

# Homekill and recreational catch use - questions and answers

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## Can homekill or recreational catch meat for human or animal consumption be traded?

Homekill meat or recreational catch cannot be traded for human or animal consumption. Only regulated meat can be traded. The definition of trade under the Animal Products Act 1999 means to sell for human or animal consumption or use and includes, among other things, bartering, supplying as part of a contract, supplying as part of a charge for another good or service, and using for advertisement, prize or fundraising.

Homekill or recreational catch meat is not regulated and has not passed ante mortem and post mortem inspection so there can be no assurance of safety.

## Can any parts of homekill or recreational catch be traded?

Yes. The Animal Products Act allows for the trade in parts of homekill and recreational catch that are not for human or animal consumption (such as hides, skins, horns, antlers). The Act also allows for parts of homekill and recreational catch (such as bones, offal and fat) to be sold or disposed of to a renderer.

## Who can homekill or recreational catch be served to?

Homekill may only be consumed by the animal owner, their direct family (grandparents, parent, children), household or farm employee, and must not be exchanged for money or other goods or services.

Recreational catch may only be consumed by the catcher, members of the catcher's party, family, or household, and must not be exchanged for money or other goods or services.

## Can you barter homekill and recreational catch?

No. Barter is when you exchange homekill or recreational catch for other goods or services. Barter constitutes trade, and the barter of homekill and recreational catch is prohibited under the Animal Products Act.

#### **Can you or someone else raffle homekill and recreational catch meat?**

No. You can not raffle homekill meat or use it for promotional purposes. These activities constitute trade.

#### **Can you feed homekill and recreational catch meat to paying guests?**

No. Those who supply a meal as part of an accommodation, recreational or tourist package including homestays, hunting lodges, marae visits, or tourist barbecues, cannot use homekill or recreational catch product as part of the food provided to their customers.

The only exception to this is that a restaurant, hunting lodge, game estate etc may serve as a meal to the hunter/catcher and members of the hunter/catcher's party, the game or fish that the particular individual or their party have killed or caught. Paying guests also include those who pay board, fees or other forms of payment as part of an accommodation package. Residents at boarding schools, hospitals, prisons and other institutions are treated as paying guests (through contract or statutory arrangement). Institutions should provide meat from a registered abattoir.

#### **Can a farmer provide homekill to an employee?**

A farmer may supply homekill to their employees who are employed in an ongoing manner in farming operations for the use or consumption of that employee (including his or her family or household).

#### **Can homekill or recreational catch meat be served on marae?**

Those running functions at marae need to decide whether their function is traditional/cultural, commercial or social. Whatever it is, no trading of homekill meat is legal. The following information is provided for further guidance:

In the traditional context (e.g. activities within the iwi or hapu, including hui, tangihanga and unveilings), the assumption is that there is no element of trading. Homekill meat can be used.

In the commercial context (including hui held for other organisations) it is assumed that money will have changed hands, albeit in the form of a koha - IRD policy on GST and taxation of koha can provide guidance on what is a 'commercial' activity. Meat supplied for commercial activity must be from the regulated system, i.e. registered abattoir or retail outlet.

In the social context, there is a mix of situations and each would need to be considered by marae members on its merits. Generally, if money changes hands homekill meat should not be used even if the participants are aware that homekill is being offered.

Customary catch authorised under the Fisheries Act 1996 is to be treated as recreational catch, as long as it is used for the purpose for which the catch was authorised.

### **What about homekill or recreational catch for ethnic and religious groups?**

Animal owners belonging to a particular group cannot supply or distribute their homekill to the wider group. Only meat that is from the regulated system, e.g. from a registered abattoir or retail outlet, can be traded. No place, including churches, mosques and other religious or ethnic group gathering places, can be used as a distribution point for homekill meat.

### **Can I purchase an animal from a farmer, have it slaughtered and take the meat away?**

This activity, which is sometimes referred to as 'select and slaughter', is prohibited. It is an offence for the farmer to provide the facilities or and equipment for the client to slaughter the animal at the farmer's place. An animal owner must have been engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal (or animals of the same kind) for at least 28 days to be able to use the services of a homekill and recreational catch service provider.

If you can't meet the requirements for legally carrying out homekill, you can buy an animal and send it to a registered abattoir for killing. This will exempt you from the requirements to care for the animal for 28 days prior to slaughter, and the meat will have been through the same rigorous inspection processes as meat you would buy from a supermarket or butcher.

'Select and slaughter' activities undermine the policy intent of Part 6 of the Animal Products Act, and could impact on public health and New Zealand's trading status. This concern is based on a number of factors including:

- those who could take advantage of this type of 'select and slaughter' activity would not have had an involvement in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal and therefore would not have the knowledge about the animal that would allow them to make an informed decision as to the fitness of that animal for consumption. This raises potential public health and safety concerns;
- an increase in 'select and slaughter' activity brings with it potential flow-on problems of disposal of waste, difficulty of trace back should health consequences arise, or animal welfare concerns if inexperienced people are slaughtering animals;
- an increase in the level of homekill activity, and therefore the amount of unregulated product available, increases the potential for such product to enter the regulated system;
- with increased potential for unregulated product to enter the regulated system, New Zealand's market access status for some markets could be threatened; and
- in order to manage the risk to market access status, an increased level of compliance checks and monitoring would likely be required.

There is a clear offence provision in the Animal Products Act relating to this illegal activity, which carries a maximum fine of \$300,000 for a body corporate and \$75,000 for an individual. Under this offence provision, both the person buying/'selecting' the animal and the person providing the facilities for the 'slaughter' are able to be charged.

### **What does actively engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of an animal for 28 days mean?**

For a person to be actively engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of an animal, he or she would need to actively participate in looking after the animal on a regular daily basis. People involved in the day-to-day maintenance of farmed sheep and cattle are responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare and should be familiar with the contents of appropriate code of welfare:

### **[The Animal Welfare \(Sheep & Beef Cattle\) Code of Welfare 2010.](#)**

It is expected that a person would be in sufficiently close proximity to conduct regular inspections of their animals - checking the adequacy of shelter, food, water, and any pest, disease and general health condition of the animals. The person would need to

be readily available to provide input or assistance to the animal should the need arise.

**Disclaimer:**

*This publication is not a legal interpretation of the Animal Products Act or the Animal Products (Ancillary and Transitional Provisions) Act and is intended only as a guide.*