



Welfare Pulse

Animal welfare in New Zealand and around the world

OCTOBER 2019 ISSUE 29
CONTENTS

Working with animal owners	1
Disbudding and Dehorning Regulations	2
MPI Animal Welfare Compliance Prosecution Results March 2019 – June 2019	3
International award for Professor Mellor	4
Codes of ethical conduct	5
Thoroughbred Racing	5
Three Rs award	6
Codes of Welfare	6
Dog welfare	7
NAEAC AEC Service Award	7
Dogs NZ Litter Registration Limitations	8
NAEAC visit research and teaching facilities in Nelson	9
Considering greater openness in animal research and teaching	10
New Zealand farm animal welfare – how do we compare?	11
NAWAC releases revised guideline for assessing the welfare performance of traps	12
TradeMe's Approach to Animal Welfare	13
Animal welfare in Asia: Could China lead the way in animal welfare?	14
Helping farmers and animals through DairyNZ's Early Response Service	15
Your feedback	15
Welfare Pulse	15

Working with animal owners

The first half of 2019 has seen a successful events schedule in the Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation programme.

The people behind the programme – MPI's Animal Welfare Team – have used a variety of ways to reach those affected by the 2018 Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations. While social media is an effective way to tailor messages to different groups of animal owners, sometimes there's no substitute for hitting the road and talking to people. Part of the Safeguarding programme plan involved attending A&P (Agricultural and Pastoral) shows and field days across the country from Pukekohe to Wanaka.

The primary aim of attending these events was to raise awareness of the recent regulations which came into effect on 1 October 2018. These affected a wide range of people who own or work with animals, from a lifestyle block owner with three sheep, to a commercial poultry farmer with 100,000 hens. The events attended by the team this year highlighted the fact that face-to-face public engagement is a valuable tool to promote animal welfare regulations in New Zealand. Generally, most people had a vague awareness that there were new regulations, but weren't entirely sure what they were.

It would be fair to say that most people who attended the A&P shows did not actively seek out the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) tent as their first port of call, with events such as Jack Russell racing on offer. However, our professional looking sites, Kiwiana lollies, bag tags and pens on offer proved valuable tools in enticing



The Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor, at the MPI stand at Central Districts Fieldays

people to chat with the staff from the Animal Welfare Sector Liaison team, along with the NAIT Officers and Animal Welfare Inspectors who were also present.

These events were also the first time that the team had used colourful leaflets developed to help inform people of the new regulations and associated penalties. The leaflets were designed to be attractive and eye-catching, and use plain English to communicate the regulations, as they affect different species or roles in the supply chain.

Most interactions were generally positive, with a number of people remarking that it was good to see MPI having a presence at events

continued...

like A&P shows. Talking to people on their home turf provides many benefits for both MPI and the public.

The events gave the team the opportunity to talk to people traditionally difficult to reach, such as lifestyle block owners. The team also gained insights into regional animal welfare issues and how different groups prefer to be communicated with. MPI attendance at these types of events also increases regional presence and awareness.

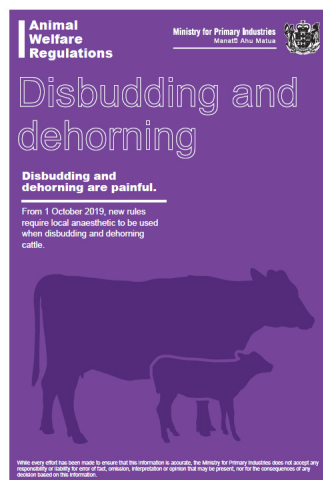
Special thanks to Penny Timmer-Arends, Adviser Animal Welfare Sector Liaison, who did an amazing job of organizing the events, and to the NAIT and Animal Welfare Inspectors who attended. Planning for future events is already under way as the team works to meet with people across New Zealand and talk about animal welfare.

Follow **@MPIgovtnz** on **Facebook** to keep up to date with animal welfare news, and where the team will be next summer.

Madison Pannett
MPI Graduate Development Programme
madison.pannett@mpi.govt.nz

Kate Littin
Manager Animal Welfare Team, Ministry for Primary Industries
kate.littin@mpi.govt.nz

Disbudding and Dehorning Regulations



Horned cattle can injure other animals and people, and can be injured themselves if their horn is damaged in the yards, or on a truck. For these reasons, removing horns and horn buds are necessary procedures on-farm.

Disbudding and dehorning are painful. From **1 October 2019** new rules have required local anaesthetic to be used when disbudding and dehorning cattle. These rules apply to all cattle, regardless of age or production system.

If you disbud calves without using effective local anaesthetic you could face a criminal conviction and a fine of up to \$3000 for an individual, or \$15,000 for the business.

If you dehorn cattle without using effective local anaesthetic you could face a criminal conviction

and a fine of up to \$5000 for an individual, or \$25,000 for the business.

Farmers who are not already using local anaesthetic are being encouraged to contact their veterinarian about training and supply. It is also important for farmers to talk to their disbudding contractors to make sure they are up to speed with the new requirements.

Dehorning is more painful than disbudding, and dehorning adult cattle should be avoided by using polled breeds, or disbudding calves when they're young.

Consider horn management when purchasing cattle. As an example, if you're buying week-old Friesian bull calves, have a system in place to disbud them using local. If you're buying store cattle with horns from a saleyard, talk to your transporter and make sure they can be trucked safely to their destination.

Caustic paste can still be used to disbud calves under the new regulations, provided local anaesthetic is used. But the paste can spread into the eyes or onto other calves, causing painful burns, and care must be taken to minimise this risk.

Find out more on our website: www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs

Disbud – to destroy the free-floating immature horn tissue. On NZ farms this is commonly done using a hot iron (thermal cautery).

Dehorn – to remove the horn or part of the horn. This does not include “tipping” where the calcified end of the horn is removed, and no sensitive tissue is cut.



MPI Animal Welfare Compliance Prosecution Results

March 2019 – June 2019

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) carries out a range of activities to encourage compliance and to enforce the Animal Welfare Act 1999. This includes responding to over 1000 animal welfare complaints from the public per year. Around 30 prosecutions are taken per year when more serious offending is detected. Lower level offences are dealt with in other ways including by providing education and issuing infringements. See Issue 24 for more information.

Here we summarise some recent cases which have resulted in prosecution. Thankfully cases like this are very rare in the farming sector. We encourage everyone to report animal cruelty when they see it by phoning **0800 00 83 33**.

Thompson

In March 2019, George (Sam) Maxwell William Thompson of Te Akau, Waikato, was convicted and sentenced on four charges under the Animal Welfare Act in relation to sheep with flystrike. Two charges related to 66 sheep that had either died or had to be humanely euthanised due to severe flystrike, with two charges for a further 120 sheep afflicted with flystrike that he had failed to treat. Mr Thompson was fined \$28,500 and disqualified from farming sheep. He was given six weeks to destock his entire property of sheep before the disqualification came into effect.

Harlow

In March 2019, Warren Ian Harlow of Kawakawa, Northland, was convicted and sentenced on four charges under the Animal Welfare Act. Two charges related to 20 bulls with insufficient food, one charge for keeping a bull alive with a broken leg, and fourth for failing to provide veterinary treatment for five bulls that died from malnutrition. Mr Harlow was fined \$5000 plus veterinary fees of \$1108.20 and court costs of \$130.

Wells

In March 2019, Jaeden Joseph Wells of Taipuha, Northland, was convicted and sentenced on six charges under the Animal Welfare Act relating to cattle and a dog on a dairy farm where he was employed. Mr Wells failed to provide veterinary treatment to two cows with severe mastitis, one cow with a severe tail injury, one calf with severe lameness and one dog with broken femurs and a broken hip. Mr Wells was also charged in relation to several cows with broken tails. He was sentenced to five months' home detention (monitored by radio frequency), and ordered to pay \$886.60 to MPI for on-farm veterinary costs, plus \$7200 reparation to the owners of the animals for stock losses. In addition, Mr Wells was disqualified from owning or being in charge of any animal for four years, with the exception that he can continue working on a new property under close supervision. If he leaves his current employment the ban will apply in full.

Illing and Larsen

In March 2019, farm manager Murray John Illing of Balclutha, Otago, was convicted and sentenced on one charge under the Animal Welfare Act for failing to protect dairy cows from tail injuries. As the farm manager, Mr Illing was responsible for ensuring his farm staff had appropriate training and supervision to meet the needs of the dairy cattle and he had failed to do this. He was fined \$2750, veterinary fees of \$1851.85 and \$130 court costs.

In May 2019, Mr Illing's dairy farm worker Simon Wimoka Larsen was convicted and sentenced on four charges relating to the dairy cows with broken tails. MPI found 11 mixed-age cows and 24 heifers with tail breaks, plus a further four cows with de-gloving injuries and five with open fractures. At least 22 of the broken tails were found to have been damaged recently

(within the 6 weeks prior to MPI's inspection). Mr Larsen was sentenced to two months community detention, 240 hours community work, was disqualified from owning or being in charge of any livestock and was ordered to pay reparation of \$1852 at \$25 per week. He was also ordered not to undertake any employment or training involving livestock without approval from a probation officer, and to undertake counselling.

Wilson and Pikowai Carriers Limited

In March 2019, truck driver Mr Robert James Bradley Wilson of Te Puke, Bay of Plenty, was convicted and sentenced on one charge under the Animal Welfare Act. The charge related to transporting an aggressive, horned bull without making any provisions to prevent the bull from injuring other animals on the truck. During the journey the bull fought with another bull that had been placed in the same pen, resulting in puncture wounds and severe bruising to the other bull. Mr Wilson was fined \$2500 + \$130 court costs.

A charge was also filed against the transport company, Pikowai Carriers Limited, in relation to this incident. They were convicted and discharged in June 2019.

Kean

In April 2019, Anthony James Kean of Makarewa, Southland, was convicted and sentenced on one charge under the Animal Welfare Act for allowing the transport of a ewe that had a severely diseased udder. The ewe's udder had a significant wound that was infected and discharging pus. Mr Kean was fined \$600 plus solicitor fees of \$200.

Tumai

In April 2019, truck driver Mr Hayden Karipa Tumai of Huntly, Waikato, was convicted and sentenced on one charge under the Animal Welfare Act relating to the transportation of bobby

continued...

calves. Mr Tumai grossly overloaded the truck he was driving, resulting in four calves dying in transit due to smothering, and another three needing to be euthanized at the end of the journey. Mr Tumai was fined \$5000 plus \$130 court costs, and was disqualified from being the person in charge of transporting any calves younger than six months of age for a period of two years.

Chase

In May 2019, Mr William Chase of Taihape was convicted and sentenced on four charges under the Animal Welfare Act. Two charges related to the reckless ill-treatment of sheep – 30 had died and another 34 had to be euthanised to end their pain and suffering due to a lack of appropriate nutrition and husbandry. One charge for was failing to provide 100 sheep with sufficient food and the other was for failing to comply with a notice issued by an Animal Welfare Inspector that instructed him to shear his sheep within a set timeframe. Mr Chase was sentenced to three months community detention, five years disqualification from being in charge of farm animals and \$1200 reparation costs for veterinary fees.

Quigley

In May 2019, father and son, Colin Ross Quigley and Shane Ross Quigley of Matamata, Waikato, were convicted and sentenced on a total of seven charges under the Animal Welfare Act. A cow was found down and unable to stand on her own since giving birth two weeks before. There were also two emaciated heifers and 70 dairy cows that had not been provided with sufficient food. In addition, no veterinary treatment had been sought for a bull which was having trouble walking after suffering a spinal injury a month earlier. Mr Colin

Quigley was fined \$3,250 plus \$130 court costs and \$731.90 reparation. Mr Shane Quigley, who was responsible for the day to day care of the dairy cattle, was fined \$7,875 plus \$130 court costs \$130 and \$1,000 reparation.

Wood

In May 2019, Mr Mark John Wood of Kerikeri, Northland, was convicted and sentenced on four charges under the Animal Welfare Act. One charge was for failing to provide 16 cows with sufficient food; another for nine cattle that died after becoming stuck in boggy ground without rescue; a third for not providing treatment to a steer that had an ingrown horn piercing the head; and a final charge for a calf that was suffering malnutrition and dehydration. Mr Wood went for prolonged periods without visiting his property, failing to provide enough food for the number of cattle present and failing to adequately supervise the animals when in need of care. He was fined \$5000 plus \$520 court costs.

McCollum

In May 2019, Mr David Frederick McCollum of Whangarei, Northland, was convicted and sentenced on one charge under the Animal Welfare Act for dehorning 15 cattle. There was no veterinarian present to administer pain relief during the procedure, which caused pain and distress by cutting through the sensitive horn tissue. Mr McCollum was fined \$2000 plus court costs.

International award for Professor Mellor

Massey University Emeritus Professor, David Mellor, was presented with the Bennet J. Cohen Three Rs Award from the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) at the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) Congress in Prague, in June. This prestigious award, which acknowledges exceptional contributions to the conduct of humane animal-based science through promotion of the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement), is made every four years from amongst nominations from member organisations of ICLAS. Professor Mellor was nominated by the New Zealand Board of ANZCCART, who summed up their nomination as follows:

Professor David Mellor has developed fresh conceptual frameworks and related impact assessment methodologies which, in their comprehensiveness, markedly enhance Three Rs applications, especially Refinement. Moreover, his substantial body of work represents an impressive ongoing legacy which will continue to secure welfare benefits in animal-based science on a wide front into the foreseeable future.



Codes of ethical conduct

– approvals, notifications and terminations since Welfare Pulse issue 28

All organisations involved in the use of live animals for research, testing or teaching are required to adhere to an approved code of ethical conduct.

Codes of ethical conduct approved

Nil

Notifications to MPI of arrangements to use an existing code of ethical conduct

- FIL (New Zealand) Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)
- Northern New Zealand Seabird Charitable Trust (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)
- Vet Resource Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)

Amendments to codes of ethical conduct approved by MPI

Nil

Minor amendments to codes of ethical conduct notified to MPI

Nil

Codes of ethical conduct revoked or expired or arrangements terminated or lapsed

- DCS Animal Health Studies Ltd
- InterAg
- Vetora

Linda Carsons

Senior Adviser, Ministry for Primary Industries

linda.carsons@mpi.govt.nz

Thoroughbred Racing

The November 2017 Welfare Pulse contained a brief report on the focus of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's (NZTR's) Board on seeking good lifetime welfare for thoroughbreds. NZTR General Manager Racing & Equine Welfare, Martin Burns provides an update on initiatives covering regulation, education, compliance and communication.

Over the past two years NZTR has engaged with racing industry participants and interested external parties in closely considering initiatives that aim to deliver the following welfare vision – “A thoroughbred should be provided a good life, with the care and conditions that allow it to thrive and perform to its natural abilities.”

A central focus has been the drafting and consultation of a set of thoroughbred welfare guidelines that has at its core the “Five Domains Model of Animal Welfare”. Professor Emeritus David Mellor has been central to the process as facilitator of an expert working group comprising equine veterinarians and representatives of thoroughbred breeders and trainers.

A process of adaptation of the Five Domains Model to the equine context demonstrated the utility of the model, where the domains of nutrition, environment, health, behaviour and the animal's mental state provide a framework for describing optimal and minimum standards of care for thoroughbreds.

The great majority of owners, trainers and breeders of thoroughbreds in New Zealand meet or exceed minimum standards as prescribed in these guidelines. However, these benchmarks provide a basis for NZTR or the Racing Integrity Unit (RIU) to evaluate whether or not standards have been met, if corrective actions are needed and/or whether charges should be laid.

To directly facilitate the RIU's powers for welfare inspection and as a basis for laying charges when standards are not met, welfare-specific amendments to the NZTR Rules of Racing for thoroughbreds that are racing or breeding have been drafted and will come into force in Spring 2019. NZTR has consulted with MPI and the RNZSPCA to ensure that the application of these specific powers complement the Animal Welfare Act.

A further objective NZTR intends to pursue over the coming two years is to seek full compliance with a system of comprehensive thoroughbred traceability of the whole population, from foaling until death or retirement from racing or breeding.

Whilst NZTR's and RIU's authority under the new rules will not extend beyond the point when a thoroughbred is retired from racing and breeding, there are important ‘guardianship’ responsibilities that remain. For example, NZTR intends producing educational resources for persons who own retired thoroughbreds. Furthermore, if MPI or the RNZSPCA find post-retirement thoroughbreds in a state of neglect, NZTR will provide practical assistance with their rehabilitation and rehoming.

For more information about NZTR's welfare policies, please contact Martin Burns: martin.burns@nztr.co.nz

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Inc (NZTR) is the governing body of the thoroughbred racing code in New Zealand.

It defines, regulates and amends the policies and Rules of Racing for Thoroughbred racing. It is the keeper of the New Zealand Stud Book, registers all racing stock, licenses trainers, jockeys and stable hands, maintains New Zealand's largest racing database and supplies the complete race day form for each of the country's 315 thoroughbred race days.

www.loveracing.co.nz

Three Rs award

A University of Otago psychology and neuroscience researcher has received an award to improve the welfare of animals used in research, testing and teaching. Dr Damian Scarf receives the inaugural \$50,000 Aotearoa New Zealand 3Rs award research grant, co-ordinated by the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC).



Photo: University of Otago

He will use the grant to build an environment and develop computer systems where trained research pigeons can be observed in a more natural environment. The new environment has been coined the FLAP – free-range learning apparatus for pigeons.

NAEAC Chair Grant Shackell said the new environment will have a significant positive impact on the welfare of the pigeons, which are essential to Dr Scarf's research of adolescent behaviour and child development.

“Research involving observed behaviours of trained pigeons has contributed so much to our knowledge of learning, memory and behaviour, but the current laboratory approach has remained largely unchanged since the 1930s. The system that Dr Scarf will develop will give the pigeons a more natural environment where they can display their natural patterns of behaviour, while still maintaining the integrity and standard of the research findings.” This is the second of two grants made as part of the Aotearoa New Zealand 3Rs awards, launched by NAEAC last year. “The 3Rs – replace, reduce, refine – promote the reduction and replacement of animals used in research, testing, and teaching, and the refinement of experimental techniques to minimise pain or distress,” says NAEAC chair Grant Shackell.

The Aotearoa New Zealand 3Rs awards encourage and support projects proactively finding ways to replace, reduce, or refine the use of animals in research, testing, and teaching. The awards are sponsored by AgResearch Ltd, the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching, Lincoln University, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, Massey University, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the University of Otago, and Victoria University of Wellington. Awards will be presented every two years. Applications for the next round will open in 2021.

Codes of Welfare

– update on consultation, development and review since issue 28

Codes of welfare are issued by the Minister for Primary Industries under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Codes outline minimum standards for care and handling of animals and establish best practices to encourage high standards of animal care.

In post-consultation process

- Dairy Housing Amendment (due to be issued in October 2019)

A complete list of the codes of welfare can be found on our website.

Nicki Cross
Manager Animal Welfare Science Team
Ministry for Primary Industries
nicki.cross@mpi.govt.nz

Dog welfare

Dogs are used for many purposes and their welfare is influenced by what they are used for and how they are managed.

Thus the welfare issues of racing greyhounds, for instance, are different from those of retired greyhounds kept as pets. The majority of dogs in New Zealand are kept as companion animals and their welfare may belie their often stated status as members of the family. The media generally reports SPCA stories of brutality to dogs and newspapers advertise 'unwanted' dogs held at shelters which are up for adoption. These are important issues for companion dog welfare but there are many others. These include issues with producing pups that have hereditary physical (e.g. English Bulldogs) or behavioural problems (e.g. breeding fearful animals); specific health and pain issues (e.g. obesity, cancers, osteoarthritis); and behaviour problems (e.g. anxiety, aggression).

If an underlying tenet about good animal welfare is allowing animals to express their species specific behaviours, companion dogs are seldom allowed to express such normal behaviours as living in a mob (social and sexual behaviours), exploration (roaming), scavenging and hunting. These behaviours are considered anti-social and are forbidden by national and local legislation.

Many loved dogs have specific welfare problems. Surveys have shown that in some populations 30 to 60 percent of dogs are overweight and 20 percent are obese. Obesity limits a dog's exercise and predisposes to diabetes and arthritis. Osteoarthritis affects 20 percent of older dogs and this painful condition is often not treated. Over 50 percent of dogs over 10 years of age may have cancer! There are more than 500 inherited diseases in dogs and some breeds are bred for exaggerated physical characteristics which also results in problems. Several dog

breed clubs within Dogs New Zealand (e.g. Rottweiler, Labrador retriever) have a list of veterinary tests which must be carried out on those that are to be used as breeding animals. This is a responsible response to the problem of inherited diseases.

Many dearly loved dogs suffer from separation anxiety and other forms of anxiety and fear. Research has shown that when dogs are alone for more than four hours they become anxious and, as the majority of companion dogs live in one dog households, the experience of being alone for extended periods is probably common. Dogs benefit from contact with humans and isolation is a problem solved by using doggie day care or ensuring dogs have companionship at home.

The opportunity to explore is important for dogs and thus daily walks, especially off leash exercise, is important. However, many dogs are walked infrequently if at all. A small study in Palmerston North found that about 10 percent of dogs were walked every day. Many dogs are never walked and those with behaviour problems, particularly aggression, are difficult to walk and may never get the opportunity to explore.

Thus the welfare of companion dogs is frequently compromised. The welfare issues pertaining to the different types of working dogs, sport dogs, and dogs used in research are somewhat different to those of companion animals and need further discussion.

Professor Kevin Stafford
Massey University
k.j.stafford@massey.ac.nz

Editor's note: See the next article for steps being taken to address these issues.

NAEAC AEC Service Award

In May, the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) made an Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) Service Award to Associate Professor Graham Barrell of Lincoln University. Graham has resigned from Lincoln University's AEC after 21 years as a member and 18 years as the committee's co-ordinator.

The following citation is from the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor who nominated Graham for the award.

"His advice to both new, emerging and experienced researchers on animal ethics and welfare matters has been invaluable in the application and approval process. The refinements made to the Lincoln University Code of Ethical Conduct following previous reviews have resulted in a single unambiguous document, which not only defines the role of the AEC, but the applicant's responsibilities. The resulting document from these refinements is largely due to the efforts of Graham Barrell".

"After twenty-one years of first-hand involvement in animal ethics matters in New Zealand and uninterrupted invaluable membership of the Lincoln University AEC, Associate Professor Graham Barrell would be seen as a worthy recipient of the NAEAC AEC Service Award."



Graham Barrell (left) receiving his award from Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Bruce McKenzie

Dogs NZ Litter Registration Limitations

Compulsory health testing to address breed specific disease

From July 2017, all Dogs NZ Pedigree Labrador puppies have been born to health-tested parents. Clinical signs of three separate autosomal recessive DNA conditions no longer occur, and a large database of hip and elbow dysplasia and eye certificate results is now available.

This is a significant achievement for the breed and is demonstrative of the commitment to health and welfare by Dogs NZ registered breeders.

Litter Registration Limitations (LRL) are a set of mandatory health tests which apply to an entire breed in the Dogs NZ Pedigree Registers. They are a requirement applied to the sire and dam of a litter of puppies prior to registration on these registers.

Individual breed LRLs are proposed and driven by the Breed Clubs and implemented by the Dogs NZ Canine Health and Welfare Committee (CHWC) and Executive Council (EC). Being a Club and member driven process there seems to be significantly higher support compared with the voluntary Accredited Breeders Scheme.

Dogs NZ views LRLs as extremely important because they lead to continued health and welfare improvements in breeds, and also clearly illustrate to external stakeholders that the organisation and our breeders are taking major steps to safeguard the future health and longevity of their breed.

LRLs demonstrate four key strengths:

- They are based on science. For example, in DNA diseases the mode of inheritance and specific mutation must be demonstrated as understood and breed applicable in scientific literature.
- They are relevant to the breed. For example, there is a well-established body of evidence to demonstrate Labradors are affected by hip and elbow dysplasia and that the condition can significantly impact quality of life.

- They are compulsory. This allows widespread collection of data and rapid genetic change while maintaining as wide a gene pool as possible.
- They are transparent. Results are verified by the Dogs NZ office. They are displayed on-line, and tests that are lifelong are displayed on pedigree certificates.

Once a set of LRL tests are approved by the breed club, CHWC and EC, a survey is sent to members who own a dog of that breed. Seventy-five percent participant agreement is required to firstly pass an LRL, and subsequently, each proposed test. For the two surveys done to date, every proposed test has been accepted.

We now have two years of Labradors LRL health test results. All parents are required to have hip and elbow dysplasia scores and eye certificates. At least one parent must test clear for the DNA conditions exercise-induced collapse (EIC), progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) and the 'dilution' gene which, when homozygous, is responsible for diluted coat colours such as silver. Dilute colour Labradors are not accepted by Dogs NZ on the Pedigree register and can also be associated with colour dilution alopecia.

The Pug Clubs have begun the LRL process by submitting proposed tests to CHWC for consideration. The tests include functional grading of brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome based on the University of Cambridge studies as well as several DNA diseases. After a period of consultation, a survey will be run later in the year to see if the pug owners support this initiative. Dogs NZ is excited to be on this journey with this breed which is at risk of exploitation by those not invested in their guardianship and longevity.

Dogs NZ continues to work with our breeders and remains committed to the promotion of high welfare standards for our breeding dogs, best practice for breeding and puppy raising through our Breeders Code of Conduct, moderation of extreme



Photo: Kevin and Trish Hallmond, Blackhills Labradors

Lars is clear for PRA, EIC and the dilute gene and has hip and elbow scores of 2/2 and 0/0 respectively.

phenotypes by review and updating breed standards, reduction of inherited disease through the LRLs and supporting further DNA testing through our many partners both in New Zealand and worldwide. We are also working towards obtaining our own whole-body barometric plethysmography chamber to help support our brachycephalic breeds.

Becky Murphy
Dogs NZ Canine Health and Welfare Officer
caninehealth@dogsnz.org.nz



NAEAC visit research and teaching facilities in Nelson

Once a year the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) holds its scheduled meeting at a regional location, allowing the committee to visit a representative group of the code of ethical conduct (CEC) holders and organisations with an agreement to use those CECs. NAEAC also hosts an informal function to meet members of the animal ethics committees (AECs) who administer the codes. The visits are purely observational.

In May 2019 the committee chose to visit Nelson.

During the day, NAEAC visited Plant and Food Research's Nelson Research Centre to view the facilities and learn about fish culture and research related to the seafood production industry. It was particularly interesting to see fish being anaesthetised for handling – something most committee members had not previously witnessed.

At the Cawthron Aquaculture Park, the committee was introduced to optimising nutrition in king salmon and the scampi breeding programme. In addition, there was also an opportunity to view microalgae production for aquaculture feed.

Committee members appreciated having the opportunity to view and learn about the different fish species used in teaching courses at the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT). It was particularly pleasing to hear how the AEC considered welfare when considering applications.

These visits have an important role in NAEAC's ongoing commitment to staying current with modern research facilities and meeting the people who work with animals in research, testing and teaching (RTT). Several committee members had not previously visited aquaculture facilities, and all found the tours fascinating. For those NAEAC members with experience in RTT, there is always benefit from being exposed to an area of animal use outside their own field of expertise. During the visits, it was obvious to the committee that the teams at each institute are both passionate about their work and fully committed to the welfare of the animals they work with.

There are always little gems of information to be gathered. For example, most members were aware that Longfin eels, which are long-lived, migrate to the Pacific Ocean near Tonga to breed at the end of their lives. What we didn't know is that the sexes travel separately, with the females leaving about a month before the males. The committee also noted that because scampi live at depths of up to 800m, the facilities that hold them must be kept dark and the water at a temperature of 5°C. At NMIT, members learned that while some of the fish species used in their teaching lab will interact positively with environmental enrichment additions to the aquarium, another species will attack and try to eat anything put in its tank – including aeration and heating equipment.

During the day NAEAC identified a need to update its advice to AECs about fish husbandry. At its meeting the next day, the committee resolved to commission an occasional paper on husbandry and welfare in relation to using fish in RTT. NAEAC's advice in the Good Practice Guide will also be updated.

Grant Shackell
Chair, NAEAC



NAEAC members prepare to tour research facilities at Cawthron Aquaculture Park.
L-R Grant Shackell, Craig Johnson, Dianne Wepa, Arnja Dale, Malcolm Tingle, Rob Hazelwood

Photo credit: Jane Symonds

Considering greater openness in animal research and teaching

“OPEN THE DOORS!!” This command is at the top of a flyer from an animal advocacy group. “If There Is Nothing To Conceal – Why Not Open The Doors?” This is a familiar request, increasingly heard by those working in animal research – I heard it myself when I was an animal scientist. I continue to hear it as a bioethicist at the University of Otago. The Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART), of which I’m a member, has also noticed steady, and increasing, support for greater openness about research and teaching involving animals.

Animal research and teaching is often beneficial for humans, animals and the environment – this is a significant means by which valuable scientific progress is made currently, and how this knowledge is taught to students. The public in general has an interest – that is to say a stake – in animal research and teaching, just like they have an interest in science more generally. They have an interest because scientific research and teaching is to their benefit, or to the benefit of animals or the environment, all of which we rightly value. If I have an interest or stake in a company, I have reason to want access to information about how it’s operating, how it’s performing, and so on. I might or might not follow this information on a daily basis, but if I wanted it, I should be able to find it without too much trouble.

The stake that the public has in animal use in research and teaching is not only due to its benefits, but also because of its costs, which they, in part, bear. They do this through paying taxes, some of which are used to fund and support animal-based research and teaching (through public funding bodies, or through state funding of research institutions such as Crown entities), and they do this through paying, as consumers, for the products resulting from animal-based research: new medical interventions, or other technologies. This means that

they are funders, as well as consumers, of some research, and as such can reasonably make an ethical claim to information about how the money they have provided is being used.

This claim cannot be absolute, nor is the duty to satisfy the interest that the public has in animal research: it is not a reason to provide information no matter what the cost. It could perhaps be unreasonably burdensome or difficult to provide some kinds of information, or to present it in some forms, or it could violate reasonable expectations of privacy, or confidentiality agreements, for example. However, the public interest in increased openness, as well as their legitimate claim to it, means that reasons to withhold information must be significant, and must only be used as particular reasons to withhold some sensitive information as long as those reasons are relevant and significant, not as general reasons not to openly and proactively provide information in an accessible form.

Without sufficient open, proactive provision of information about animal-based research and teaching, it is reasonable to question whether New Zealanders can meaningfully accept that animal-based research and teaching is conducted in this country, or at least accept some forms of it. Like science in general, and in fact any activity, it operates well only if it’s accepted by the public as a legitimate activity, and it benefits from the degree of acceptance and positive regard it receives. This is often referred to as “social licence” – the permission or consent given by a society for what occurs within it, especially when there is a significant social stake in it. Just like any other form of permission or consent, it is weakened by lack of information about what is being consented to, and, as a result, consent can be withdrawn or rendered meaningless. Given the necessity of social licence for scientific research to continue, and its benefits to be realised, this is a further strong reason for openness that ought to be shared by all.

“If There Is Nothing To Conceal – Why Not Open The Doors?”. The flyer appeared over 100 years ago, in 1910. This is not a new demand. There has been enormous progress on many fronts since then, and New Zealand has been in the vanguard of this. But there is reason for more, and New Zealand is not leading on this issue. Agreements for greater openness about animal research and teaching have been reached at many overseas universities and research institutes. These agreements centre on proactively providing information about animal involvement in research and teaching in ways that are accessible to the public. The benefits of this approach for researchers as well as the beneficiaries of research are attested to by those involved. Progress on this is possible here – let’s consider it.

Mike King

**Senior Lecturer, Bioethics Centre, University of Otago, New Zealand
Royal Society Member, Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching**

Mike.king@otago.ac.nz



New Zealand farm animal welfare – how do we compare?

New Zealand ranks as one of the top nations for animal welfare, according to the World Animal Protection Index, on a par with Austria, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom (UK). Certain husbandry practices on New Zealand farms have recently been discussed in terms of their potential requirements for pain relief. In reviewing the codes of practice for farmed animals in New Zealand this year, it has been useful to compare our regulations with those of other countries.

Disbudding and dehorning

On 1 October 2019, new regulations (regulations 57 and 58) came into force in New Zealand, requiring anybody disbudding or dehorning cattle of any age and by any method to ensure that the animals are under the influence of an effectively administered local anaesthetic throughout the procedure, and that operators must be properly trained or supervised.

In Australia, the disbudding of calves is permitted without pain relief up to the age of six months, or up to the age of 12 months if it is the calf's first yarding (depending on the jurisdiction). Dehorning of adult cattle requires "appropriate pain relief" which is defined as "the administration of drugs that reduce the intensity and duration of a pain response".

In the UK, disbudding must be performed before two months of age, and while the animal is under the influence of local anaesthesia. Farmers can purchase local anaesthetic using a veterinary prescription and undertake disbudding themselves. Dehorning is legally a veterinary-only procedure and requires the use of local anaesthetic. In reality, many farmers dehorn their cattle using local anaesthetic purchased from their vet. The prevailing attitude appears to be that so long as the animal receives pain relief it doesn't really matter who administers it.

EU regulations allow the disbudding of calves up to four weeks of age without anaesthesia. For animals over four weeks of age disbudding must be carried out under local or general anaesthesia by a veterinarian or other qualified person as defined under domestic regulation. The dehorning of cattle must be carried out under local or general anaesthetic.

Castration

In New Zealand, lambs and calves up to six months of age may be castrated or made cryptorchid (shortening the scrotum) without pain relief, except when a high tension band is used. After six months of age or if a high tension band is used local anaesthetic is required.

The situation is very similar in Australia, except that calves can be castrated without pain relief up to 12 months of age at their first yarding, depending on the jurisdiction.

In the UK, farmers can castrate lambs and calves using rubber rings up to the age of seven days or a Burdizzo tool up to the age of two months. Castration of any animal over two months of age is a vet-only procedure and requires the use of local anaesthetic.

EU regulations are somewhat vague regarding castration but allow for castration provided local legislation is followed.

Tail docking in lambs

Currently, tail docking in sheep can be performed by anyone, by any method, without pain relief, until the animal is six months old. Animals over six months old must be given pain relief at the time of docking. Recommended best practice is to leave the cut tail long enough to cover the vulva in females and a similar length in males, and to undertake tail docking before six weeks of age. The situation in Australia is very much the same.

In the UK, lambs may be docked without pain relief up to the age of seven days, and only with a rubber ring. Any other method or age requires the use of local anaesthetic. The cut tail must cover the vulva in females and the anus in males.



The EU permits tail docking in sheep using rubber rings where allowed by national legislation. Preferred methods are surgical or with haemostatic tongs. Sufficient tail must remain to cover the vulva in females and anus in males. Finland has banned the practice of tail docking in sheep altogether, and the Netherlands only allows it for specific breeds.

Conclusion

New Zealand's regulations for farm animal husbandry broadly echo or in some cases exceed those of other countries. Continuing to monitor what other countries require – and regularly reviewing our practices with this in mind – will ensure we remain at the pinnacle of farm animal welfare into the future.

Will Halliday

Senior Adviser, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare

Beef & Lamb New Zealand

will.halliday@beeflambnz.com

NAWAC releases revised guideline for assessing the welfare performance of traps

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) advises the Minister on animal welfare matters. One of NAWAC's statutory functions is to develop and promote humane best practice guidance for hunting and killing wild animals.

As part of this function, NAWAC has recently revised its guideline for assessing the welfare performance of restraining and kill traps for vertebrate pest control, which allows traps to be tested in a standardised way and encourages the continuing development of new and existing traps to improve the welfare of caught animals.

The revised guideline is now clearer on trap modifications and how they will be assessed, on marking and packaging of traps by manufacturers and distributors, and on the provision of instructions for use. The guideline also clarifies that animal ethics approval is needed for testing traps.

Traps can be bought cheaply in most supermarkets and general goods stores, but there is no guarantee that these traps are effective and humane. However, the animals that we call pests are sentient and capable of suffering pain and distress, and any traps used should kill quickly and humanely.

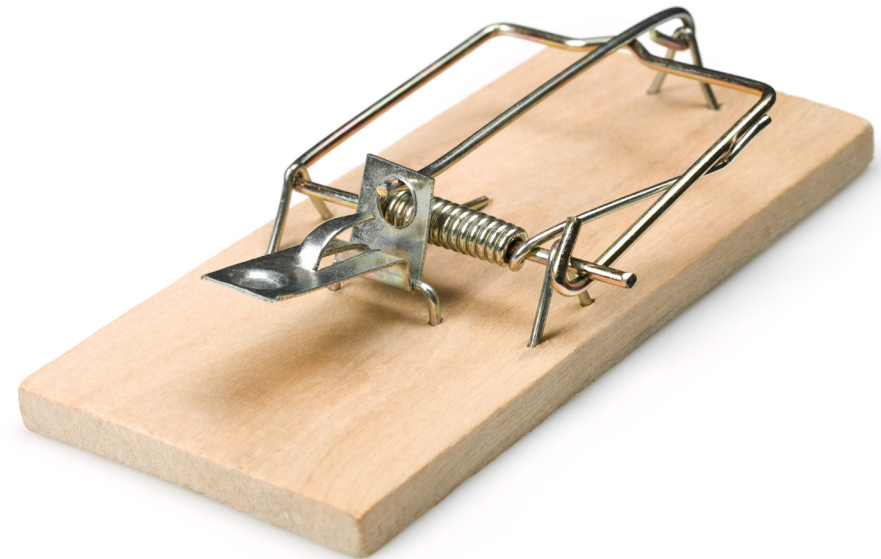
While the Animal Welfare Act 1999 does not require traps to be tested before they are sold or used, NAWAC encourages manufacturers and trap distributors to have their traps tested, and encourages the use of traps that have met the requirements of the guideline.

Says NAWAC Chair Gwyneth Verkerk, "Pest control, especially in light of New Zealand's Predator Free 2050 goal, is of great significance to New Zealand. If we want all New Zealanders to get behind the Predator Free initiative, affordable, easy-to-use, effective and humane options for pest control need to be available."

Advice on tested traps and humane pest control can be found on the Government's BioNet website, which aims to grow New Zealand's biosecurity capability and to connect those working in pest management to help protect New Zealand from invasive pests and diseases.

The guideline – Assessing the welfare performance of restraining and kill traps – can be found at www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/national-animal-welfare-advisory-committee/

Tamara Diesch
Adviser, Animal Welfare
Ministry for Primary Industries
tamara.diesch@mpi.govt.nz



TradeMe's Approach to Animal Welfare

TradeMe staff genuinely care about animal welfare, which is reflected in the measures we take to ensure our site standards are top notch.

Over the last few years we've made changes to our rules that go above and beyond the law to promote positive animal welfare – from banning the sale of pugs, French and English bulldogs, and electric shock collars, to the introduction of our own Code of Animal Welfare which includes a compulsory cap on the number of litters someone can list on our site.

It's important to remember that the vast majority of people selling pets on TradeMe are honest animal lovers who want to look after their animals and find great new owners. For us, animal welfare is a delicate balance. The idea of animals not being treated well has a strong reaction from our members, and rightly so. We don't want mistreated animals on our site either. Respecting the natural reaction people have to these issues needs to go hand-in-hand with a well-researched, logical and pragmatic approach.

We welcome our members input, and our community are brilliant at letting us know if there's anything onsite (including animals) that they think breaches our rules or New Zealand law. However, we have noticed that unsubstantiated claims are often expected to be taken as fact.

If we have evidence that the Animal Welfare Act might be being breached, we will act immediately, and we have a good working relationship with the SPCA. When it comes to going beyond the law, however, sometimes our position may not line up with a complainant's.

We want to make trading seamless and safe for all Kiwis, but we also accept that people expect us to go above and beyond the law when it comes to animal welfare.

When making animal welfare policies and decisions, we look to the following places for guidance:

- the law;
- our members;

- MPI and SPCA; and
- subject matter experts.

The question of whether animals should be on TradeMe at all comes up from time to time. Our consensus is yes, we do have the resources and relationships to encourage responsible trading, and the transparency required for enforcement agencies to use us as a resource.

We're confident that our transparency, policies and relationships with enforcement agencies put us in a unique position unlike some other unregulated marketplaces.

Over the years we've been questioned and pushed on lots of issues. We've learned that people take notice when we take action.

Animals are not commodities and as a business we've made the decision to not treat them as such. Hosting live animal listings is a big responsibility. We take it seriously, and we appreciate our members keeping us on our toes.



Photo: Rebecca Mitchell

Jax Rothmanberger was adopted via Trade Me and knows how to work his angles

You can read **TradeMe's Code of Animal Welfare** and browse our Trust & Safety blog for articles like this one on our **buyer checklist**.

Rebecca Mitchell
Policy Adviser
TradeMe
animalwelfare@trademe.co.nz

Animal welfare in Asia: Could China lead the way in animal welfare?

In this article, Michelle Sinclair, University of Queensland, talks about her work to support animal welfare progress in China with local Chinese livestock leaders.

By interviewing the leaders of all the major international animal welfare charities, it was possible to identify themes key to improving welfare. After asking leaders to describe what they considered to be their most successful and unsuccessful welfare initiatives, it was then possible to extract themes pertinent to success. The resounding message was that programmes needed to be locally led, by people with extensive local knowledge, in respectful ways that harnessed mutual benefits. On the other end of the scale, the fastest way to fail was to elicit defensiveness of cultural identity by attempting to dictate change without local knowledge¹.

Armed with those findings, an extremely fast typing research assistant, and a new team of local academic collaborators in China, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Bangladesh, it was time to facilitate discussions with local Asian livestock leaders themselves. Face to face, livestock leaders openly discussed the circumstances in which they would feel motivated to improve animal welfare², what they saw as the most compelling benefits to improving welfare³, and solutions to improving animal welfare by country⁴. Livestock stakeholders willingness to embrace pre-slaughter stunning was also discussed across each of the countries, showing that while Chinese stakeholders are very willing to adopt stunning, they cite the lack of tools, resources and training as the current barriers to uptake. In summary, this work offers reasons to be optimistic about the potential of the region to achieve higher animal welfare standards.

To support this, in work completed at the onset of this project with nationals from 12 different countries, Chinese respondents reported that animal protection, along with environmental protection and sustainable development, were “extremely important” in comparison to other world social issues, such as poverty and racial inequality⁵. When a growing

interest in animal welfare in China is matched with the scale of their livestock industries, the propensity for developing innovative and pervasive technologies, a focus on science and higher education, a long term focus on economic growth, and the role China has as an increasingly powerful world leader, it is entirely possible that the nation will lead animal welfare innovation in the future. International partners need only to collaborate with their Chinese counterparts and support them to enact their own positive solutions.

Michelle Sinclair
International Animal Welfare Project Manager
School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland
m.sinclair6@uq.edu.au

- 1 Sinclair, M., & Phillips, C. J. C. (2018). Key Tenets of Operational Success in International Animal Welfare Initiatives. *Animals*, 8(6).
- 2 Sinclair, M., Idrus, Z., van Nhiem, D., Katawatin, S., Todd, B., Burns, G. L., & Phillips, C. (2019). Motivations for industry stakeholders in China, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia to improve livestock welfare. *Animals*, Under review.
- 3 Sinclair, M., Fryer, C., & Phillips, C. (2019). The Benefits of Improving Animal Welfare from the Perspective of Livestock Stakeholders across Asia. *Animals*, 9, 123.
- 4 Sinclair, M., & Phillips, C. (2019). International livestock leaders' perceptions of the importance of, and solutions for, animal welfare issues. *Animals*.
- 5 Sinclair, M., & Phillips, C. (2017). The Cross-Cultural Importance of Animal Protection and Other World Social Issues. *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, 30(3), 439-455.

The body of work is being completed as a PhD in International Animal Welfare by Michelle Sinclair, under the auspices of the Animal Welfare Standards Project, which she has been managing since inception six years ago. A full list of the freely available publications in this article are available on Michelle's Researchgate profile at www.researchgate.net/profile/Michelle_Sinclair4/research.

The Animal Welfare Standards Project was initiated as a collaborative project with New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries, and the project team are thankful for their support.

Helping farmers and animals through DairyNZ's Early Response Service

Before I joined DairyNZ, I worked in a hands-on role on a dairy farm for over ten years and spent another 20 years as a rural professional in the dairy sector. Like farmers and vets, I love working with animals and I want to see them being well cared for. Now, I'm lucky enough to be part of DairyNZ's Early Response Service – a free confidential service which helps farmers manage their animals when conditions are tough.

My job is challenging, but never boring. I get to travel the back roads of the lower North Island responding to a really wide range of calls. We get calls from farmers who have seen something on a nearby farm they are concerned about and from vets, rural professionals and the public.

After we get a call, I arrange a visit through the dairy company so we can chat to the farmer. Many times, the farmer already has the issue in hand and is taking steps to solve the problem. Other times, they appreciate the opportunity to talk through an issue. If the farmer needs more support, we work with them to develop an action plan. This outlines what can be done today, this week and next week. We also connect farmers to advice and support from vets, consultants and the Rural Support Trust.

We always return to the farm to check on progress. The farmers I see are usually very proactive in fixing any welfare issues, once they get the right advice from the right people. For the vast majority of calls we get, we are able to resolve the issue and improve animal care without notifying MPI. In rare cases, the dairy company will decide to contact MPI if a welfare issue hasn't been resolved.

If vets, rural professionals or the public have concerns about animal welfare but are unsure about contacting us, I say give us a ring. Our service is confidential, and you're actually doing a farmer a favour by contacting us because we can offer them free advice and connect them to other support services. This helps farmers become more knowledgeable about managing difficult stock issues, as well as ensuring that animals are well cared for.

I work with four other DairyNZ staff in our Early Response Team and we cover the whole country. We're all focused on the same thing – working with farmers, vets and rural professionals to ensure animals are well cared for and that farmers have access to any support they need in difficult times.

You can reach us on 0800 4324 7969. For more information go to our web page on <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/welfare/early-response-service/>

Mike Milburn
Animal Care Extension Specialist, Early Response Team
DairyNZ

Your feedback

We look forward to hearing your views on *Welfare Pulse* and welcome your comment on what you would like to see more of, less of, or something new that we have yet to cover.

Please send your feedback to us at:
animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

General subscriptions

If someone you know is interested in receiving *Welfare Pulse* electronically, they can sign up for the alerts on our website at **www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/subscribe-to-mpi/**.

Under the heading "Newsletters", select *Welfare Pulse*. You can also subscribe to animal welfare media releases and consultation alerts.

To unsubscribe from email alerts follow the instructions at the link above.

Welfare Pulse

Welfare Pulse is published electronically three times a year by the Ministry for Primary Industries. It is of special relevance to those with an interest in domestic and international animal welfare developments.

The articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect government policy. For enquiries about specific articles, refer to the contact listed at the end of each article.

For general enquiries contact: Welfare Pulse
Animal Welfare Team, Agriculture & Investment Services
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Tel: 64-4-894 0100
Email: animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz
Animal welfare complaints: 0800 00 83 33