

inherited disorders that the puppy or adult dog may be predisposed to which may cause health and/or welfare problems during the dog's lifetime.' (Minimum standard No9 — Supply of Puppies).

This swiftness of implementation is in contrast to the UK, where there is continuing debate about how to best address the recommendations of these reports.

Supporting the Code, is an accompanying document which outlines some of the considerations and debate that took place during its drafting and which makes for interesting reading (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/regs/animal-welfare/req/codes/dogs/dogs-code-of-welfare-report.pdf>). Prominent in this is the section on tail docking. In the Code, tail docking (or banding) is allowed without analgesia before the pups eyes open. That this recommendation wasn't arrived at without much debate is revealed by the amount of attention devoted to the subject in the report. Indeed, from this it is clear that this advice remains under review, and there is a desire to conduct further research on the issue. A contract for this research was put out to tender but, in the end, not awarded.

Another interesting point is the decision taken by the Code to set both a lower and upper limit on body condition, making it an offence to keep a dog that is too thin but also that is 'grossly obese'. The weight of pets, and increasingly levels of obesity, has been a popular focus of attention in the veterinary press in recent years but to my knowledge this is the first time it has been specifically legislated for.

Finally, and perhaps surprisingly given some of requirements of the other standards, is the omission to require dogs to be routinely vaccinated. Although recommended as best practice, the accompanying standard simply requires that "dogs known to be infected with an infectious disease must be.... securely isolated so as to prevent infecting other dogs (Minimum Standard 11)". No doubt others will have their own opinions as to whether this is an oversight or not.

Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010 (2010). A4, 51 pages. National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. Copies of these documents can be obtained from: Animal Welfare Directorate, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140 New Zealand. It is also available for download from: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/dogs>.

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New Zealand Code of Animal Welfare 2010: commercial slaughter

The New Zealand Animal Welfare Act 1999 came into force on 1 January 2000. This established the basic obligations relating to the care of animals but the detailed requirements were set out in separate Codes. The Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare was issued in 2002. This was revoked when the new Code came into force on 28 May 2010. Failure to meet the minimum standards set

out in the Code may be used as evidence to support a prosecution under the Animal Welfare Act. Alternatively, someone charged with an offence under the Animal Welfare Act may use as a defence evidence that they have equalled or exceeded the minimum standards in the Code.

The Code covers all farmed mammals, birds (including ostriches and emus), finfish (including eels), crustaceans and other species defined in the Animal Welfare Act 1999, that are slaughtered to provide animal products for trade. Also included are wild mammals and birds caught alive and taken into a person's care and later killed. Finally, the Code applies to finfish (including eels), crabs, lobsters and crayfish caught from the wild and kept alive onshore, until slaughtered for sale as food.

The publication is divided into eight chapters plus appendices. Chapter 1 is the Introduction and outlines the purpose of the Code, to whom and to what animals it applies, what happens if the Code is not followed and how the Code relates to other welfare codes. Chapter 2 deals with the required training, competences and supervision of personnel involved in stunning and slaughter, and sets out the minimum levels of knowledge and competence required of management and personnel involved in the stunning and slaughter of animals.

Chapters 3 through 6 deal with large and small mammals, birds and aquatic species. Each Chapter is divided into sections dealing with the handling, restraint, stunning and bleeding of the various species, and in each section the minimum standards required are specified. Many sections also include a paragraph outlining the recommended best practice. The Chapter on birds relates mainly to poultry, but includes a section dealing with the specific requirements for ostriches and emus. Chapter 6 on aquatic species is divided into two sections, one covering farmed and wild-captured finfish and eels, and the other dealing with farmed and wild-captured crabs, rock lobsters and freshwater crayfish.

Chapter 7 sets the minimum standards for the slaughter of animals outside slaughterhouses by home-kill service providers and pet-food operators. The responsibilities and obligations of the individuals involved in the restraint, stunning and slaughter of the animal are defined, and the minimum standards set out in relation to those for animals killed in a slaughterhouse. In Chapter 8, the need for a quality assurance programme with written procedures is emphasised, and the minimum standards for the document set out.

Appendix I provides diagrams showing the optimum position on the skull of the animal for the use of a captive-bolt gun or a free-bullet firearm. Diagrams are given for cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, equines and deer. Appendix II details the signs of an effective stun in farmed mammals when a penetrating/non-penetrating captive-bolt gun, a head-only electrical stunner or a head-to-body electrical stunner is used. Interpretations and definitions of terms used in the Code are given in Appendix III, and the legislative requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 with particular reference to the Code are set out in Appendix IV. Finally, Appendix V outlines the process for developing and

revising Codes of animal welfare in New Zealand, and provides a list of the current animal welfare Codes.

Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2010 (2010). Available from National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, Animal Welfare Directorate, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, P O Box 2526, Wellington, 6140, New Zealand. ISBN 978-0-478-36341-8 (print), ISBN 978-0-478-36342-5 (online). <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare>.

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New Zealand welfare Code for sheep and beef cattle

The New Zealand Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), together with the National Animal Welfare Advisory Council (NAWAC), has recently published a new Code of welfare for sheep and beef cattle. Welfare Codes play a key role in improving the care of animals by describing how best to keep and manage animals and by laying out minimum standards. Codes also provide extra detail about areas covered by animal welfare legislation and, although not legally binding in themselves, may be used as evidence to support a prosecution for an offence under the relevant legislation. It is a requirement that all Codes are reviewed at least every 10 years.

The Sheep and Beef Cattle Code of Welfare applies to all sheep and cattle in New Zealand which are principally farmed for meat, fibre and/or offspring, rather than milk. It also covers animals of recognised dairy breeds if they are being reared and farmed for meat production.

Twenty minimum standards are listed under six main headings: Stockmanship and Animal Handling; Food and Water; Shelter; Behaviour; Health, Injury and Disease; and Husbandry Practices. Each section follows a similar format, including a general introduction, background information, the relevant minimum standard and, in some sections, recommended best practice. Also included for useful reference are body condition score charts for sheep and beef cattle, a list of interpretations and definitions of terms used within the Code and a section on legislative requirements.

Animal Welfare (Sheep and Beef Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010 (June 2010). A4, 49 pages. National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand. ISBN: 978 0 478 363531. The guidelines are available at the MAF Biosecurity website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/stds/codes>, or by emailing: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz.

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FAO animal welfare guidelines on cattle identification

The Animal Production and Health Division (AGA) of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations

(FAO) has produced a working document for consultation purposes on the identification of beef cattle. It is intended that, *Guidelines for Animal Welfare: Identification of Beef Cattle*, will form the first publication of an FAO series focused on animal welfare during key livestock husbandry practices.

Individual identification of animals is necessary to define ownership, to enable traceability and to aid disease control. Additionally, identification allows farmers to monitor the performance of individual animals, the herd as a whole, and enables review of management practices. However, the process of animal identification often involves handling, herding and restraint, followed by a marking procedure which may be painful. Identification can therefore be a stressful event in an animal's life and it is important that handlers give due care and consideration to animal welfare when carrying out the procedure.

A number of permanent and temporary identification methods are available to farmers. The guidelines recognise that there is no one 'ideal' method and rate twelve possible methods (ear tattooing; ear tagging [plastic and electronic]; fire, freeze and chemical branding; intra-ruminal bolus; injectable transponder; nose printing; retinal scanning; ear notching; and paint marks) against six desired characteristics: (1) permanence, (2) ease of application, (3) low cost, (4) legibility at a distance, (5) safety for operators, and (6) animal welfare.

A summary chart illustrates how well each identification method meets the six criteria and a further table expands on risks to animal welfare by scoring the potential for each method to cause: pain, stress/distress, infection, parasite infestation, extra handling, later site lesions, or allergic reaction. Detailed explanations are then given on how best to carry out the five most commonly used identification procedures (ear tattooing, ear tagging [visual and electronic], fire branding, freeze branding and paint marking] to ensure that risks to animal welfare are minimised.

Throughout the guidelines, there is emphasis on the capacity of cattle to learn and handlers are reminded that cattle will remember people, facilities and places, and any positive or negative incidents associated with them. It is recommended that habituation and operant conditioning, together with positive reinforcement, are used when training and handling cattle to minimise negative reactions. Advice and practical tips are given on how best to achieve this.

The FAO hopes that the guidelines will serve as a general training tool and that they will be of use to farmers, veterinarians, animal scientists and cattle handlers.

Guidelines for Animal Welfare: Identification of Beef Cattle (2010). Working document for consultation purposes. FAO (eds) MJR Paranhos da Costa, F Galindo Madonado, X Manteca i Vilanova, SM Huertas Canén, D Dahlanuddin, C Phillips and D Battaglia. FAO Animal Production and Health Guidelines, No 4, Rome. Available for download at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/themes/animal-welfare/aw-awhome/detail/fr/item/42766/icode/>.

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