



## 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 November meeting were:

- **Regulations and codes** – NAWAC heard an update regarding the process of developing codes and regulations alongside each other at the same time. This is a new process to both MPI and NAWAC.
- **Meat chicken breeder code of welfare** – The subcommittee shared updates from meetings with SAFE and the poultry industry. Visit to a farm has been scheduled before Christmas.
- **Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter** – A draft framework for considering animal welfare considerations alongside societal value of animal activities was presented. This is proposed to be incorporated into NAWAC's guidelines, and will form the basis of an opinion paper.
- **Transparency** – NAWAC heard an update on the progress of its own website. Minutes are now online. Agendas will be posted online before meetings from 2020.
- **Prioritisation** – NAWAC agreed on priority work for 2020, and an updated work plan will be posted in February 2020.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received presentations on Thoroughbred welfare reform; live animal exports; compliance statistics; and the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* programme.
- **2020 meetings** – Quarterly meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:
  - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February
  - Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May
  - Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August
  - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November