyhound industry's independent review of greyhound welfare, and their updated welfare guidelines. The subcommittee also agreed to review the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing animal welfare strategy. NAWAC also discussed recent meetings with the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association (NZRCA) and Anti-Rodeo Action. NAWAC agreed to request reporting statistics from NZRCA.
- **Layer hens, broiler breeders and poultry regulations** – NAWAC has received notice that Cobb-Vantress plans to build a new hatchery to export day-old chicks. A subcommittee discussing issues related to the interpretation of minimum standards in the layer hens code of welfare already exists, and so it was agreed to broaden the activities of and rename the subcommittee to become the poultry subcommittee. The subcommittee will consider how to provide for the welfare of broiler breeder poultry. NAWAC also discussed some of the proposed MPI regulations related to poultry.
- **Rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus** – NAWAC received an update on the application to release a new strain of RHDV in New Zealand, including information on its welfare impacts and a vaccine.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received presentations on animal transport from Selwyn Dobbinson and Richard Wild. NAWAC was also able to preview the 'Fit for Transport' smartphone app developed by the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* programme.
- **Next meeting** – Upcoming meetings for 2017 are: 16 August and 14 November. A workshop to discuss animal sentience, jointly hosted with NAEAC, will be held later in the year.