



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 13 February 2019 meeting were:

- **Appointment of deputy chair** – Julie Wagner was appointed deputy chairperson for 2019.
- **2019 work plan** – The updated work plan was agreed and will be published on NAWAC's webpage. It has a focus on regulations; poultry welfare (particularly broiler breeders); animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter; and wildlife (particularly humane trapping).
- **Regulations** – MPI is working on regulations addressing surgical and painful procedures for 2020. The regulations subcommittee members attended the MPI prioritisation exercise for these regulations on Tuesday 12 February. NAWAC is happy with progress so far.
- **Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter** – NAWAC discussed the 23rd May workshop on this topic. The theme will be to develop a framework to approach the ethical issues in this space, particularly regarding how to weigh up benefits and costs (e.g. costs to animals vs. benefits to society).
- **Transparency** – NAWAC discussed transparency and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act with a representative from the Ombudsman's office. Next steps will be agreed in May 2019.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received presentations by Agersens on virtual fencing; Greyhound Racing New Zealand on greyhound welfare; and OSPRI regarding 1080.
- **Visit from Minister of Agriculture** - Damien O'Connor (Minister of Agriculture) visited to speak to NAWAC. He thanked NAWAC for their work and considerable effort in animal welfare, discussed some recent and upcoming animal welfare work, and took several questions.
- **Next meetings** – The meeting dates for the remainder of 2019 are Wednesday 22 May, Thursday 23rd May (workshop), Monday 19 August, Tuesday 20 August (joint NAWAC/NAEAC meeting), and Wednesday 13 November.