



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 20 August 2020 meeting was held by videoconference. Key items discussed at the meeting were:

- **Codes of welfare review** – NAWAC were advised that the plan for reviewing all codes of welfare is being implemented, and that three codes (Dairy Cattle, Sheep and Beef, and Pigs) have been assigned to members of the secretariat to begin work on, including establishing working groups to contribute to this process.
- **Animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter** – The societal cost/benefit assessment tool has been shared for targeted consultation. The chair of the subcommittee reported back on several meetings held with interested stakeholders.
- **Animals in the wild** – NAWAC agreed to approach the Broadcasting Standards Association and the Game Animal Council for further information on their approach to taking animal welfare considerations into account.
- **Greyhound welfare** – NAWAC agreed to send a letter to the Minister responsible for animal welfare regarding progress against the Hansen Report recommendations. NAWAC would also support an independent review of this progress.
- **Regulations Review Select Committee complaint** – NAWAC agreed a process for responding to the complaint recently received by this select committee. The complaint is about crustacean slaughter standards in the code of welfare for commercial slaughter.
- **Cetaceans** – Agreed to set up a meeting with Department of Conservation regarding their policy on cetaceans in captivity under the Marine Mammals Protection Act.
- **2020 meetings** – Remaining quarterly meeting dates for 2020 are as follows:
 - Wednesday 18th November