



# National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

## General Meeting

19 May 2020  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meeting held via Zoom

## MINUTES

**Committee members:** Gwyneth Verkerk (Chair), Arnja Dale, Craig Johnson, Sandra Faulkner, Peter Mason, Ruth Palmer, Nick Poutu, Karin Schutz, Grant Shackell, Ingrid Visser, Julie Wagner (Deputy Chair)

**In attendance:** s 9(2)(a)

### Apologies:

**Welcome:** Craig Johnson, Sandra Faulkner and Peter Mason were welcomed to the Committee.

### Any Other Business Part One (Open to the Public):

### Any Other Business Part Two (Public Excluded):

*Moved (G Verkerk / J Wagner) to accept the agenda.*

## PART ONE (OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

### GENERAL

#### O 1. Confirmation of previous minutes

*Moved (G Verkerk / A Dale)*

*That the draft minutes of the general meeting held on 18 February 2020 (13/20) be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*The motion was put: carried.*

#### O 2. Status of actions arising from previous meetings

The committee reviewed the list of actions (14/20). For action items not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Action 1, regarding amending Guideline 08, is on hold until the court case brought by SAFE and the New Zealand Animal Law Association is closed.
- Action 2, regarding NAWAC agendas being posted online, is in progress. A statement has been posted asking for expressions of interest in attending emails. One person has expressed interest. A joint comment from NAWAC and NAEAC chairs, to be posted in places such as *Welfare Pulse*, has been drafted.
- Action 3, regarding G Verkerk talking to stakeholders regarding transparency, is ongoing. G Verkerk noted recent correspondence from World Animal Protection, and suggested inviting them to a meeting later in 2020.
- Action 4, regarding contacting NZVA about animal sentience, is pending.
- Action 5, regarding submissions to the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines team, is complete.
- Action 6, regarding meeting with Ray Smith on the websites, is complete. G Verkerk reported that her meeting with Ray Smith was cancelled due to him being ill, but she did meet with the Deputy Director-General Karen Adair in his place to discuss budget and the new website. G Verkerk is now awaiting news on the new budget.
- Action 7, regarding the snares report, is complete. The snares report will soon be published on NAWAC's website.
- Action 8, regarding sentience and social media, is in progress. s 9(2)(a) has drafted a series of articles or posts.
- Actions 9 and 11 can be merged and both relate to SPCA sharing compliance statistics with NAWAC. This is in progress. SPCA is internally discussing this idea.
- Action 10, regarding publishing a joint chairs statement on transparency, is complete.
- Action 12, regarding sharing the "Fit for a Better World" vision is in progress.
- Action 13, regarding the livestock welfare meeting, is on hold. Update required from Sector Liaison team as to whether the meeting will occur at all.
- Action 14, regarding the deer and commercial slaughter code review documents, is in progress. The deer industry is working on their review, but it is delayed because of covid. The

commercial slaughter review is an internal process within MPI and still ongoing. s 9(2)(a) seeking update from the Zoo and Aquarium Association regarding the zoo code.

- Action 15, regarding updates on chicken issues, is partially complete. In terms of the fire case, s 9(2)(a) will follow up. For Infectious Bursal Disease, an update was provided. At the moment the industry are working on cleaning and repopulating systems affected, and breeding out IBD. A lot of farms have been sampled to see how far the disease is getting. Add to issues register/have update next time as well. Noted by s 9(2)(a) that poultry industry do want to have a meeting with MPI about how to report mortality events like fires.

### O 3. NAWAC correspondence

Recent correspondence to and from NAWAC had been circulated prior to the meeting.

A letter from the donkey and mule society regarding donkey milking was discussed. A response should note existing codes, but also describe the role of industry and NAWAC in producing codes and best practice. Industry themselves can draft best practices for New Zealand too, or draft information that can be included in a revised code of welfare. A question was raised – there seems to be only one farm at this time. Could compliance or verification services look at the one donkey farm proactively?

It was noted that verification services will be verifying their products already. Action to see if there is any information on this new sector.

*Action: Follow up with verification services regarding any information on the state of donkey milking in New Zealand*

There was discussion about the allegation of strangles (an infectious disease of horses) at a rodeo. It was noted that strangles is already in New Zealand. There was concern that a highly infectious animal was taken to a rodeo. This is something to discuss with Rodeo Welfare Committee s 9(2)(a) can raise). Call for vaccination before an animal can be used in a rodeo?

A question was raised as to whether there had been a response to s 9(2)(a) – confirmed that a response was on the way.

### O 4. Work programme update

The work programme update (17/20) was circulated prior to the meeting. For work programme updates not already on the agenda, the following updates were provided:

- Animals in the wild – The snares proposal has been received and acknowledged by the Minister's office. The good practice guide is still under development. Glueboard trap usage statistics for 2018 / 2019 have been shared.

*Action – s 9(2)(a) to find and share any more information available on the report in the glueboard trap statistics that a cat was accidentally caught*

- Aquaculture – The visit scheduled for May was not able to be organised. NAWAC will need to wait and see what MPI's travel policies are for the remainder of the year. In the meantime, the Fisheries New Zealand leadership team had requested an animal welfare "overview" presentation, and s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(a) presented this. A code of welfare for fish was accepted by FisheriesNZ as the natural next step.

- Farrowing crates – The High Court hearing is scheduled for early June. The secretariat has not been informed of any delay, so are anticipating it will go ahead as scheduled.
- Live animal exports – The review has been suspended. A timeline for re-establishing the review will be shared when available.
- Fractures in dairy cattle - DairyNZ had to curtail survey at 330 farms. They will keep the question for next year's survey. In the meantime, they are working on stats to share.
- Greyhounds – The next two welfare committee meetings have been cancelled. GRNZ have suggested that they will soon cease reporting to Ministers on their progress against the Hansen Report. No clear reason was given.

*Action – s 9(2)(a) to write to GRNZ (Glenda Hughes), cc chair of the board, to enquire about this decision and ask for clear reporting against Hansen recommendations. Escalate if necessary.*

- Rodeos – The last two rodeo events in the calendar were cancelled, and a meeting of the Rodeo Welfare Committee also delayed. A meeting is still being organised for July.
- Cetaceans in captivity – The subcommittee tried to have a meeting pre-covid, but it was difficult to coordinate. P Mason expressed interest in joining. Will seek to hold a meeting soon, but an overview of current legislation and options to progress is needed for this meeting.
- The Organic Standards Bill was mentioned. The Bill is out for consultation and s 9(2)(a) is working on this. I Visser and A Dale interested in this work.

## **O 5. MPI update and discussion of information circulated by MPI**

The MPI update was taken as read, and any questions were welcomed.

There was some discussion on the animal welfare covid-19 response, and in particular the link between animal abuse and family violence during lockdown.

There was also discussion on the World Animal Protection "Animal Protection Index", and the downgrading of New Zealand's score from an A to a C. Is that a concern? P Mason explained that the structure of the review had changed since the previous review. s 9(2)(a) provided MPI's view, which is that there are a number of inaccuracies in the report.

There was a question around a statement regarding significant incidences of lactating cows being transported. More information was requested.

*Action: s 9(2)(a) to follow up with further information on the comments in the MPI report about significant incidences of lactating cows being transported.*

## **PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES**

### **O 6. Policy – Regulations and Codes**

s 9(2)(a) gave an update on the progress of animal welfare regulations. The new definition of Significant Surgical Procedure, and the new regulations that were required to support the change, have been delayed for up to one year due to the coronavirus outbreak meaning that effective implementation was not possible.

Although the date has been extended for up to one year, MPI still aims to bring in the new criteria and regulations sooner than May 2021. MPI is still working on what date the new implementation date will be. May be able to share more information in June.

NAWAC has been consulted on the draft regulations. The next step is consultation on specific wording, and changes to codes of welfare before they are amended.

A question was raised in regards to progress on dairy cattle access to the outdoors regulation. MPI's policy team was planning to visit farmers keeping cattle indoors. This is still in progress. MPI will engage with affected farmers even if travel is not allowed.

## **STRATEGY AND PLANNING**

### **O 7. Animals in Exhibition, Entertainment and Encounter**

A memorandum from the 3E's subcommittee had been shared prior to the meeting (19/20). The thinking behind the memo and the three-stage approach to the topic was summarised for NAWAC by s 9(2)(a). The timelines and deadlines were also summarised. NAWAC can expect to see a consultation document on Friday.

The scope was discussed, including who to consult with – looking at a two stage consultation.

### **O 8. Update on draft breeder chicken code of welfare**

A memorandum on the progress of the code of welfare had been shared prior to the meeting (20/20). The code of welfare was meant to be presented at this meeting but had been delayed due to the covid response. s 9(2)(a) is assisting s 9(2)(a) with research and consultation with international experts.

The timeline is now that NAWAC will receive a draft code by the end of June. When the code does go out for public consultation, some specific issues will be highlighted which are included in the memo. The committee agreed to an out-of-session discussion on the draft code.

### **O 9. Mātauranga Māori**

R Palmer summarised the information in the memorandum which was circulated prior to the meeting (21/20). The work is a request from Minister, but also an important consideration for both committees in terms of how NAWAC and NAEAC works – which needs to be in accordance with the Treaty and Wai 262. This can be thought of as a journey or ongoing process rather than one decision.

The paper tries to lay out different models of knowledge for NAWAC to consider.

There was discussion about te ao Māori and the general approach. Agreement from the committee that this work needs to keep going. As a first step, including more Māori language was suggested and agreed to be important. The Committee should also consider meeting with Iwi when travelling (e.g. to Nelson on a potential aquaculture trip).

s 9(2)(a) explained that MPI has resources available to help NAWAC e.g. for Māori Agribusiness.

The subcommittee will keep working on this, and is keen to understand what MPI has available.

S Faulkner joined the subcommittee.

**O 10. Bees**

A memorandum had been circulated prior to the meeting (22/20).

Concern was raised that the sentence of bees is not clear – are we talking about individual bees or a hive? Science does not seem to have enough to support the addition of bees to the Animal Welfare Act. If they were added, there are a lot of social insects that would meet the same criteria.

NAWAC agreed that there may be a need for guidance or best practice. This may sit better with food safety or food regulation. However, the Minister of Agriculture is concerned specifically about issues such as overcrowding, under feeding – these are animal husbandry concepts.

NAWAC preferred the idea of working to develop good practice guidelines to protect bee welfare, perhaps co-leading with industry, rather than a code of welfare which would require some definition changes to be brought under the Animal Welfare Act.

Bees should be added as a work item under management but not assigned a subcommittee at this stage. The secretariat should follow up on some of the next steps – under active consideration.

*Action: Add bees as a work item “under management” and secretariat to advise NAWAC of next steps.*

**O 11. Annual Report 2019**

A final draft is now available. Comments were invited and should be sent to G Verkerk and [REDACTED] within the next week.

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With no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 2:00pm.