



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.

The meeting was held by videoconference. Key items discussed at the 19 May 2020 meeting were:

- **Regulations and codes of welfare** – NAWAC heard an update on the progress of the surgical and painful procedures regulations. The implementation of these regulations has been delayed due to the coronavirus update. NAWAC has been consulted on the draft regulations. The next step is consultation on the consequent amendments to codes of welfare.
- **Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter** – A new timeline was presented and agreed. A document for consultation is almost ready.
- **Mātauranga Māori and animals** – In 2019, the Ministerial animal welfare advisory committees were tasked by the previous animal welfare Minister, Meka Whaitiri, to take mātauranga Māori into account when considering the welfare of all animals in New Zealand. A workshop has since been held and a subcommittee formed. The subcommittee presented some ways forward, and it was agreed this work will continue, with support from MPI.
- **Bees** – NAWAC discussed a request from the Minister of Agriculture to consider bee welfare.
- **Annual report 2019** – Final draft circulated to the committee for comment before publication.
- **2020 meetings** – Remaining quarterly meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:
 - Thursday 20th August
 - Wednesday 18th November