

# contents

## MAF's ANIMAL WELFARE MISSION

- To support the expectations of New Zealand society for the welfare and humane treatment of animals.
- To support the development of animal welfare standards within New Zealand agriculture which will contribute to market success and optimum product positioning for New Zealand animal products and animals.

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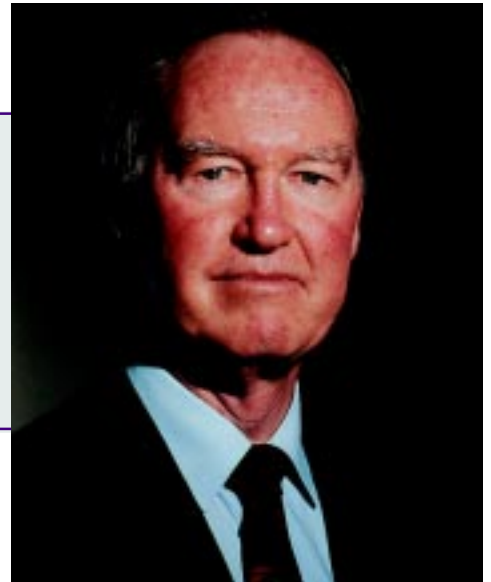
Note: Throughout this publication, unless indicated otherwise, "The Act" refers to the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

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# INTRODUCTION

New Zealand's modern economy grew around pastoral farming, and even today nearly half of this country's export income is derived from farmed animals and their products. It is interesting that in a country with almost no land mammals before human settlement, animals now play such a vital role in New Zealand's economic and social life.



New Zealanders can be proud of the achievements they have made in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of animals today. As a nation we have developed legislation, codes of welfare, and production and quality systems shaped by a strong animal welfare ethic. While this record is a proud one, it would be wrong to be complacent.

Attitudes to animals and the way people use them are evolving rapidly, both within New Zealand and in the countries with which we trade. We are constantly confronted with new challenges – to justify the way we manage animals and to develop animal welfare practices that meet or exceed changing consumer expectations.

There are signs that animal welfare will have the potential to play an increasingly influential role in international trade. While, in the context of rules governing multilateral trade under the World Trade Organisation, animal welfare issues should not be used as a disguised and unnecessary obstacle to international trade; it is, however, important that New Zealand producers stay responsive to changing consumer attitudes to ensure optimum product positioning and market success.

“Animal Welfare in New Zealand” explains how New Zealand manages animal welfare. This revised edition has been published to mark the introduction of important new animal welfare legislation.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 is the culmination of nearly 10 years of consultation, research and policy development. It provides a foundation for New Zealand's animal welfare performance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is characterised by:

- coverage of a broader range of animals
- less prescription and greater flexibility
- a more responsive, transparent approach
- emphasis on the duty of care based on the “five freedoms”
- higher standards
- an improved balance between offences of ill-treatment and prevention through education
- enhanced status for the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and codes of welfare
- strengthened provisions relating to the use of animals in research, testing and teaching.

The Animal Welfare Act enables a rapid and effective response to new challenges and new ethical questions in animal welfare. It also gives people responsible for the care of animals a very clear understanding of their obligations.

I commend this publication to you as a reference point for an informed appreciation of animal welfare in New Zealand.

Bruce J Ross

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce J Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Director-General  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry



# NEW ZEALAND'S

## animal

### POPULATIONS



New Zealand's pre-human environment was practically devoid of land mammals, although there was abundant bird and marine mammal life.

Successive waves of human immigrants brought with them a wide range of animals – as a source of food, as farm animals, for use in sport and recreation, for pest control or simply for sentimental reasons. These introduced animal species have made a big impact on New Zealand's environment.

Today, the New Zealand environment supports large, well-established animal populations, both domestic and feral. The main groups include:

#### Farmed livestock species

The New Zealand economy depends heavily on the export income from pastoral farming. The industry is an integral part of the landscape, now accounting for around half of New Zealand's total land area. The main farmed species are sheep (47 million), cattle (9.1 million), deer (1.8 million) and goats (0.23 million).

In the poultry industry there are some 0.55 million meat and layer breeding birds, 64 million broilers produced each year (increasing at 5% per year), 2.55 million laying birds, 300,000 turkeys and 300,000 ducks and game birds. In New Zealand's

other intensive livestock industry – pigs – there are 47,000 breeding sows producing around 777,000 pigs annually. Significant numbers of these animals are farmed extensively.

In recent years, and in keeping with New Zealand's history of innovation in agriculture, small populations of non-traditional farming species have been introduced. These include llama, alpaca, water buffalo, salmon, emu and ostrich.

All farm animals are protected under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. The Act provides for detailed codes of welfare to be developed and subsequently issued by the Minister on the recommendation of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) following a public consultation process. Such codes cover a variety of farm practices and management procedures (eg, care of bobby calves, transport of animals). Codes are also developed for a wide range of animals and situations outside farming.

Breaching a code of welfare is not an offence under the Act, but failure to meet the standards of a code could lead to legal action for offences under the Act itself (eg, failing to meet an animal's physical, health or behavioural needs).

#### Working animals

In addition to animals producing food and fibre, there are other "working animals" which play an important economic or social role. These include:

- farm dogs and horses
- animals used in rodeos, zoos and circuses
- horses used for horse hire premises, racing and other equine sports
- dogs used for police, defence, private and agricultural security or customs work
- guide dogs.

While some groups are opposed to the use of animals in some of these activities (eg, rodeos and circuses) the humane care and management of the animals used is covered by New Zealand law. This is supported by various codes of welfare either in existence or under development.

### Companion animals

New Zealanders are keen pet owners, and there are large populations of domestic dogs and cats. The private ownership of most exotic pets, particularly big cats and reptiles, is prohibited. Snakes are not present in New Zealand, even in zoos, and are prohibited. New Zealand pet lovers do, however, also keep a wide variety of birds, fish and small mammals (eg, guinea pigs, rabbits, mice, rats and ferrets).

The welfare of companion animals is covered by the Act and codes. In addition, codes of welfare cover the care of animals in boarding establishments and pet shops.

### Indigenous bird and marine life

Many native bird, reptile, frog and fish species, and some marine mammals, have been severely affected by past hunting, by habitat changes and/or by the depredations of introduced species. About 55 species have become extinct since humans arrived in New Zealand, and others are rare and endangered.

New Zealand has an active conservation programme to protect and enhance the populations of its own rare and endangered species. On an international scale, New Zealand supports efforts to protect rare and endangered species in other countries through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Some marine mammal species were nearly exterminated by hunting during the period of early European settlement. They are now protected by law within New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone, but significant numbers of marine mammals

and birds are accidentally killed or injured by commercial fishing operations. The New Zealand Government and the fishing industry are cooperating to develop operating practices to minimise the accidental by-catch of marine mammals and birds.

New Zealand stopped commercial whaling more than 35 years ago. The New Zealand Government is opposed to the resumption of commercial whaling and, as a member of the International Whaling Commission, has consistently supported the moratorium on this activity.

New Zealand has taken a leading role in supporting the Southern Ocean Sanctuary and has been prominent in the international campaign against drift-net fishing.

### Teaching and research

In New Zealand, as in many countries, laboratory animals (mainly rodents) and farm animals (mainly cattle and sheep) are used in research, testing and teaching. Every project must be approved and monitored by an animal ethics committee established by the institution using the animals.

Each committee must have three external members – a nominee of an approved animal welfare organisation, a nominee of the New Zealand Veterinary Association, and a lay person nominated by a local government body to represent the public interest.

In addition, any organisation using animals in research, testing or teaching must hold an approved code of ethical conduct. This sets out the policies to be adopted and the procedures to be followed by the organisation and its animal ethics committee. Codes are approved by the Director-General of MAF, after consultation with the Minister's advisory committee, the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee.





Through the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART), the science community promotes the welfare of animals used for scientific, teaching and testing purposes. Established in New Zealand in 1993, ANZCCART's mission is to provide leadership in developing community consensus on ethical, social and scientific issues relating to the use of animals in research, testing and teaching.

ANZCCART's activities have included:

- input into the drafting of the Animal Welfare Bill
- development of a voluntary review system for animal ethics committees (now a mandatory requirement under the Act)
- educational material for secondary schools
- hosting conferences and workshops on a wide range of topics, including:
  - Improving the well-being of animals in the research environment (1993)
  - The use and welfare of experimental animals (1993)
  - Animal welfare in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: ethical, educational and scientific challenges (1994)
  - Animals and science in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: new technologies and challenges (1994)
  - Farm animals in biomedical and agricultural research (1995)
  - The management and ethics of animal research (1996)
  - Animals in education: value, responsibility and questions (1996)
  - Ethical approaches to animal-based science (1997).

In 1994 the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT) Chair in Animal Welfare Science was established at Massey University. The creation of this chair shows the growing stature of animal welfare science as an academic discipline in its own right.

## Feral pest species

Several introduced animals have become major pests. They damage agricultural production and the environment, and threaten some rare and endangered species. Their impacts are as follows:

- Possums, rabbits, deer, goats and pigs affect pasture and native vegetation.
- Possums, ferrets, deer and feral pigs contribute to the spread of bovine tuberculosis.
- Some bird species damage horticultural and cereal crops.
- Dogs and perhaps a million or more cats live in a feral or semi-feral state. Dogs can be a threat to livestock around urban areas. Feral cats are an important factor in the ongoing decline of native lizards and of kiwi and other ground nesting birds, although they help control rabbit numbers in some areas. Dogs are important predators of kiwi.
- Rats and mice damage stored crops; ship rats are one of the critical predators of native land animals.
- Ferrets, stoats and weasels were introduced into New Zealand to help control rabbits. While this has been effective in some limited areas, these animals also prey on native birds and reptiles, including rare and endangered species.

An increasing effort is being focused on finding pest control methods that cause minimal stress and pain, and that are also target-specific and environmentally friendly.





Values relating to the care and welfare of animals are complex and constantly evolving. New Zealand's heritage is closely bound with farming and animals, but within this society there is a wide range of views.

The New Zealand Government is developing a strategy to promote sustainable agricultural systems. This approach takes into account consumer expectations and concerns about the humane management of farm animals.

# SOCIETY'S

Ours is also a multi-cultural society, and different cultures within New Zealand have differing perspectives on the value and management of animals.

Value systems outside New Zealand also have a strong influence on animal welfare practices in this country. Throughout the world, consumers have become more sensitive to the way in which animals are raised for food and fibre.

# VALUES

The boundary between acceptable and unacceptable behaviour in the treatment of animals is constantly shifting.

Ultimately, the consensus of societal values shapes the rules to protect animals from pain and suffering. The legislators' task is to ensure that the rules will keep behaviour well inside the bounds of acceptability and promote a positive approach to animal welfare.





## WELFARE ISSUES



PRACTICES USED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMALS ARE CONSTANTLY BEING REFINED AND IMPROVED TO ENHANCE ANIMAL WELFARE. SOMETIMES THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO CHANGE – FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY OR HUSBANDRY PRACTICES FOR A NEW TYPE OF LIVESTOCK FARMING. NEW ZEALANDERS ALSO TAKE A POSITIVE APPROACH TO ANIMAL WELFARE. THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES SHOW HOW SOME CONTEMPORARY ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES HAVE BEEN MANAGED IN NEW ZEALAND WITHIN ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONTEXTS.

### **Economics – developing new markets**

Markets have continued to develop for animals and for new animal products. For example, there is an international market demand for deer antler velvet for use in traditional medicinal preparations. This demand is likely to grow in affluent Western markets as velvet-based products are developed to satisfy the fast-growing market for natural therapies. To supply these markets, deer velvet is routinely harvested for processing and export.

Removal of antlers assists with the husbandry of farmed deer, preventing injury to deer as well as stock handlers. The Act makes harvesting of velvet a “controlled surgical procedure” which means that owners or their employees must have veterinary approval to perform the procedure. This approval involves veterinary supervision, completion of a formal training programme and regular audit of a national quality programme.

An even more recent development in animal husbandry has been the establishment of ostrich and emu farming in New Zealand. These animals have specialised management and welfare needs. In response to this challenge a voluntary code was initially developed for ostrich and emu by the industry itself, and reviewed and endorsed by NAWAC in 1998. It will be reviewed and issued under the Act so that it has legal status.

### **Quality assurance programmes**

It is widely recognised that consumer preferences are driven by a combination of factors. Price and quality are important among these. Consumers are also increasingly influenced by animal welfare considerations. They want to know that the animals that produced the meat, eggs or milk products on their supermarket shelves were treated humanely.

New Zealand livestock industries have taken a pro-active approach to these consumer trends by incorporating NAWAC codes of welfare into their quality assurance programmes. For farmers to have their products labelled with an industry quality mark, they must have met a range of auditable criteria. For example:

*DeerQA:* Administered by the New Zealand Game Industry Board, DeerQA requires its accredited participants to meet the standards of several codes of welfare. Industry standards incorporate codes covering farm animals, the removal of antler velvet, transport, slaughter premises and saleyards, and stock and station agents.

**Beef and Lamb Quality Mark:** To qualify for this “Mark”, animals must be slaughtered according to the requirements of the code for the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter. In addition, the Mark rejects meat with a pH level over a set limit (lower pH values indicate unstressed animals). The Mark is administered by the New Zealand Beef and Lamb Marketing Bureau on behalf of Meat New Zealand.

**Pork Quality Improvement Process (PQIP):** This New Zealand pork industry programme will ultimately cover all industry sectors from farm to plate. Animal welfare, including stress minimisation, is an important component. PQIP standards are cross-referenced to relevant codes of welfare, including those for farm animals, transport and slaughter premises. This programme is facilitated and administered by the New Zealand Pork Industry Board.

**Fernmark:** The Fernmark Quality Programme (FQP) is administered by WoolPro, a division of the New Zealand Wool Group. FQP provides certified quality systems along the wool supply chain from production to export. Merino wool quality is managed by WoolPro under the Merino Integrity Programme brand. FQP incorporates the code of welfare for sheep in its reference material for growers.

**Farm Assurance Programmes:** The meat industry runs a number of quality programmes to assure customers of quality and food safety. Animal welfare is a principal component of many of these programmes. AgriQuality New Zealand and

Asure New Zealand are involved in the audit and accreditation of most of these programmes.

**Stock Crate Quality Assurance Programme:** The Road Transport Forum NZ, Central Area Road Transport Association and AgriQuality New Zealand are all associated with this voluntary programme. Stock crates are audited to meet requirements of a code for the manufacture and use of stock crates on heavy vehicles. When these requirements are met, the crates are accredited, conferring direct benefits to animal welfare in transport.

## **Economics and the environment – protecting production systems**

Possums are the major vector for bovine tuberculosis. Rabbits compete with livestock for pasture and contribute to severe environmental degradation on high country properties in the dry and semi-arid regions.

Biological controls are one possible solution. In investigating options to control possums and rabbits, researchers are giving priority to animal welfare considerations. In 1993, the New Zealand Government rejected the option of myxomatosis as a biological control measure for feral rabbits, partly on animal welfare grounds. Following the illegal introduction of rabbit calicivirus disease (RCD) into New Zealand in 1997, the Government has approved the use of this disease organism as a biocide. Research into potential biological controls for possums is continuing.





## Technology

Research into animal behaviour and physiology is providing new insights into the levels of pain and distress experienced by animals.

Research results have been incorporated into slaughter practices in New Zealand meat processing plants. New Zealand scientists have refined slaughter methods and technology in the light of animal brain function studies on how pain can be eliminated. In New Zealand, animals are stunned prior to commercial slaughter. This includes all slaughter carried out to Islamic specifications.

New Zealand technology is now exported overseas, so successful has it been in minimising animal pain during slaughter.

Scientific advances also have an important bearing on the use of animals in research. Recent developments have enabled researchers, in certain situations, to reduce the numbers of animals used and to refine methods to minimise or eliminate pain and distress. The replacement of animals with other methods (eg, tissue culture or computer simulation) has selective application. This is being pursued on both animal welfare and cost efficiency grounds.

## Social attitudes

Practices that have been taken for granted for years are now the subject of rigorous scrutiny in New Zealand. For example, the value of cosmetic operations on dogs is being questioned by increasing numbers of people. The veterinary profession and the RNZSPCA oppose tail-docking in dogs unless there is therapeutic or prophylactic justification.

In the farming context, tail-docking of dairy cows is another such issue. It was originally introduced for product hygiene

and public health reasons, to protect farmers from leptospirosis. Research has demonstrated that tail-docking of cattle has no benefit to animal health and welfare, or milk quality. In addition, cattle are now routinely vaccinated against leptospirosis. As a result, the practice of tail-docking is declining in the national dairy herd.

## Traps and trapping

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee's sub-committee on traps and trapping is helping the Government to develop its policy in this area. The Animal Welfare Act provides for the Minister to recommend an Order-in-Council to prohibit or restrict certain types of traps and devices following consultation with stakeholders and NAWAC.

## International

Dependence on trade in animal products makes New Zealand attentive to the concerns and expectations of its international customers. Responsiveness to developing international animal welfare standards is complemented by New Zealand's positive approach to national standards setting.

The rules governing multilateral trade administered by the World Trade Organisation aim to avoid unnecessary and unfair obstacles to trade. These rules do not permit regulations addressing animal welfare to be used as trade barriers where the production process involved has no discernible effect on the end product. However, the increasingly powerful retail chains which contract directly with New Zealand exporters are making market demands exceeding those that can be made at a government-to-government level. New Zealand's animal welfare framework, strengthened by the Animal Welfare Act 1999, enables a positive response to these market demands.



# OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is responsible for ensuring the Minister and the Government are given sound policy advice on animal welfare matters affecting the agriculture sector. These issues can affect New Zealand's domestic and international markets.

Section 10 of the Animal Welfare Act provides that: "The owner of an animal and every person in charge of an animal must ensure that the physical health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both:

- (a) good practice; and
- (b) scientific knowledge."



In order to ensure that standards of animal welfare set in codes of welfare meet this requirement, MAF commissions operational research each year on issues where gaps in knowledge have been identified. The following are examples of operational research funded by MAF between 1993 and 1998:

- techniques for the castration of lambs and reducing distress
- animal welfare attitudes and awareness among veterinarians and livestock officers, farmers, industry leaders, animal welfare groups and the general public
- live sheep exports: the effects of the configuration of pens, rails and feed troughs
- dehorning/disbudding of calves: techniques and analgesia
- tail docking of cattle
- nutritional diarrhoea in sheep and cattle
- alternative egg production systems
- lambing management systems
- shade and shelter requirements on sheep farms
- the practice of mulesing of sheep
- long-haul animal transport
- use of equipment and oral medicinals on livestock
- body condition scoring in hens
- animal welfare in the fish and crustacean industry
- cows on organic/biodynamic farms
- analgesia prior to velvet removal in deer
- inspecting effectiveness of stunning and slaughter in red meat slaughterhouses
- stock unloading
- castration of calves.







# DEVELOPMENT OF animal welfare legislation IN NEW ZEALAND

THROUGHOUT MOST OF RECORDED HISTORY, DOMESTICATED ANIMALS HAVE BEEN REGARDED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY AS PROPERTY, WITH NO SPECIAL RIGHTS. THE UNITED KINGDOM LED THE WAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT ANIMALS IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY. THIS DEVELOPMENT COINCIDED WITH THE PERIOD OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT OF NEW ZEALAND, AND THE LARGE-SCALE IMPORTATION OF INTRODUCED SPECIES.

New Zealand quickly introduced progressive animal welfare legislation. Initially, it followed British law – the UK Protection of Animals Act 1835 became part of the statutes of New Zealand in 1840.

The New Zealand Cruelty to Animals Act 1878 built further on the original British legislation, extending the law to cover both wild and domestic animals. In 1884, the Cruelty to Animals Act was repealed by the Police Offences Act, which made neglect an offence in addition to wilful cruelty. The new legislation also provided legal recognition to Inspectors of Societies for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as special constables. (Today, appropriately trained staff are recommended by the RNZSPCA to be appointed as inspectors.)

The next major step in animal welfare legislation was taken in 1960 with the passing of the Animals Protection Act. For its time, this legislation was among the most comprehensive and far-reaching of its type. The Act introduced several significant new provisions including:

- making it an offence to witness arranged animal fighting
- prohibition of hare coursing
- new offences relating to treatment of farm animals
- a new offence of aggravated cruelty
- wider powers for inspectors
- transfer of administrative responsibility from the Police to MAF.

A 1971 amendment restricted the dehorning and castration of farm animals and the methods used for docking of cows' tails.

An amendment in 1983 established the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. Following this, the Animals Protection (Codes of Ethical Conduct) Regulations 1987

required that all organisations undertaking research, testing or teaching using animals be covered by a code of ethical conduct approved by the Minister of Agriculture. This development, plus requirements in the 1999 Act that organisations establish an animal ethics committee, provides for a high degree of industry self-regulation within government-defined guidelines.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC), a second ministerial advisory committee, was established in 1989.

A 1993 amendment to the Animals Protection Act increased monetary penalties five-fold and extended the Courts' powers to disqualify convicted people from owning animals.

Despite the amendments that were made, the 1960 legislation did not adequately reflect society's expectations for animal welfare in the 1990s. Nor did it effectively respond to international trends and concerns.

In 1990, a review of the Animals Protection Act was conducted by AWAC. This included two public discussion papers and a wide-ranging process of consultation with interested groups and organisations.

The policy agreed by the Government aimed to steer a middle course between the extreme views on the use of animals: those who oppose any restriction on the use of animals and those who oppose any use of animals for any reason.

Legislative pressures delayed the introduction of an Animal Welfare Bill for several years. However, in 1997 a private member's Animal Welfare Bill was introduced. The Government then introduced its own Bill, which included a number of new policy provisions and addressed gaps in the private member's Bill.

The new legislation marks some important changes in New Zealand's approach to animal welfare.



# THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT – a framework for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 1999 MARKS A MAJOR MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ZEALAND'S ANIMAL WELFARE SYSTEM. IT REPLACES THE PREVIOUS ANIMALS PROTECTION ACT AND REGULATIONS AND KEEPS NEW ZEALAND AT THE FOREFRONT WITH SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST PROGRESSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL WELFARE LAW. IT TAKES EFFECT FROM 1 JANUARY 2000.

## Key features of the Act include:

### Obligation to care for animals

While penalties for ill-treatment of animals are still featured, there is greater emphasis on prevention. This is done by clearly establishing the obligations of those responsible for the care of animals. The needs of animals take note of the internationally recognised five freedoms:

- proper and sufficient food and water
- adequate shelter
- the opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour
- physical handling in a way which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease.

These obligations are qualified, however, as the needs in each individual case are assessed according to what is appropriate to the species, environment and circumstances of an animal.

### Flexibility

Detailed minimum standards are contained in codes of welfare (see page 14-15), which can be amended quickly and easily.

### Definition of animals

The range of animals protected by legislation has been widened to include all animals that are capable of feeling pain.

The definition of animals under the Act therefore includes mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, crabs, crayfish, squid and octopus.

### Surgical procedures

The Act restricts who may perform certain surgical procedures on animals and under what conditions. Minor, or non-significant procedures may be carried out by owners or people in charge of animals (rather than veterinarians).

Significant surgical procedures can be carried out





only by a veterinarian or under the supervision of a veterinarian. Standards covering some such procedures will be in codes of welfare.

### **Animal exports**

The Animal Welfare Act introduces a certification requirement for the export of animals that are not otherwise exempted. Exemptions are provided for export situations (eg, short haul flights for some species) which pose minimal risk to the animals.

### **Research, testing and teaching**

The Animal Welfare Act provides that no research, testing or teaching may be carried out on any live animal unless the person or organisation involved holds an approved code of ethical conduct. Further, no project may proceed without the approval of an animal ethics committee established under such codes. The committees will now be subject to independent review. In line with growing public scrutiny, this system provides for greater transparency and accountability when decisions are made about the use of animals in this context.

### **Enforcement**

The Animal Welfare Act allows the Minister to appoint approved organisations to enforce the legislation and destroy, sell or rehouse animals which are given into their care. Inspectors are appointed on the recommendation of an



approved organisation. Under the Act the RNZSPCA is already deemed to be an approved organisation.

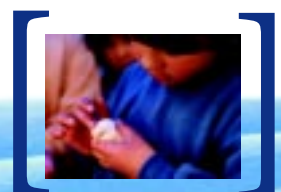
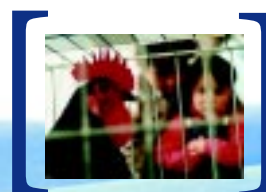
### **Animals in the wild**

While the Animal Welfare Act 1999 does not make it unlawful to carry out animal pest control, or to hunt or fish for animals in the wild, ill-treatment of animals in the wild outside the hunting, fishing or pest control context would be in breach of the Act. The Act also provides for restrictions on the types of traps and devices used in trapping and for other purposes, and for animals caught alive (eg, during pest control) to be killed humanely.

### **Codes of welfare**

The codes developed by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC – formerly the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, or AWAC) specify minimum standards and recommendations for best practice. Progressively NAWAC will be reviewing the existing voluntary codes and recommending the Minister issue them under the Act.

While breach of a code will not constitute an offence in itself, it may lead to legal action for breaches of the Animal Welfare Act.



At the time of publication voluntary codes had been published for the following:

- Circus animals\*
- Sheep
- Sea transport of sheep
- Dairy cattle
- Deer during removal of antlers
- Animals used in rodeo events\*
- Horses
- Bobby calves
- Animals in boarding establishments
- Animals at slaughter premises
- The sale of companion animals
- Pigs\*
- Exhibit animals\*
- Transport of animals within New Zealand
- Animals at saleyards
- Animals used for scientific purposes
- Layer hens\*
- Emergency slaughter of farm livestock
- Dogs
- Broiler chickens\*
- Ostrich and emu

\*The Act has deemed these codes to be codes of welfare issued under the Act for a transitional period of three years unless replaced earlier by a code approved under the Act.

All existing voluntary codes will be revised within three years of the enactment of the Animal Welfare Act.

In addition to the codes, a number of guidelines for the welfare of animals have been published by NAWAC. Published guidelines cover:

- livestock from which blood is harvested
- use of rubber rings to prevent antler growth in yearling fallow deer
- use of rubber rings to induce analgesia for the removal of spiker velvet in red and wapiti yearling stags.

### **MAF's role**

Under the Animal Welfare Act, MAF will continue to play a pivotal role. Specifically, MAF will:

- provide policy advice to the Minister on animal welfare and the administration of the Act
- facilitate information exchange and access to high quality research information
- recommend standards that are practical, fair and responsive to society's expectations
- help ensure that New Zealand retains its international reputation with a progressive, responsive and innovative approach to animal welfare issues
- facilitate interaction between the key stakeholders on animal welfare issues
- maintain links with appropriate international agencies
- monitor and review the performance of approved organisations, inspectors and auxiliary officers
- enforce animal welfare legislation and audit the activities of non-Crown enforcement organisations
- support education and training programmes and the ministerial advisory committees.





# NEW ZEALAND'S animal welfare

## INFRASTRUCTURE

In New Zealand there is a full range of opinion on animal usage. Some do not accept the use of animals by humans under any circumstances, while others sanction the exploitation of animals for economic gain with little or no regard to welfare. Most opinion falls into the middle ground.

New Zealand is fortunate to have a system which requires a high level of consultation between interested groups and those who frame animal welfare legislation and codes of welfare.

Industry organisations, representing all stages from on-farm production to livestock purchasing, transport and meat processing, make an indispensable contribution to the development of new operating practices, policy and standards for animal welfare. They carry out a considerable amount of training and educational work within their own industries to enhance animal welfare standards. Such standards will often lead to improvement in product quality.

NAEAC and NAWAC provide additional advice to the Minister and play a key role in the development process for codes of welfare, in recommending whether codes of ethical conduct should be approved, and in providing research recommendations.

Within the framework administered by MAF, there is a highly cohesive structure for the promotion of animal welfare policy and practice, with industry, research, professional and voluntary organisations providing input into areas such as:

- education and training
- technical standards
- research
- development of quality systems.

The Animal Behaviour and Welfare Consultative Committee (ABWCC) was established in its present form as an independent committee in 1997. Prior to this it functioned as the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Research Centre

Consultative Committee (established in 1992) at AgResearch's Ruakura campus. The ABWCC is a forum for the exchange of information about animal behaviour, welfare and related issues between New Zealand animal industry groups, government departments and researchers, the veterinary profession and public animal welfare organisations. The committee promotes a scientific approach to animal welfare.

It promotes the wide dissemination of research results and encourages dialogue between the groups it represents. The ABWCC also makes recommendations on funding for research into animal behaviour and welfare.

Complaints made about non-compliance with the legislation are investigated by MAF, the RNZSPCA or the Police. In future there may be other approved enforcement agencies. While the vast majority of complaints are dealt with through consultation and education, successful prosecutions against persistent or blatant offenders are routinely undertaken.

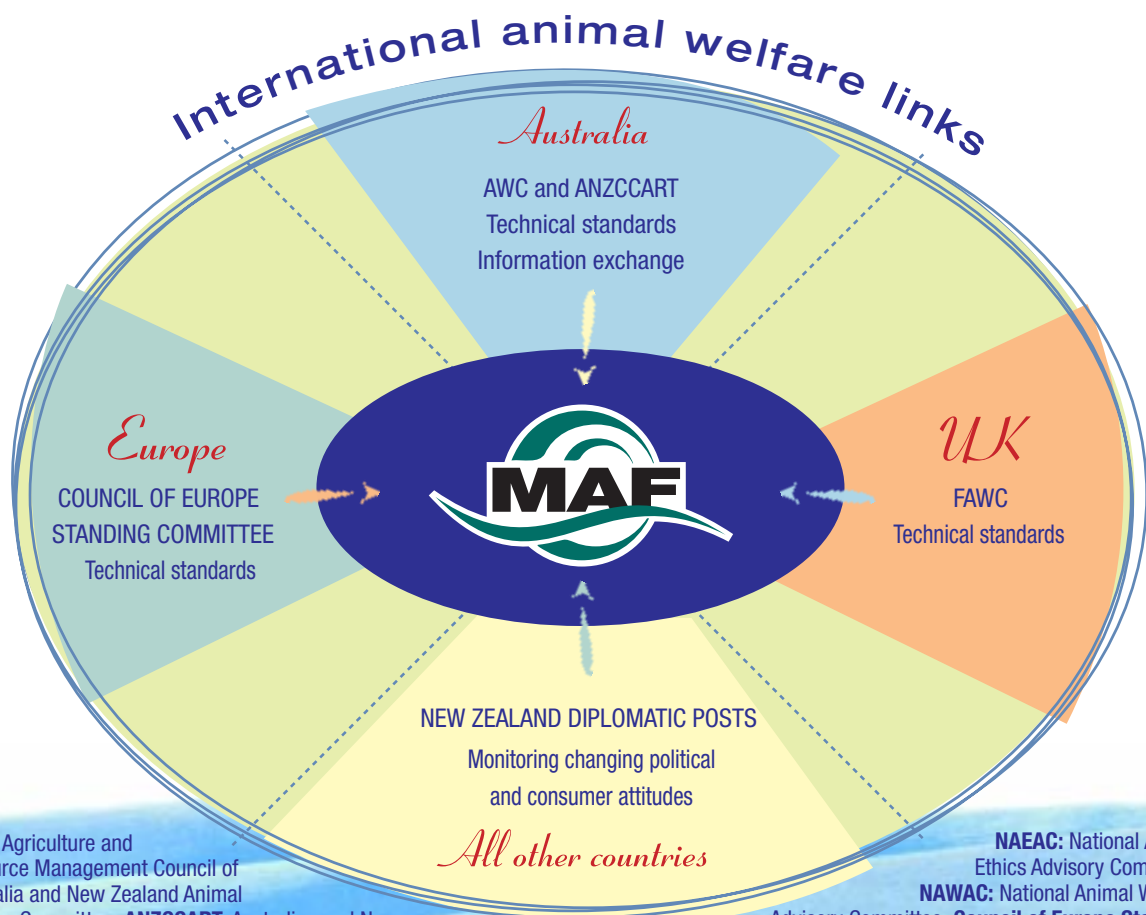
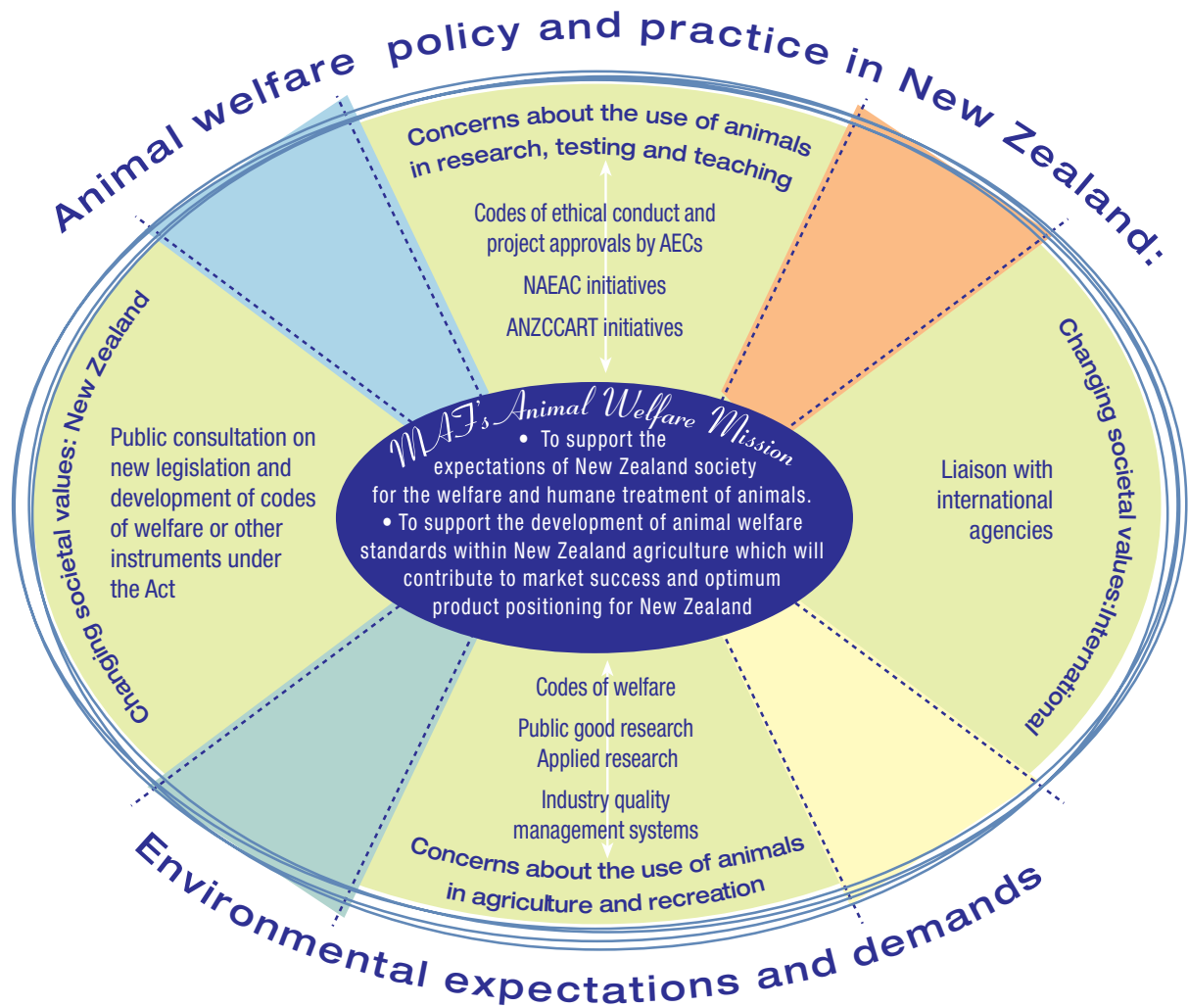
### **Other animal welfare organisations include:**

- The Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) (see page 6).
- The Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre. Established in 1998, this Massey group focuses on research activities and the philosophical and ethical issues surrounding animal welfare.
- All Party Animal Welfare Group. This group, which first met in 1998, is a forum for interaction with Members of Parliament with an interest in animal welfare. Membership includes the New Zealand Veterinary Association, ANZCCART, RNZSPCA and Federated Farmers.

The diagrams on pages 17 and 18 outline the role of the main animal welfare interest groups in New Zealand, how the system responds to concerns about animal welfare issues, and the nature of New Zealand's international animal welfare links.







**AWC:** Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand Animal Welfare Committee  
**ANZCCART:** Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching  
**FAWC:** Farm Animal Welfare Council

**NAEAC:** National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee  
**NAWAC:** National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee  
**Council of Europe Standing Committee:** Council of Europe Standing Committee of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes



# acknowledgements

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New Zealand Game Industry Board

New Zealand Ostrich Association

New Zealand Pork Industry Board

New Zealand Racing Industry Board

New Zealand Veterinary Association

Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (Inc.)

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

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