



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 14 November meeting were:

- **Regulations** - The Animal Welfare Act has been amended to provide for regulations to set mandatory animal welfare standards and broadens the range of enforcement tools. The first two sets of regulations, live export and young calves, commenced on 1 August. NAWAC received an update on the progress of the next suite of 46 regulations and how they will be implemented.
- **Temporary housing of companion animals** – NAWAC discussed with MPI the best way to get this draft code of welfare published as soon as possible, given the context of a new Government.
- **Dairy housing** – NAWAC is working on an amendment to the code of welfare for dairy cattle to address indoor housing of cattle. The Committee discussed and agreed to specific draft standards for this amendment.
- **Prioritisation** – NAWAC reviewed their work programme for 2018. Due to a high workload no new items were added, though several topics were placed under a watching brief and noted for potential action when other items on the work programme are completed.
- **Codes review** – NAWAC viewed a summary of the results from the codes of welfare survey. Amendments to the structure of codes of welfare and some of NAWAC's processes were discussed and agreed. Changes to NAWAC's guidelines will be completed to reflect these changes to processes, and an article (e.g. for *Welfare Pulse*) about the results of the survey will be completed in order to inform those who took the time to answer the survey.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received a presentation by Martin Burns from New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing about their animal welfare strategy.
- **Next meetings** – Meeting dates for 2018 were agreed. These are: 14 February, 9 May, 15 August, and 13 November.