



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 30 August 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 next suite of 46 regulations, and how they will be implemented.
- **Dairy housing** – NAWAC is working on an amendment to the code of welfare for dairy cattle to cover indoor housing of cattle. The subcommittee drafting the changes sought agreement from the full Committee on some changes to the amendment, and a plan of action to move forward, including conducting a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis. The amendment is to be discussed further at the November meeting.
- **Implementation of standards** – The subcommittee was working on three major issues: inappropriate body condition score, lack of shelter, and euthanasia (including on-farm killing). The subcommittee sought an agreement on one issue to prioritise first, and it was agreed to begin work on implementing standards related to body condition score.
- **Animals in entertainment, exhibition and encounter** - The subcommittee is working on an opinion paper around the use of animals for animals in entertainment, exhibition and encounter. A framework for writing the paper was presented and agreed upon. The Committee also received an update on ongoing greyhound welfare work.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received a presentation by Dr. Arnja Dale on the activities of the National Cat Management Strategy Group.
- **Next meeting** – The final general meeting for 2017 is on 14 November. A workshop to discuss animal sentience, jointly hosted with NAEAC, will be held on 15 November.