



As of 31 July 2020

Animal Welfare Regulatory System

The Animal Welfare Regulatory System provides for the care and management of production, domestic, wildlife, zoo and other animals. It supports society's expectations for the welfare and humane treatment of animals, and promotes improved welfare outcomes.

Objectives

- > We meet the needs of our animals and avoid causing them unreasonable/unnecessary harm through our activities.
- > Animal welfare practices add value to our exports, and contribute to our reputation as a responsible agricultural producer.

PORTFOLIO	Animal Welfare
STATUTES	<p>Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997</p> <p>Animal Welfare Act 1999</p> <p>Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2016 (National Emergency Management Agency)</p> <p>Customs and Excise Act 1996 (New Zealand Customs Service)</p> <p>Dog Control Act 1996 (Department of Internal Affairs)</p> <p>Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 (Department of Conservation)</p> <p>Search and Surveillance Act 2012 (Ministry of Justice)</p> <p>Veterinarians Act 2005</p>
OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WITH SUBSTANTIAL ROLES ¹	<p>Department of Conservation</p> <p>Department of Internal Affairs</p> <p>Ministry for Civil Defence and Emergency Management and local authorities (emergency management)</p> <p>New Zealand Police</p>

¹ The SPCA also plays a significant role in the animal welfare system but it is not a government agency.



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Animal Welfare Regulatory System Assessment Summary

KEY	
4	System performing well
3	System has some issues
2	System has significant issues
1	System at serious risk of failure
0	No Data

<p><u>Effectiveness</u> – The extent to which the system delivers the intended outcomes and impacts</p>	<p>The key objectives of the system are to care for New Zealand’s animals, and to maintain New Zealand’s international reputation for integrity. The limited data available suggests that these objectives are being achieved. Relevant data from additional sources would provide a stronger indication of the system’s effectiveness. Interactions with other systems are managed well, for example animal welfare responsibilities under the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan. Risks to the system are regularly considered by MPI’s Animal Welfare Steering Group. There is scope for more proactive enforcement of the regulations, and a deeper understanding of compliance levels.</p>
<p><u>Efficiency</u> – The extent to which the system minimises unintended consequences and undue costs and burdens</p>	<p>The system ensures improved animal welfare, and supports the primary sector to maximise opportunities in export markets. The system is informed by international best practice, including the World Organisation for Animal Health. The introduction of new regulations, for example those setting enforceable standards for the care of animals, have improved the system’s clarity and enforceability. A better understanding of the costs of the system to more participants would be beneficial.</p>
<p><u>Durability and Resilience</u> – How well the system copes with variation, change and pressure</p>	<p>MPI proactively reviewed the system and its operating environment in 2011/12. Since then, the focus has been on implementing the identified opportunities for regulatory improvement, including clarifying who can perform surgical procedures on animals. Continuous improvements of aspects of the system, in the context of the current operating environment, have also been made since the 2011/12 review. More regular assessments of the whole system and its operating environment would be beneficial.</p>
<p><u>Fairness and Accountability</u> – How well the system respects rights and delivers good process</p>	<p>MPI and the SPCA have a good working partnership focused on compliance. Both parties work hard to communicate effectively with farmers and pet owners. A continued focus on other members of the regulated community, such as lifestyle block owners, is essential. Participants are developing a better understanding of the Treaty-consistent requirements of the system.</p>



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Planned regulatory amendments to legislation – 2020/2021

MATTER NAME	PURPOSE	PLANNED CONSULTATION	STATUS
<p>Animal Welfare regulations</p> <p><i>Matter type: Regulations</i></p>	To clarify who can undertake surgical and painful procedures and under which conditions.	Consultation ended in 2019.	Approved by Cabinet in July 2020.
<p>Livestock Exports review</p> <p><i>Matter type: Regulations</i></p>	To improve the welfare of livestock being exported and protect New Zealand's reputation.	Consultation took place December 2019 – January 2020.	Review underway.
<p>Amendment to Dairy Code of Welfare</p> <p><i>Matter type: Regulations</i></p>	To set standards around the management of dairy cattle.	National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) consultation on code amendments complete. MPI will undertake targeted engagement on outdoor access for dairy cattle in 2020.	Code now issued. It is anticipated that a new minimum standard will be added to code before winter 2021.
<p>Codes of Welfare review programme</p> <p><i>Matter type: Secondary legislation</i></p>	Progress systematic review of codes of welfare.	NAWAC to initiate consultation on priority codes.	Programme underway.
<p>Poultry welfare standards and regulations review</p> <p><i>Matter type: mix of secondary legislation, to be confirmed</i></p>	To recommend a new Code of Welfare for Breeder Chickens.	NAWAC initiating in 2020-2021.	Programme underway.



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Key service design and operational changes

2018 - 2022	<p><i>Increase compliance with new animal welfare standards</i></p> <p>MPI has embarked on the development of a comprehensive package of regulations relating to a wide range of species and activities. The regulations aim to address low to medium level offending against animals, and to provide clarity about who can perform surgical and painful procedures on animals, and under what circumstances.</p> <p>The regulatory programme has three tranches. The first two tranches related to young calf management and the care of and conduct towards animals for a range of species for specific welfare issues of concern. These were completed in 2016 and 2018 respectively. The third tranche relates to surgical and painful procedures as described above.</p> <p>MPI is now focused on embedding these new regulations, ensuring that standards are clearly communicated and understood by those in charge of animals and that the regulations are enforced in a consistent manner. One of the ways we are doing this is by continuing to support the Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation programme, which is about improving voluntary compliance with animal welfare laws. MPI is also focusing on ensuring that effective programmes are in place to monitor and respond to non-compliance.</p> <p>Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> developing resources to support farmers and veterinarians;> educating people who work with production animals through providing workshops and conferences;> improving awareness and use of the codes of welfare;> responding effectively to non-compliance through a range of MPI and SPCA programmes; and> providing regular reports to MPI and industry on the effectiveness of these activities.
2018 - 2022	<p><i>Ensure rules are more responsive, adaptable, and incentivise world's best practice</i></p> <p>MPI needs to continually improve the animal welfare system to reflect good practice and scientific knowledge and in order to maintain New Zealand's international standing.</p> <p>MPI is working to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> enhance transparency - with the aim that everyone knows what decisions are made and why, and has opportunities to participate in setting standards for the future of animal welfare;> strengthen codes - with the aim that standards are fit for purpose, supported by science and are underpinned by effective monitoring and compliance; and> build capacity – through partnerships and increased stakeholder engagement with the aim that people in charge of animals believe animal welfare matters, and have the skills and capacity to meet their animals' needs.