



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 18 May 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. Public consultation on these matters was launched in April. NAWAC was formally consulted as part of this process and finalised their submission to MPI.
- **Systems review** – The subcommittee presented a proposed multi-year workplan to NAWAC. This was agreed, subject to feedback from those affected, and will be posted online once time frames have been established.
- **Layer hens** – There have been three questions raised on the interpretation of minimum standards in the code of welfare for layer hens. A subcommittee was formed to work through these questions as soon as possible. Their work was presented back to NAWAC. Resolution was reached on two issues, with more information needed on the third.
- **Wildlife** – The requirements around remote monitoring of live traps were discussed and a draft opinion on the use of snares was circulated.
- **Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter** – The subcommittee has drafted an opinion piece on the use of animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter. In addition to this, the subcommittee have moved away from developing a full code to encapsulate all uses of animals within this sector. As an alternative, they intend to develop a set of principles that need to be considered when deciding if and how animals should be used in exhibition, entertainment, and encounter. Such principles will help develop responses to new and changing ways of using animals, and so aim to remain relevant as animal use evolves over the next 25 years. Where needed, this will then be followed by targeted work with specific sectors within this area. NAWAC also discussed feedback in regards to rodeo and has also been asked to comment on the 2015 review of the progress in animal welfare matters by Greyhound Racing New Zealand.
- **Deputy chair** – Julie Wagner was appointed as deputy chair for 2016.
- **Next meeting** – Remaining meeting dates in 2016: 17 August and 16 November.