



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 05 August 2015 meeting were:

- **Animal Welfare Amendment Act: Progress on regulations** – The Animal Welfare Amendment Act (No 2) was passed in May. The Act provides for regulations to set mandatory animal welfare standards and broadens the range of enforcement tools. The working group that is drafting regulations reported back to the wider Committee on the process so far. Public consultation is expected in early 2016.
- **Dairy housing amendment** – an amendment to the dairy cattle code of welfare to address indoor housing was discussed. The final recommendation is scheduled to be agreed at the November meeting.
- **Farrowing crates** – NAWAC's advice to the Minister on the welfare impacts and viability of the continued use of farrowing crates was discussed. The associated economic analysis is still in progress. The final recommendation is scheduled to be agreed at the November meeting.
- **Companion animals in temporary housing draft code** – The final draft version of the code was considered and, with some minor amendments, was agreed to be recommended to the Minister for Primary Industries.
- **Animal welfare in selective breeding** – The first draft of a NAWAC opinion on animal welfare and selective breeding was brought to the meeting. Suggestions and comments were welcomed and a final draft is scheduled to be discussed in November.
- **Animals in the wild** – The Animal Welfare Act has been updated to clarify that reckless and wilful ill-treatment of a wild animal is an offence, with a defence of following 'generally accepted practice'. A workshop with pest control and game hunting stakeholders to help determine the definition of generally accepted practice was held successfully on 17 June. The subcommittee will continue to work with these and other groups to encourage thinking around generally accepted practice.
- **Next meeting** – November 4th in Wellington at Pastoral House.