



# Welfare Pulse

Animal welfare in New Zealand and around the world

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## Greyhound racing in New Zealand

Greyhound Racing New Zealand's Animal Welfare Manager, Greg Kerr, talks about the new animal standards being put in place.

"Greyhounds are the heroes of our sport," Kerr says. "Without fit and healthy dogs there wouldn't be a sport. That's why we're trying to introduce new standards and enforcement measures that make sure our greyhounds are well looked after throughout their lives."

Kerr's appointment in October 2013 was the first time the sport has appointed a full-time Animal Welfare Manager. The appointment was part of a number of sweeping changes introduced through Greyhound Racing New Zealand's Dog Welfare Programme which was the sport's answer to recommendations made from an independent review into greyhound welfare. Its eleven components cover monitoring and tracking of all dogs from birth, rules about dog welfare, and methods of enforcement.

"The Dog Welfare Programme is vital for greyhound racing," he says. "It seeks to fix weaknesses in the sport's professional oversight of animal welfare which were identified in the independent review. The review was very clear that there was no mistreatment of dogs, but this was largely attributed to the dedication and good will of the dog's handlers and owners, rather than good planning and governance," Kerr says.

Kerr brings 25 years' experience in dog welfare management to the Greyhound Racing Industry. He has been involved with the New Zealand Companion Animal Council, the New Zealand Veterinary Association, and the New Zealand Kennel Club. His day-to-day duties include making sure trainers are adhering to the new minimum standards for transportation, kennel construction and size, environment and security and nutrition and exercise.



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“The improvements to the injury reporting and track safety standards have given us a much better understanding of why, where and how injuries are occurring. On the ground, we’ve completed safety audits for the three major race tracks (Auckland, Wanganui and Christchurch), with the remaining four due by end of this year. Clubs will be mandated to introduce any safety improvements identified and we will help them with this.”

A number of safety improvements during the audit have already been implemented at the track. Fitted safety pads have been installed on the outside fencing on all racing tracks and recently, Wanganui is the first club in New Zealand to install a durable PVC safety rail on the inside of the track. The new rail provides flexibility and absorbs the impact when greyhounds come into contact with the rail.

Kerr recently became a member of the Greyhounds Australasia Welfare Working Party and he also represents greyhound racing on the New Zealand Animal Behaviour Welfare Consultative Committee. The result is much more open communication and collaborative decision making between the sport and organisations like the Ministry for Primary Industries, the New Zealand Vet Association and Massey University.

Kerr says that the new welfare standards exceed the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee’s own Code of Welfare. “These standards are now mandated in the rules of racing for greyhounds. That means all registered participants must comply with the new reporting arrangements or face stiff penalties, including possible disqualification from the sport.”

To improve tracibility, Kerr has established and now maintains the new birth-to-retirement database of all dogs, together with a database for registration of all licensed trainers and owner trainers. Despite the increased compliance costs, Kerr said the trainers, owners and breeders are enthusiastic about the improved focus on dog welfare.

“The gaps in the previous registration system meant we weren’t effective at tracking our dogs before and after their racing careers. That opened the door for people to criticise greyhound racing so the sport is very supportive of our efforts to develop a birth-to-retirement database of all dogs entering the sport.”



## Recent staff changes to the MPI Animal Welfare Team

### Goodbye

Cheryl O’Connor left MPI on 30 July to take up her new role as Animal Welfare Senior Scientist with the AgResearch Animal Behaviour and Welfare group at Ruakura. Cheryl has provided 8 years of fabulous service to MPI, managing the Codes team, during some very complex and challenging issues in the pig and poultry industries, and with religious slaughter to name a few! We wish Cheryl the very best with her new role at AgResearch and we are happy to note that while she has moved on from MPI, she has not been lost to animal welfare.

### Congratulations

With Cheryl’s departure, we are delighted to announce that Kate Littin was appointed to the role of Manager, Standards Programme. Kate has been with the Ministry for ten years, with a year spent doing postdoctoral research at the University of Bristol and an earlier short stint with the UK’s Animal Procedures Committee at the Home Office. More recently, she has led the amendment of the dairy cattle code of welfare, been a member of the Ministry’s advisory group to the Primary Industry Select Committee on the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill, and is convenor of the New Zealand Reference Group for the International Standardization Organisation technical specification for animal welfare. Kate is also New Zealand’s World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) National Focal Point for Animal Welfare. Kate is now leading the team that supports NAWAC with the development of Codes of Welfare and when the new Animal Welfare Amendment Bill is enacted will develop regulations and other legislative tools.

### Best Wishes

Clare Francis had a baby boy Lachlan James Francis on 10 September, Clare will take twelve months parental leave from the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* programme. We wish Clare well with the safe arrival of a happy healthy little baby brother for Max.

### Welcome

Marjon Strijker who is currently a Veterinary Technical Supervisor, for MPI Verification Services, based in Canterbury is joining the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* team on the 29 September. Marjon will be with us for 12 months to provide cover while Clare is on parental leave. We are thrilled to have Marjon on the team and look forward to utilising her veterinary and meat industry experiences within the programme.

# Cat welfare and wildlife conservation in New Zealand:

## “Never the twain shall meet?”



What exactly is a cat? The answer to this question will depend upon your personal experience. For the 48 percent of New Zealand households owning a cat they are likely a valued contributor to the family environment. For those engaged in protecting the lives of companion animals, cats are rarely, if ever, a pest and lethal control is off limits. However, for conservation advocates cats are an introduced predator for which lethal control is the preferred option.

The problem of course is that the “typical cat” is an artifice used by us to justify whichever stand point we have. The first issue is that no one cat is like any other but, for the sake of ease, we like to place cats (like everything else) into clear groups. Currently, in New Zealand the recognised categories are “stray”, “companion”, “feral” and “colony” cats. But the question is how to define these terms relative to the cat. Does it hinge on their proximity to human environments? Is it their level of socialisation? Is it how they behave? Or is it simply how we choose to think about them?

It may appear trivial to try, but how we choose to describe a cat has real consequences for the cats themselves. Describing cats as feral rather than stray immediately reduces public sympathy and increases support for lethal control. Cats may also be listed legally as pests in some areas in New Zealand, which affects whether and how their populations are likely to be controlled.

It may be easier to call cats “owned” and “unowned” but with no legal requirement to individually and visibly identify cats in New Zealand, there is little ability to tell one from the other.

A friendly cat could be lost or abandoned and a cat that runs when it sees you may have a loving owner. Collars are really the only way to immediately tell the difference, microchips are great for returning lost cats but are not obvious to the casual observer. As I tell my students, if you see a dog with no collar wandering by the road alone you worry about its safety. You may even call someone to come and collect it. Yet we see unidentified cats on the road all the time, many of us have seen cats killed by cars and we dismiss them as part of urban life. Why should we be legally required to be responsible for dogs but not cats? Do cats deserve a better deal that can't be dismissed by saying they are “free-spirits” or “autonomous” or have a right to exercise their natural

instincts? Will a cat only be definitively identified as unowned when it has a litter of kittens and is placed in a shelter?

There is clear evidence that cats can also be significant predators of wildlife in New Zealand, which suggests a real need to manage their population. However, the degree to which an individual cat expresses predatory behaviour will differ. Feral cats will be compelled to hunt given the lack of anthropogenic (human supplied) food sources. If we consider cats closer to home we can assume stray cats will hunt more or less depending on the food provided (and most strays receive no, or cursory care, of which food is only one small component). Companion cat hunting behaviour is also partly related to how they are managed. For example a well fed cat may show reduced predation compared to one that is hungry. Indoor cats have little, if any, opportunity to hunt but can still have a positive life experience. Collars with bells have, for the most part, been shown to reduce the ability to hunt substantially.

Ultimately we need to take responsibility for our cats, and for the impact they have on other animals. We need to have a broader dialogue that includes the entire gamut of opinions about cats.

It is our social perception of cats that means they can be both valuable and disposable, pests and pets, much loved and frequently killed. Ultimately it is cats that pay the price for our lack of agreement.

**Mark Farnworth**  
Senior Lecturer Animal  
Behaviour and Welfare;  
Unitec Institute of Technology  
[Researchgate profile](#)





# History of the SPCA Inspectorate

The SPCA's Inspectorate has a long history, and it has involved a long line of dedicated, determined and compassionate men and women.

New Zealand SPCA's current team of 90 animal welfare inspectors, reflect the long history of dedicated, determined and compassionate men and women making up the Inspectorate.

It all began in on 26 June 1882, when Mr George (later Sir George) Fenwick and Mr Henry Haughton advertised a meeting to launch an animal welfare organisation. Between 20 and 30 people attended at the New Exchange Buildings on Bond Street, Dunedin. This was one of the first meetings to establish a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and was motivated by increasing public concern about the welfare of the working animals used at the time, namely cruel treatment and overuse of unfit work horses.



Phyllis Cousins- New Zealand's First Female Inspector 1969

The objectives of the new organisation were twofold: to punish offenders that exhibited cruelty towards animals and, more importantly, to prevent cruelty to animals. It was agreed "that in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, on a basis similar to that of the Victorian society, be established in Dunedin"

A second meeting was held on July 13, 1882

and the post of inspector for the SPCA was advertised. Mr Robert T Aitken, who had held a similar position in Glasgow, was appointed and he held the position until 1909, thereby founding the inspectorate as we know it today.

The annual report of 1883 discloses the following: – "Seven persons were prosecuted and fined for cruelty to horses, four horses unfit for work were destroyed, and 96 persons were cautioned for various offences."

The nature of complaints that were prevalent from 1882 until the late 1940s included cruelty and underfeeding of work horses and requiring them to pull heavy loads, the transport of animals by rail and sea, dehydration and starvation of stock on farms and at sale yards, starvation and cruelty of dogs, failure to clear rabbit traps in a timely fashion, overuse of spurs on horses at showing events, driving stock on roads in such a manner that they became lame, dog fighting, the release of large numbers of cats by run holders to exterminate rabbits, animal experimentation and live hare coursing.

The nature of complaints presented to inspectors in recent years still include many of the same issues that were apparent in the early era. However the intensification of the keeping of domestic pets coupled with an increase societal substance and alcohol abuse, mental health issues and violent assaults has brought a new range of complaints for our inspectors to deal with.

From 1882 until the introduction of the Animal Protection Act in 1960, inspectors were appointed special constables under three clauses of the Police Offences Act (relating to animals), the Stock Act and the Impounding Act. They were duly sworn in before a Senior Magistrate at a court sitting and issued a special warrant as a Police Officer. Inspectors were issued with a badge (their only identification), a free railway pass for all rail travel in New Zealand and a free tramways pass. Inspectors were also issued with a gun

and ammunition, which had to be carried at all times for destruction of large animals where required, particularly injured racehorses at meetings and injured stock at A&P Shows (at that time there were no official veterinarians at these fixtures).

As well as responding to complaints about animal cruelty, both urban and rural, the early inspectorate duties involved collection of SPCA subscriptions while working in the field; and attending stock sales, freezing works, race meetings and A&P Shows.



Henry Alder- Early SPCA Inspector 1900

In 1960 with the introduction of the Animal Protection Act, inspectors were afforded powers that far exceeded the old Police Offences Act, and duties were extended to being invited to sit on Animal Ethics Committees and having an active involvement in the preparation of Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for animals. The Animal Welfare Act 1999 has further extended and clarified the role of inspectors, and the SPCA can be very proud of the huge part their inspectors continue to play in enforcing and maintaining the increasingly high standards of animal welfare in New Zealand.

**Virginia Pine**  
Chief Inspector  
SPCA Otago

# Animal Ethics Committee Service Awards

Animal ethics committee (AEC) service awards may be given by the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) in recognition of “meritorious service for at least five years on the basis of outstanding contributions to the AEC on which a nominee has served”. The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee has made two awards to AEC members in recent months.

The first of these was to Richard Reynolds, a member of AgResearch's Ruakura animal ethics committee, in recognition of his service.

The award was presented at the last AEC meeting of 2013 to mark Richard's retirement from the committee after 25 years service. Richard was Federated Farmers' nominee on the committee. AEC Chairman, Dr Jim Webster, commented that Richard had brought a valuable perspective, grounded in practical farm experience, to the committee.

Richard also received a service award in 2005, a tribute to his dedication and commitment.

Years of dedicated service to animal ethics were recognised on 13 March this year when Victoria University's Professor John Miller was presented with an AEC Service Award. John's service extends well beyond the requisite five years – he has managed animal ethics at Victoria University since 1980, and has formally served as Chief Executive Officer for the Victoria's AEC since the committee was officially created in 1985. Indeed, the December AEC meeting was John's 100th.

Associate Professor Joseph Bulbilia, Convenor of the Victoria AEC, in nominating John for the award, commented on his focus on continually improving the quality animal ethics management at Victoria. He also highlighted John's work in fostering face-to-face conversations about animal ethics between AEC members and principal investigators, with the aim of promoting a culture of respect and openness.



Richard Reynolds receiving his award from Ruakura AEC chairman, Jim Webster

## Nominations

AECs/code holders are welcome to submit nominations to NAEAC at any time for AEC Service Awards for members who have made an outstanding contribution. Names of those receiving awards are published only with their agreement.



# Assuring the welfare of animals during transport

Transporting animals from farm to plant is a major link in the processing chain, and the inception of a nationwide uniform standard National Livestock Transport Assurance (NZLTA) programme is good news.



For transport operators the fact that the programme was developed at the instigation of most of the major processing companies means that, effectively, they have only one standard to adhere to, rather than differing requirements from a number of companies. The other advantage for operators is that the programme was developed by people involved in the industry, including the livestock transport sector, rather than being imposed by a government agency. The result is a practical approach which is more likely to ensure widespread compliance with the programme's requirements.

The programme covers all aspects of livestock transport, from the companies which carry the stock to the truck drivers and the vehicles used to transport them. The animal welfare component of the programme is based on the Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2011. For example, minimum standard 6(f) in the code prohibits animals from transported unless they are fit to withstand the journey. As part of the training, drivers are made aware of conditions such as severe lameness that may preclude an animal from being transported.

All participating drivers have to be registered as being suitably trained by trainers approved by the National Livestock Transport and Safety Committee and NZLTA representatives. The comprehensive assessment ensures they have a sound knowledge and understanding of livestock handling and transport and of the relevant animal welfare standards.

One particularly good outcome is that this compulsory driver training to meet the programme's standards has been placed in the hands of experienced industry members and other similarly qualified industry participants to help keep costs under control. Once trained, drivers are registered with the NZLTA. This enables processing companies to ensure that drivers are suitably trained and operators to ensure that prospective hires are properly qualified.

While the programme is largely industry participant driven, to ensure standards are met and maintained both drivers and transport operators are regularly audited by AsureQuality, a government-owned company which provides food safety and

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## New Zealand Land Transport Assurance programme a good thing

Glenn Carroll runs an eight-vehicle stock transport company servicing mainly the lower half of the North Island with occasional trips further north and over into the South Island. He's right behind the New Zealand Land Livestock Transport Assurance (NZLTA) programme. First there's a cost saving for him as an operator. With the various meat processing companies all having different plans it meant driver registration fees had to be paid to each company and drivers needed time off to go to their individual training courses. Now one programme means that his drivers can access most major processing plants.

Carroll says that the most important and difficult to learn aspect of being a stock truck driver is animal handling. That's why he hires ex-farmers when possible. "You can teach virtually anyone to drive a truck but handling stock takes experience." He also says that farmers notice and remember how stock is treated. "Cockies will remember how the driver loaded or unloaded their stock, but they'll forget that it took half an hour to back up to the stock race." So there is a commercial incentive for operators to make sure their drivers have the right skills.

From the stock transport sector perspective the NZLTA provides consistency so that if operators hire drivers from another company they know that they meet a certain standard. The other advantage is that the NZLTA raises the bar for all operators and makes sure they all meet the same set standard. "It's another way to improve the professionalism within our sector."

That has to be a comfort to the meat companies' clients and the end customer Carroll says. "Having transport companies operating to a prescribed standard ensures proper attention is given to animal welfare while stock is being moved and is an important part of giving all consumers a 'paddock to the plate' assurance that stock is being humanely treated throughout."



biosecurity services to the food and primary production sectors. For drivers the audits are carried out at processing plants by AsureQuality and plant staff. Operator audits cover driver registers, driver awareness training, records of matters like departure times, driver stops, repairs and maintenance, facilities and vehicle inspections. After an initial audit within the first 12 months of the programme implementation, random checks of a company's depot are carried out every 18 months.

Stock crates must be certified and audited at least once to the Road Transport Forum Stock Crate Code for Livestock Transport or

other certification checks as approved by the NZLTA Management Committee. These ensure that the equipment used is suitable for carrying the type of stock being transported. Proof of Compliance must be carried on the vehicle.

Overall the NZLTA is a great example of all parties involved in animal transport coming up with a safe and cost efficient way to ensure that they are carried to a high minimum standard. It gives the processing plant customers and in turn the end consumer confirmation of animal welfare throughout their journeys and for operators it clearly sets out the standards they have to meet.

## Codes of welfare – update on consultation, development and review since *issue 16*

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.

### Issued

- Destruction of calves on-farm (amendment to the Dairy Cattle code of welfare)

### Recommended to the Minister

- Rodeos
- Horses and Donkeys

### In post-consultation process

- Dairy Housing Amendment
- Temporary Housing of Companion Animals

### Under development

- Saleyards

A complete list of the codes of welfare can be found on our [website](#).

**Kate Litten**

**Manager Standards Programme**

**Ministry for Primary Industries**

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## Appointments to NAWAC

In late 2013, the Minister for Primary Industries appointed Professor Craig Johnson and Dr Malcolm Tingle to the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. Professor Johnson replaced Dr Justine Stewart and Dr Tingle replaced Professor Martin Kennedy, both of whom had served two terms. He also reappointed Dr Karen Booth for a second term.



Craig was nominated by the New Zealand Veterinary Association. He is a veterinarian who qualified from Liverpool University Veterinary School and after a short time in small animal practice spent 10 years training and working as a specialist in veterinary anaesthesia. In 2001 he accepted a position in veterinary neurophysiology

at Massey University and moved to New Zealand with his family of (currently) one wife, three children, one (soon to be two) grandchildren, one dog, three cats, one rabbit and assorted fish.

Craig is currently co-director of the Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre and has particular interests in comparative and developmental aspects of pain perception, especially in farm animals and the development of practical methods of analgesia for painful animal husbandry procedures.

Malcolm was nominated by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. He is an Associate Professor in Toxicology at the University of Auckland. For over 20 years, his research interests have centred on the role of xenobiotic metabolism in toxicology, in particular, how the balance between detrimental (bioactivation) and protective (detoxication) pathways of metabolism are subject to inter-species variability and



influenced by chemical modification. As well as research in toxicology, he is also active in teaching the principles of toxicology, the value and pitfalls of empirical in vitro or in vivo testing, for example, as required for drug registration purposes, and their relevance to the human situation. Malcolm served on the University of Auckland Animal Ethics Committee for

11 years, with the last six as chairman, and was appointed a NAEAC 3Rs champion in 2010.



Karen was nominated by Agcarm. She is a veterinarian currently working as Manager of Regulatory Affairs for Zoetis (formerly Pfizer Animal Health). She began her career in veterinary clinical practice, spending time in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She has also worked for the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Group of the

Ministry for Primary Industries.

Karen is a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, with a membership in Veterinary Pharmacology.



In March 2014, the Minister appointed Graeme Nind MZNM JP to the committee. Graeme was nominated by the Royal NZ Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and replaces Hon Robyn Kippenberger who resigned last year.

Graeme has been involved with the SPCA in South Canterbury for 20 years and during that time spent 10

years as local Chairman. He is also the RNZSPCA's nominee on two animal ethics committees.

Graeme's background is in health having spent 35 years in the public and private health service, the last 25 years as chief executive and consultant.

One of his interests is the Automobile Association where his involvement goes back some 30 years during which time he served as New Zealand President and Chairman of the New Zealand Board of AANZ. He has an ongoing interest in education having been Chairman of Aoraki Polytechnic.



# Identifying disability assist dogs

Minister for Civil Defence, Hon Nikki Kaye, launched Disability Assist Dog identification tags in New Zealand on Tuesday 3 December 2013, marked as International Day of Persons with Disabilities.



On the left is Annabelle Tye with her dog Doug and, on the right, Belinda Simpson with her dog Tana

Disability assist dogs are highly trained to provide vital assistance to: the deaf/hearing impaired, blind/vision impaired, people with physical impairments, autism spectrum disorder, neurological or psychiatric conditions, or in seizure alert and seizure response..

One of the dogs present at the launch had been taught 90 different commands and can perform jobs such as putting the laundry in the machine, helping its owner get dressed and put on their shoes, standing in “brace” position for support and pressing lift buttons. Another dog could detect the onset of an epileptic fit in its owner up to an hour in advance, and had also been taught to perform protective actions during a fit such as cradling the owner’s head with its body and even removing eye glasses. The relationships formed between disability assist dogs and their owners are life-changing and it’s vital that they’re able to access and stay in places where other dogs are prohibited.

Following the Canterbury earthquakes, Civil Defence staff found it difficult to identify whether an accompanying dog was a certified Disability Assist Dog (or not) when presented to a welfare or emergency centre. At that time, there was no nationally recognised system to identify a certified Disability Assist Dog in an emergency.

The Disability Assist Dog identification tag is a unique tag worn by a certified dog to provide easy identification of Disability Assist Dog status. The tag is a nationally recognised physical form of ID, attached to a collar. Unlike a Disability Assist Dog’s service vest, it’s worn at all times.

Tags are registered to the dog, not the owner with the National Dog Database. Such dogs are classified as working dogs, and the tag is issued for the working life of the dog (until it retires or dies).

The tag provides easy recognition of a Disability Assist Dog in an emergency, and also supports rapid reunification if the dog and owner or handler become separated.

The identification tags are the combined effort of the Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management, Ministry of Social Development, the Office for Disability Issues, the Accident Compensation Commission, Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind – Guide Dog Services, the New Zealand Institute of Animal Control Officers and the New Zealand Veterinary Association.

Tags are not mandatory, and can only be accessed through one of the six organisations that provide disabled persons with disability assist dogs.

Further details about disability assist dogs in emergencies are available on the Department of Internal Affairs website.

This article first appeared on the NZ Veterinary Association website.

## Codes of ethical conduct – approvals, notifications and terminations since *issue 16*

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:

- AgResearch Ltd
- Auckland Zoological Park
- Bay of Plenty Polytechnic
- Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd
- Massey University
- Schering-Plough Animal Health Ltd
- Thermo Fisher Scientific Tauranga Ltd

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

- Abacus Biotech Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- AgriHealth NZ Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Agvet NZ Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Aloe Vera N Z Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Animal Breeding Services (2007) Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Cognosco, Anexa Animal Health (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- CRV Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- CuroNZ Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Dairy Production Systems Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- DairyNZ Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- DCS Animal Health Studies Ltd (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- Duirs NZ Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)

- ES Plastics Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- FIL (New Zealand) Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Kahne Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Knowles, Garry and Rohloff, Brent (to use Landcare Research NZ Ltd's code)
- Lawrence, David (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- LIC Deer Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Livestock Improvement Corporation Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- MetriKlenz Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Ministry for Primary Industries Investigation and Diagnostic Centre (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- NZ Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- NZ Leather and Shoe Research Association (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- NZ National Fieldays Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Oamaru Veterinary Centre (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- On-Farm Research Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Oritain Global Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)
- Ottoman, Garry (to use Landcare Research NZ Ltd's code)
- Parnell Corporate Services Pty Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Pharmfirst Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)

- PJM Scientific Pty Ltd (to use Estendart Ltd's code)
- Quantec Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- SciLactis Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Sirona Animal Health Ltd (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- Techion Group Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Totally Vets Ltd (to use Estendart Ltd's code)
- Towers Consulting (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Vet Resource Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Veterinary Enterprises Group (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Veterinary Health Research Pty Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- VETPlus Solutions Ltd (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- VetSouth Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)
- Wanganui Veterinary Services Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code) (renewal – code expired)

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

- Ancare Scientific Ltd
- Anderson, Peter
- Jackson, Bethany
- Merial New Zealand Ltd
- Neill, Fleur
- ViaLactia BioSciences Ltd

Linda Carsons  
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# Reflections of my first year on NAWAC

As a relatively new member of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC), I decided that it would be interesting to write a short article about my experiences during my first year on the committee. I was appointed to the committee officially by Cabinet for an initial term of three years with effect as from 1 November 2012 and it has been such a great experience learning how the committee operates within Government and in performing its advisory role to the Minister under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

The committee has a huge work load and there are a wide range of activities involved in revising existing codes of welfare and developing new ones. It takes many months for NAWAC to develop a code of welfare, from original consideration of the draft code and releasing it for the public consultation process, to recommendation of the code to the Minister for Primary Industries and its final issue by the Minister, and this is in addition to the time it takes for the original draft code to be written by either NAWAC or industry! By the time the code is issued, it has been through a very rigorous process!



Image courtesy of Kirsty Grant

MPI employees provide a huge level of support to the committee to help NAWAC do its work and they are really fantastic to work with. NAWAC, as a full committee, only currently meet together in Wellington four times per year. The separate NAWAC subcommittees working on different codes and work programmes hold discussions throughout the year then report back to the full committee at the four meetings. We do not have our separate secretariat so we are almost reliant on the MPI employees giving us their support and expert advice as required. This is provided to us under the Act and works exceptionally well.

All of the members of the committee are totally focused on animal welfare in New Zealand and all of us, I am sure, are focused on achieving the best results for animals by developing codes that work to “protect” animals.

Animals are so very much part of our culture and lives in New Zealand, either as production livestock, companion animals or even in the wild, and we need to ensure that they are not badly treated. Unfortunately, as we are all too well aware, there are too many cases of cruelty or mistreatment that appear in our local newspapers each day, and in the courts. It is up to all of us to follow the codes of welfare when dealing with any animals of any kind so they are looked after properly and treated well. The codes of welfare are a great start when seeking information on animal management and welfare if we are unsure of the best methods to look after our animals.

I am very much enjoying the position on the committee and no doubt, the next two years will fly by since we have many different codes that we are developing on a continual basis. The Animal Welfare Amendment Act that is currently going through the House may change the way in which we do certain activities, but it is also designed to be able to strengthen the legal/compliance side of the Animal Welfare sector, which is great. Like most laws, the vast majority of people who look after their animals well now will



Image courtesy of Patrick Smith

have nothing to fear with the additional penalties for mistreating animals.

NAWAC is definitely an excellent committee to be a part of and all of the other committee members are great people to work alongside; their own expert knowledge starts to rub off on us and we learn so much from them. We can achieve so much in the animal welfare arena in the years ahead and I believe that NAWAC remains a very important Government Advisory Committee that performs vital activities to maintain the welfare of animals in New Zealand.

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# Across our desks

A selection of interesting items from journals which have crossed our desks.

## How does brachycephaly affect dogs' lives?

A survey was distributed to 100 owners of brachycephalic dogs in order to assess the frequency and severity of the problems that dogs with this type of face experienced. It was found that the majority of brachycephalic dogs exhibited loud breathing during exercise and rest, and many showed inspiratory effort during both of these activities. Many also showed severe exercise intolerance, sleep problems, choking fits and collapsing due to not being able to obtain adequate oxygen. This study emphasises the significant impact that brachycephaly has on the quality of dog's lives.

Roedler, F.S. et al (2013) *The Veterinary journal* 198, 606-610

## Ascites syndrome in broiler chickens

Intense selection of broiler chickens for fast growth and high meat yield has coincided with an increased mortality and incidence of the metabolic disease in broiler chickens, including broiler ascities, which results from an imbalance between oxygen requirement and supply. This paper reviews the pathogenesis and pathology of this disease and the management strategies currently used to reduce its incidence. Selective breeding is considered the best permanent solution to the problem, but until this can be achieved on a global scale, alternative interventions that have a low economic cost and preserve optimal performance and product quality, whilst maintaining animal welfare, need to be implemented.

Kalmar, I.D et al (2013) *The Veterinary Journal* 197, 169-174

## Topical anaesthesia to minimise pain during castration of calves

Castration has been well established as being painful for calves, but at the present time, the use of analgesics is costly for the farmer and there has yet to be a practical and affordable option made available. This study examined the effect of topical application of a commercially available spray-on anaesthetic and found that the calves treated with this anaesthetic showed fewer pain related behaviours and a greater pain threshold of the wound than controls. This study suggests that the use of this spray during castration has the potential to improve calf welfare, with little cost to the farmer.

Lomax, S and Windsor, P.A. (2013) *Journal of Animal Science* 91, 4945 - 4952

## Pulse ultrahigh current for stunning cattle

Halal slaughter requires that, for religious reasons, when slaughtering cattle, if they are stunned for welfare reasons, the stun must be reversible for the meat to be acceptable to the halal community. The conventional reversible stun used to cause unconsciousness in cattle is short acting and so there is the risk that the cattle may become conscious prior to death by exsanguination. This study examined the use of pulse ultrahigh current which acts by causing depolarisation of the cells and found that this type of stun caused the cattle to become unconscious for longer, suggesting that this stunning technique has the potential to be used in a commercial setting for halal slaughter.

Robins A et al (2014) *Meat Science* 96 1201-1209

## 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:  
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## Animal Welfare in New Zealand

This book charts the history of animal welfare in New Zealand and outlines the major research contribution that New Zealand has made in this area. The book examines the legislation covering animal welfare in New Zealand and discusses local animal welfare and rights organisations. It has chapters on the welfare of dairy cattle, sheep, beef cattle, deer, pigs, poultry, horses and dogs as well as chapters on transport and slaughter, veterinarians and animal welfare, and hunting and fishing. This book will be of interest to everyone interested in animals and their welfare.

Stafford K.J. (2013) Occasional Publication No. 16, New Zealand Society of Animal Production

## 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 by emailing [animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz)

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# The Tail End

Meet Matilda. She was surrendered to a vet clinic as a kitten because her carer could not afford to treat her infected eye. Unfortunately the eye could not be saved, but a vet nurse working at the clinic decided to adopt her once she had recovered from surgery.

Human and camel making friends – one patiently and the other with anticipation, before going for a ride.

