



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 22 February 2017 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 remaining 77 regulations.
- **Code of Welfare for temporary housing of companion animals** – This code had been recommended to the Minister for Primary Industries for release; however, the code of welfare for layer hens has recently been considered by the Regulations Review Committee and as a result several recommendations were made to improve the clarity of all codes and code reports going forward. NAWAC therefore asked to withdraw the temporary housing code and will make the required changes before its release. NAWAC remains committed to issuing the code as soon as possible.
- **Rodeos** – There has been regular correspondence from concerned members of the public on rodeo. MPI officials and the NAWAC Chair had met with the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association (NZRCA) and NAWAC received an update on that meeting. Further recommendations will be sent to the NZRCA.
- **Snares** – NAWAC agreed to send a letter and report on snare traps to the Minister for Primary Industries.
- **Deputy Chair** – At the first meeting of every year, NAWAC is required to appoint a deputy chair. Iain Torrance was appointed.
- **Wellington SPCA** – NAWAC received a tour of the SPCA and an update from the CEO, Steve Glassey.
- **Next meeting** – Upcoming meetings for 2017 are: 17 May, 16 August, and 14 November. A public workshop to discuss animal sentience, jointly hosted with NAEAC, will be held later in the year.