



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

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

Key items discussed at the 2 February 2014 meeting were:

- **Temporary housing of companion animals code of welfare** - A draft of the Animal Welfare (Temporary Housing of Companion Animals) Code of Welfare was considered by the Committee. Subject to minor changes it will be released for public consultation in the first half of 2014.
- **Animals in public display, exhibition and entertainment** - It was agreed that a public discussion document will be released later this year. Before its release, the subcommittee would like to meet with some of the stakeholders that will be affected. Ideally these meetings and the discussion document will prompt 'persons in charge' to consider whether they would meet a new Code of Welfare for the animals in their care and take the first steps to improve their processes.
- **Systems review** – The systems review subcommittee, tasked with leading changes to the way NAWAC addresses its work priorities in the future, discussed a new work plan with the Committee. New priority subcommittees - breeding, wildlife, and shade and shelter – made their first reports back to the wider Committee.
 - The breeding subcommittee identified the animal welfare concerns around animal breeding and will draw up a timeline to tackle them;
 - The wildlife subcommittee will continue the current work programme, including drafting 'best practice' guidelines and running a glueboard traps workshop (on alternatives to glueboards);
 - The shade and shelter subcommittee will look into how it may be able to work with the MPI "*Safeguarding or animals, safeguarding our reputation*" programme, which already has a shelter workstream.
- **Deputy Chair elected** – The Animal Welfare Act 1999 requires the committee to elect one of its members as its deputy chairperson at its first meeting each year. Karen Phillips (veterinarian) was re-elected as deputy chair.
- **Presentation from Dr Linda Keeling** - Linda Keeling, an animal welfare scientist based in Sweden, is on sabbatical in New Zealand for 6 weeks with MPI. She gave a presentation to NAWAC on the intersection of animal welfare policy and science and the different stages countries tend to go through as they develop policies to promote higher farm animal welfare.