



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 17 February 2016 meeting were:

- **Regulations** - The Animal Welfare Act was amended in May and now 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 progress of the public discussion document. Public consultation on these matters is expected in April 2016. NAWAC will be formally consulted as part of this process.
- **Systems review** – Updates to some of the NAWAC guidelines were agreed, on order for them to be in line with the changes to the Animal Welfare Act. The subcommittee will also finalise the 2016 workplan before the May meeting.
- **Layer hens** – There have been questions raised on the interpretation of some minimum standards in the code of welfare for layer hens. A subcommittee was formed to work through these questions as soon as possible.
- **Greyhounds** – NAWAC has been asked to comment on the 2015 review of the progress in animal welfare matters by Greyhound Racing New Zealand. This matter was referred to the subcommittee working on the Exhibition, Entertainment and Encounter code who will work on this for the May meeting.
- **Wildlife** – The requirements around remote monitoring of live traps were discussed.
- **Animal welfare in selective breeding** – It was agreed that the draft opinion statement will be shared for comment with contributing stakeholders in early 2016.
- **Sustainable animal welfare** – NAWAC received a presentation from Dr Mark Fisher on the future of animal welfare and the importance of sustainability.
- **Next meeting** – Meeting dates in 2016: 18 May, 17 August, and 16 November.