

Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005

A code of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999

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National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
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Preface

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 came into force on 1 January 2000. It establishes the fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. These obligations are written in general terms. The detail is found in codes of welfare. Codes set out minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of animals. They are developed following an extensive process of public consultation and reviewed every 10 years, or sooner if necessary.

I recommend that all those who care for animals become familiar with the relevant codes. This is important because failure to meet a minimum standard in a code could lead to legal action being taken.

I issue codes on the recommendation of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The members of this committee collectively possess knowledge and experience in veterinary science; agricultural science; animal science; the commercial use of animals; the care, breeding, and management of companion animals; ethical standards and conduct in respect of animals; animal welfare advocacy; the public interest in respect of animals; and environmental and conservation management.

The Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005 was issued by me, by a notice published in the Gazette on 22 December 2005, under section 75 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. This Code came into force on 23 December 2005.

This code is deemed to be a regulation for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989 and is subject to the scrutiny of Parliament's Regulations Review Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Anderton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Jim Anderton
Minister of Agriculture

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1 Introduction, Purpose and Interpretation of Code

1.1 History

The original Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards were prepared by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC), which was established in 1989 by the then Minister of Agriculture to advise him on matters concerning animal welfare. The codes were of a voluntary nature and had no legal standing under the Animals Protection Act 1960.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 established the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC), which replaced AWAC, and provided for the issue of codes of welfare with legal effect. One of the responsibilities of NAWAC is to advise the Minister on the content of codes of welfare following a process of public consultation.

1.2 Legal Status of Codes of Welfare

Codes of welfare are deemed to be regulations for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989. This means that they are subject to the scrutiny of the Regulations Review Committee of Parliament.

Codes of welfare contain minimum standards and may also contain recommended best practices. Only minimum standards have legal effect and in two possible ways -

- evidence of a failure to meet a relevant minimum standard may be used to support a prosecution for an offence under the Act (see Appendix I).
- a person who is charged with an offence against the Act can defend himself/herself by showing that he/she has equalled or exceeded the minimum standards (see Appendix I).

Recommendations for best practice under New Zealand conditions set out standards of care and conduct over and above the minimum required to meet the obligations in the Act. They are included for educational and information purposes.

Any person or organisation aggrieved at the operation of a code of welfare has a right to make a complaint to the Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

This is a parliamentary select committee charged with examining regulations against a set of criteria and drawing to the attention of the

House of Representatives any regulation that does not meet the criteria. Grounds for reporting to the House include –

- the regulation trespasses unduly on personal rights and freedoms
- the regulation is not made in accordance with the general objects and intentions of the statutes under which it is made, or
- it was not made in compliance with the particular notice and consultation procedures prescribed by statute.

Any person or organisation wishing to make a complaint should refer to the publication *Making a Complaint to the Regulations Review Committee* which can be obtained from the website:

<http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/Publications/Other/>

or by writing to: Clerk of the Committee
Regulations Review Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington.

1.3 Process for Code Development

A draft code may be developed by anyone including NAWAC or the Minister. It is then submitted to NAWAC. Provided the draft meets criteria in the Act for clarity, compliance with the purposes of the Act, and representatives of persons likely to be affected by the code have been adequately consulted, NAWAC publicly notifies the code and calls for submissions. NAWAC is then responsible for recommending the form and content of the code to the Minister after having regard to the submissions received, good practice and scientific knowledge, available technology and any other relevant matters.

NAWAC may recommend draft standards that do not fully meet the obligations in the Act if certain criteria specified in the Act are met.

The Minister issues the code by notice in the *Gazette*.

1.4 Scope

This code applies to all persons responsible for the welfare of farmed animals subjected to any procedure carried out with or without instruments which involves physical interference with the sensitive soft tissue or bone structure of an animal and is carried out for non-therapeutic reasons. It does not apply to those procedures used to treat animals with existing injuries or diseases.

While this code covers all painful husbandry procedures, specific information is provided for castration, tail docking, and disbudding and dehorning only. For specific information on other procedures, please refer to the following:

- beak trimming of poultry – Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare 2005;
- velvet antler removal from deer – Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Deer During the Removal of Antlers; and
- castration and tail-docking of pigs – Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2005.

This code does not apply to “significant surgical procedures”, including “controlled” or “restricted surgical procedures”, as defined in the Act.

The practice of mulesing is not included at this time. NAWAC has yet to complete its investigation of the benefits and risks of the procedure, and the efficacy of alternative procedures of managing flystrike. Mulesing will be added when NAWAC’s investigations are complete. In the meantime, the procedure is covered by Section 7.1 of the Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Sheep.

If painful husbandry procedures are to be undertaken, they must be justified on the basis of enhancing animal health and welfare, human safety, animal and farm system productivity, or product attributes. Unless they are undertaken with the benefit of experience and the observance of high standards, the welfare of the animals cannot be adequately protected. This code is intended to encourage all those responsible for its implementation to adopt the highest standard of husbandry, care and handling, to equal or exceed the minimum standards.

Under the Act, the “owner” of an animal and the “person in charge” is responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare. In the case of farm animals, the owner of the animals may place the animals in the care of others.

Responsibility for meeting minimum standards relating to the provision, design and maintenance of the facilities and equipment, the allocation of operational responsibilities and the competence and supervision of employee performance will lie with the owner or person in charge of the animals.

Advice is given throughout the code and is designed to encourage owners and operators to strive for a high level of welfare. Explanatory material is provided where appropriate.

Responsibility for meeting minimum standards during the operation of particular tasks will lie with the person responsible for carrying out that particular task. That person is “in charge” of the animals at that particular point in time. Generally, a stockhandler is the person in charge of the animals in that stockhandler’s care. In practice, the identification of the person in charge will depend on the minimum standard in question.

Other codes that are relevant that should be consulted, or that are either being produced for the first time, or are in the process of being reviewed, include codes concerned with the farming of pigs, sheep, dairy and beef cattle, deer and poultry (see Appendix II).

The Code was drafted on behalf of NAWAC in consultation with representatives of a number of the farm industries. These included the dairy, sheep and beef farming and veterinary industries. As required by the Act, NAWAC publicly notified the draft Code of Welfare on 9 July 2005.

The final version is as recommended by NAWAC after the conclusion of this consultation and deliberation process.

1.5 Contents of this Code

Section 69 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 provides that a code of welfare may relate to one or more of the following –

- a species of animal
- animals used for purposes specified in the code
- animal establishments of a kind specified in the code
- types of entertainment specified in the code (being types of entertainment in which animals are used)
- the transport of animals
- the procedures and equipment used in the management, care, or killing of animals or in the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals.

In deciding to issue a code of welfare, the Minister must be satisfied as to the following matters set out in section 73(1) of the Animal Welfare Act –

- that the proposed standards are the minimum necessary to ensure that the purposes of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 will be met; and
- that the recommendations for best practice (if any) are appropriate.

Despite the provisions of section 73(1), section 73(3) of the Animal Welfare Act allows NAWAC, in exceptional circumstances, to recommend

minimum standards and recommendations for best practice that do not fully meet the obligations of –

- section 10 - obligations in relation to physical, health and behavioural needs of animals
- section 11 - obligation to alleviate pain or distress of ill or injured animals
- section 12(c) - killing an animal
- section 21(1)(b) - restriction on performance of surgical procedures
- section 22(2) - providing reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation for the transport of animals
- sections 23(1) and 23(2) - transport of animals
- section 29(a) - ill-treating an animal.

In making a recommendation under section 73(3), section 73(4) requires NAWAC to have regard to –

- the feasibility and practicality of effecting a transition from current practices to new practices and any adverse effects that may result from such a transition
- the requirements of religious practices or cultural practices or both
- the economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.

This code provides for the physical, health, and behavioural needs of animals. These needs include –

- proper and sufficient food and water
- adequate shelter
- opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour
- physical handling in a manner which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease

being a need, which, in each case is appropriate to the species, environment, and circumstances of the animal - *section 4 Animal Welfare Act 1999*.

This code also takes account of –

- good practice

- scientific knowledge
- available technology.

1.6 Revision of the Code

This code is based on the knowledge and technology available at the time of publication, and will be reviewed in the light of future advances and knowledge. In any event this code will be revised no later than 23 December 2015 (being 10 years from the date on which this code was issued by the Minister).

Comments on this code are always welcome and should be addressed to:

The Secretary
National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
PO Box 2526
Wellington.

Further information can be obtained from the MAF website –

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare>

1.7 Interpretation and Definitions

1.7.1 Interpretation

Minimum Standards

Minimum standards are identified in the text by a heading and use the word “must” or similar words. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.

Recommended Best Practice

The Act provides that codes of welfare may contain recommendations for best practice.

Recommended best practice is taken to mean –

The best practice agreed at a particular time, following consideration of scientific information and accumulated experience and public submissions. It is usually a higher standard of practice than the minimum standard, except where the minimum standard is the best practice. It is a practice that can be varied as new information comes to light.

Recommendations for best practice will be particularly appropriate where it is desirable to promote or encourage better care of animals than is provided as a minimum standard.

Recommended best practices are identified by a heading and, generally, use the term “should”.

Good Practice

The Act does not define “good practice”. NAWAC takes “good practice” to mean a standard of care that has a general level of acceptance among knowledgeable practitioners and experts in the field; is based on good sense and sound judgement; is practical and thorough; has robust experiential or scientific foundations; and prevents unreasonable or unnecessary harm to, or promotes the interests of, the animals to which it is applied. Good practice also takes account of the evolution of attitudes about animals and their care.

Scientific Knowledge

The Act does not define “scientific knowledge”. NAWAC takes “scientific knowledge”, relevant to its areas of responsibility, to mean knowledge within animal-based scientific disciplines, especially those that deal with nutritional, environmental, health, behavioural and cognitive/neural functions, which are relevant to understanding the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals. Such knowledge is not haphazard or anecdotal; it is generated by rigorous and systematic application of the scientific method, and the results are objectively and critically reviewed before acceptance.

Available Technology

The Act does not define “available technology”. NAWAC takes “available technology” to represent, for example, existing chemicals, drugs, instruments, devices and facilities which are used practically to care for and manage animals.

1.7.2 Definitions

Act—means the Animal Welfare Act 1999

Animal— This code applies to animals as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

“Animal” —

- (a) Means any live member of the animal kingdom that is—
 - (i) A mammal; or
 - (ii) A bird; or
 - (iii) A reptile; or
 - (iv) An amphibian; or
 - (v) A fish (bony or cartilaginous); or
 - (vi) Any octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); or
 - (vii) Any other member of the animal kingdom which is declared from time to time by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal for the purposes of this Act; and
- (b) Includes any mammalian foetus, or any avian or reptilian pre-hatched young, that is in the last half of its period of gestation or development; and
- (c) Includes any marsupial pouch young; but
- (d) Does not include—
 - (i) A human being; or
 - (ii) Except as provided in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of this definition, any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage.

—Section 2.

1.8 Glossary

In the following table, the term “means” is used to highlight a definition used with specific understanding relative to this code, compared with the more common usage of a term.

Anaesthesia	artificially induced insensitivity to pain, usually achieved through the administration of gases or drugs.
Analgesia	the absence of, or relief of, pain, usually through the administration of drugs.

Brand	to mark indelibly the skin of an animal by burning, usually with hot or very cold irons, for the purpose of identification of ownership, age or other purpose.
Castration	removal of the testes.
Cautery	applying extreme temperature or a caustic agent to stop bleeding and prevent infection or destroy growing tissue.
Crutching	removal of wool from the hindquarters of a sheep.
Cryptorchid	an animal in which one or both testes have not normally descended from the abdominal cavity to the scrotum, and the colloquial term for short-scrotum males (see below).
Dag	a clot of matted wool and excrement found on (or removed from) the hindquarters of a sheep.
Dagging	removal of dags or daggy wool from a sheep's hindquarters.
Dehorning	removal of whole horns (including any regrowth after disbudding) from an animal by amputation.
Disbudding	destruction of free-floating immature horn tissue (horn "buds" growing from the skin) from which the horns of an animal subsequently develop.
Dock	means to remove most of the tail of an animal (see tailing or tail docking).
Elastrator	a device which stretches rubber rings allowing them to be applied to the tail or scrotum to dock or castrate the animal.
Emasculator or castration clamp	an instrument for castrating an animal by crushing or cutting the spermatic cords. The operation may involve either opening

	of the scrotum to crush and/or cut the cords, or crushing of the cords by applying the device externally.
Farm or farmed animals	any animals bred and/or reared for food, fibre, and/or offspring.
High tension bands	means latex rubber bands which, when used for castration, are placed in a loop around the scrotum immediately above the testes and mechanically tightened to a very high tension.
Inflammation	localised physical condition with heat, swelling, redness and usually pain, especially as a reaction to injury or infection.
Insecticide	means a registered animal remedy to deter or destroy insects and external parasites.
Local anaesthetic	a drug given to block nerves supplying a specific area in order to prevent or relieve pain in that area.
Mulesing	the surgical removal of the breech and/or tail skin folds or wrinkles of merino or merino-dominant sheep to reduce the risk of flystrike.
Noxious	harmful or unpleasant, causing discomfort, pain or distress.
Painful husbandry procedure	means any procedure carried out with or without instruments which involves physical interference with the sensitive soft tissue or bone structure of an animal and is carried out for non-therapeutic reasons. It does not apply to those procedures used to treat animals with existing injuries or diseases.
Pain relief	means the administration of analgesic and/or local anaesthetic drugs given with the aim of providing significant alleviation of pain.

Prophylactic treatment	any treatment given to prevent or to protect against disease or injury.
Rings	means conventional rubber rings for constricting blood supply to the scrotum and testes, or the tail of animal.
Sedative	a drug which is calming, soothing or sleep inducing.
Short-scrotum or cryptorchid males	males rendered infertile by forcing the testes against the abdominal wall by removing the scrotum through the application of a rubber ring to the scrotum below (distal to) the testes.
Surgical technique	any procedure which uses a knife or similar device to perform a particular procedure, with or without anaesthesia, analgesia, or aseptic techniques.
Switch	the lower (distal) region of the tail of cattle made up of two to three vertebrae and associated hair.
Switch removal	means shortening of the tail of cattle by removing the last (distal) two to three vertebrae and associated hair.
Switch trimming	clipping the hair of the lower (distal) part of the tail of cattle.
Tailing or tail docking	means to remove most of the tail of an animal (see dock).
Therapeutic treatment	any treatment administered to an animal in response to an existing injury or disease.
Tipping	the removal of the hard, insensitive tip of the horn.

2. Legal Obligations of Owners and Persons in Charge of Animals

The owner or person in charge of animals has overall responsibility for the welfare of the animals held on a property or in a facility. The legal obligations set out below are not an exhaustive list of the obligations in the Act.

- (1) The owner or person in charge of an animal must –
 - (a) Ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animals are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge;
 - (b) Ensure that an animal that is ill or injured receives treatment that will alleviate any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal or that it is killed humanely.
- (2) The owner or person in charge of an animal must not without reasonable excuse –
 - (a) Keep an animal alive when it is in such a condition that it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
 - (b) Sell, attempt to sell, or offer for sale, otherwise than for the express purpose of it being killed, an animal, when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
 - (c) Desert an animal in circumstances in which no provision is made to meet its physical, health and behavioural needs.
- (3) No person may:
 - (a) Ill-treat an animal;
 - (b) Release an animal that has been kept in captivity, in circumstances which the animal is likely to suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
 - (c) Perform any significant surgical procedure on an animal unless that person is a veterinarian or a veterinarian student under veterinarian supervision or a person approved by a veterinarian;
 - (d) Perform on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure (as defined by the Act) in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
 - (e) Brand any animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Defences are set out in Appendix I. The Act contains specific procedural requirements before these defences can be relied on, and these requirements are described in Appendix I.

3. General Principles

Introduction

Farm animals may be subject to husbandry procedures undertaken for a variety of reasons. These include to:

- minimise the risk of injury to animals and humans, particularly where animals are kept at higher stocking rates or handled frequently (e.g. dehorning),
- enable animals to be more easily managed (e.g. dehorning, castration),
- prevent carcass damage such as skin cuts or bruising (e.g. dehorning),
- enhance carcass quality or composition (e.g. castration),
- minimise conditions leading to increased risk of flystrike (e.g. tail docking),
- aid in identification (e.g. ear marking or notching), or to
- harvest products (e.g. velvet antler removal).

The reasons for undertaking these procedures may differ between species and between farming systems. For example, bulls may be castrated to make them easier and safer to handle whereas sheep may be castrated to control meat quality or prevent breeding.

Most of these procedures can cause significant anxiety, fear, discomfort, pain or distress. The major causes of these responses may include:

- mustering, handling and restraint,
- acute or short-term pain resulting from injury to sensitive tissue, inflammation, and unpleasant emotional experiences, and
- chronic or long-term consequences including:
 - pain which lingers after the acute phase,
 - increased sensitivity to pain (hyperalgesia),
 - prolonged, intense, spontaneous and sometimes debilitating pain which feels hot (causalgia),
 - pain resulting from injury to nerves (neuroma, neuritis and somatic pain),
 - continuing sensation or pain in an amputated body part (phantom pain), or
 - other untoward effects such as modified behaviour (e.g. reduced ability to deter flies due to a shortened tail).

There are also different types of pain resulting from different stimuli of cutting, searing, constricting or crushing (mediated by different pain receptors and nerves):

- mechanical – caused by the pressure of impacts, squeezing or stretching of tissues,
- thermal – caused by excessive heat or cold,
- chemical – caused by chemicals released from damaged tissues, or by caustic chemicals applied to sensitive tissues, and
- ischaemic – caused by reduced or blocked blood flow to tissues.

Different procedures also cause different short-term changes in the animals (e.g. in behaviour), the duration and intensity of which may depend on the procedure itself and on the particular technique used.

The sorts of behaviour indicative of pain vary between species, the procedure undertaken, and the technique and methods used. Typical behaviours may include some of the following:

- inactivity or immobilization,
- abnormal postures and gaits, and slow movements,
- restlessness,
- changes in the patterns of activity and/or amount of time spent undertaking different activities e.g. lying down, walking, grooming, grazing and ruminating,
- tail shaking, ear flicking, head shaking, foot stamping, kicking, rolling, showing tremors, vocalizing, and rubbing or licking the affected part,
- agonistic or aggressive behaviour towards other animals or humans,
- effort to get away from the source of the pain.

Typically, the durations of short-term or acute behavioral and physiological changes indicating significant pain and distress in animals operated on without pain relief include:

- tail docking – usually up to 1-3 hours with rings or docking iron, but up to 6-8 hours when removed surgically,
- castration – usually up to 4 hours, but up to 8 hours depending on the species and method,
- disbudding – up to 4 hours, and
- dehorning – up to 7-8 hours.

After this acute phase, there is a period of up to 4 or more weeks when healing occurs, during which the normal patterns of growth and behaviour of the animal can be affected.

Wound healing involves repair and regeneration of the damaged tissue. In the initial part of the process bleeding is controlled and a seal forms over the wound. Over subsequent days as healing progresses, new tissue grows across the wound to replace the initial seal which is removed along with any tissue around the wound which may have been damaged by

crushing or bruising. Healing is completed when the new tissue strengthens into scar tissue. The rate of healing is fastest when the amount of tissue damaged is small, when the edges of the wound sit closely together, when the wound is clean (without dirt or bacterial contamination), and when bleeding is minimal. The rate of healing can also be affected by cautery, age, disease, and malnutrition.

It is therefore important to only undertake procedures likely to cause pain and distress when they are necessary. Greater justification is required for more invasive procedures, which are more likely to cause pain and distress.

Aligned with a justification for the procedure, the operator has to consider farming methods and systems which would reduce the need to routinely perform painful procedures (i.e. deal with the factors underlying the problem). In addition, techniques for minimising the discomfort, pain or distress caused to the animals, and whether or not it is necessary to always treat all animals in that way, have to be considered.

Generally, the least distressful methods will be those involving less interference to sensitive tissues, those associated with pain-related behaviour and physiological changes of shorter duration and lower magnitude, and those resulting in quicker healing.

Note that the following principles apply to all painful husbandry procedures.

Minimum Standard No.1 – Justification for Painful Procedures

Painful husbandry procedures must only be performed where there are no other practical, economically viable, effective, less noxious alternatives to the procedure; and they

- (i) result in an overall enhancement of the animals' welfare through reduced susceptibility to ill-health, injury or compromised welfare; or
- (ii) facilitate advantageous farm management systems; or
- (iii) result in an enhanced animal product; or
- (iv) result in reduced safety risk to humans.

Recommended Best Practice

Careful consideration should be given to the need to perform routine painful husbandry procedures on any animal. The benefits to the animal,

to farm management, to product harvest or attributes, or to human safety from treating the animal in that way should outweigh any discomfort, pain or distress caused to the animal.

Operators should seek up-to-date advice from competent sources, including veterinarians and industry advisory bodies, on the need to undertake husbandry procedures resulting in pain in animals. This should include:

- whether it is necessary to perform the procedure
- whether the procedure causes pain;
- if it does cause pain, can the issue it addresses be resolved or managed in other less invasive ways
- if it cannot be managed in other ways, what is the best method, the optimal age for the animal for undertaking the procedure, and
- can any discomfort, pain or distress associated with the procedure be minimised or relieved, including through the use of pain relief or using a veterinarian to undertake the procedure?

Economically viable and practicable farming systems and practices not requiring the routine use of painful husbandry procedures should be adopted in preference to those requiring routine painful husbandry procedures.

General Information

Painful husbandry procedures should be looked upon as transitional management practices. While such procedures may be seen as necessary at present, operators and farm industries are encouraged to further develop management systems and breeding programmes which do not require them to be performed routinely. Breeding programmes, management systems, and technologies (e.g. polled cattle, short-tailed sheep, slaughtering animals before puberty, and using intensive grazing systems that result in reduced aggressive behaviour) should continue to be developed and used so that painful husbandry procedures can be phased out in the future.

4. Minimising the Pain and Distress

Introduction

There are a number of methods for minimising the pain and distress and other untoward affects associated with husbandry procedures that result in injury to the sensitive tissues of animals. These may include one or more of the following:

- ensuring that related activities before and after the procedure (e.g. mustering, handling and restraint) are as benign as practicable (in some cases familiarising the animals with them may be possible),
- minimising the duration of the handling procedure,
- carrying out the procedure at an age and/or physiological state when harmful responses (discomfort, pain or distress) and/or when risk of post-operative complications are least,
- avoiding critical periods, such as during the uptake of colostrum and bonding of dam and newborn, where distress may be detrimental to the well-being and survival of the young animal,
- using the least noxious method practicable as some methods can cause less distress than others,
- using a local anaesthetic or analgesic to block or relieve pain,
- using hygienic methods and those which minimise blood loss
- undertaking additional or multiple procedures at the same time, and
- providing post-operative care.

Generally the younger the animal is treated, the less pain and distress it will experience, partly because it can be more easily handled and the procedure completed more quickly and efficiently, and partly because less sensitive tissue is interfered with resulting in a smaller wound and therefore better healing.

While there are a number of methods of minimising the harmful consequences of painful husbandry procedures, many will depend upon the animals, the environment, and the circumstances in which the procedures are undertaken. In deciding whether or not to implement the Recommended Best Practices in this code, it is therefore critical that owners and stock handlers take account of factors such as:

- weather conditions
- class and breed of stock
- habituation of animals to handling
- animal health and condition, as well as age and physiological status
- any risk of permanent separation of dam and offspring
- the balance between monitoring for post-operative care and any associated disturbance and distress.

In many situations, experience and good stockmanship will determine which actions are appropriate.

Note that the following principles apply to all painful husbandry procedures.

Minimum Standard No.2 – Minimising Harmful Consequences

- (a) Painful husbandry procedures must not be performed on newborn animals less than 12 hours old, where handling, pain and post-operative complications are likely to compromise survival through impairing maternal bonding and/or colostrum intake.
- (b) If painful husbandry procedures that have animal health and welfare benefits are not used, care must be taken to manage any consequential risks to animal health and welfare of not using them.

Recommended Best Practice

Consideration should be given to means of minimising any discomfort, pain or distress caused to the animal as a result of the husbandry procedure.

If painful husbandry procedures are used, the methods and techniques likely to cause the least discomfort, pain or distress within particular practical and economic constraints should be used.

Pain relief should be used if it is economically and practically viable to do so.

Animals should be checked for signs of post-operative complications, including significant pain and distress, and appropriate remedial action taken as required.

General information

Generally, conventional rubber rings result in less acute pain than high tension bands, which in turn result in less acute pain than surgical techniques. Similarly, less invasive techniques (e.g. surgical castration with cutting spermatic cords) result in less acute pain than more invasive techniques (e.g. surgical castration with tearing spermatic cords). Techniques using both local anaesthetic and sedation tend to result in less acute pain than those performed with either agent alone. Finally,

techniques done with pain relief result in less acute pain than techniques performed without any form of pain relief.

Precautions should be taken to minimise any detrimental effects of pain, distress or other factors on animal health and welfare during the period of wound healing.

Many surgical modifications to animals do not always completely eliminate the risk of health and welfare compromise to the animals. Systems should be in place to prevent, or detect and manage affected animals.

Operators should seek up-to-date advice from appropriate sources on techniques for minimising the pain associated with different husbandry procedures.

Future developments in minimising pain and distress

NAWAC supports and encourages continued efforts towards minimising the pain and distress associated with the husbandry procedures described in this code. This includes the wider use of pain relief when undertaking painful husbandry procedures. However, there are a number of issues, many beyond NAWAC's statutory functions, which need to be taken into consideration. These include:

- the wider availability, safety and efficacy of pain relieving drugs
- practical and economic aspects determining the use of pain relieving drugs
- attitudes and expectations towards minimising pain associated with painful husbandry procedures, and the equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of doing so
- the regulatory environment required to support the use of restricted drugs.

NAWAC is of the opinion that until these issues are explored and resolved in accordance with good practice, scientific knowledge and available technology, it would be imprudent to implement widespread changes. The Committee will instead interact with the farming, veterinary and related pharmaceutical industries, as well as the regulatory agencies, in order to develop strategies for improving animal welfare within the practical, economic, safety and social constraints it has identified. NAWAC is gathering information on these issues, and any other related matters, and wishes to review this aspect of the code within five years of its issue. At that time, consideration will be given to making pain relief mandatory, within defined periods, for a wider range of husbandry procedures and circumstances.

5. Castration and Shortening of the Scrotum (Cryptorchid)

Introduction

Some farm animals are castrated, or their testes altered, to reduce aggression and facilitate management, or to restrict breeding, and also to achieve desirable meat and carcass quality attributes.

There are several techniques. The most common involves the application of a rubber ring to either cause atrophy of the testes and scrotum, or to hold the testes against the abdomen where the increase in testicular temperature makes most animals infertile (known as shortening the scrotum or cryptorchid). Two other methods involve the surgical opening of the scrotum followed by removal of the testes, or crushing of the spermatic cords through the skin of the scrotum with a bloodless castrator or clamp.

A relatively recent technique is the application of a very tight or high tension specialised latex band. Placed in a loop around the scrotum immediately above the testes, it is mechanically tightened to a very high tension.

The testes and scrotum are richly supplied with nerves and any modification to them is likely to cause immediate pain that may last for several hours. Castration, or shortening of the scrotum, should only be considered when there are significant advantages for farm management and/or carcass quality.

Minimum Standard No.3 – Castration and Shortening of the Scrotum (cryptorchid)

- (a) The method of castration, or shortening of the scrotum, must be chosen, and applied, so as to minimise the acute as well as chronic consequences for the health and welfare of the animal.
- (b) While complying with Minimum Standard 2(a), castration, or shortening of the scrotum, without pain relief must be performed when the animals are as young as possible, but not greater than six months of age.
- (c) When castrating or shortening the scrotum of any animal over the age of six months, pain relief must be used.

Minimum Standard No. 3 Continued

- (d) When using rubber rings to castrate, they must be placed above the testes and below the teats, and must be of a tension and size appropriate to the animal in order to ensure that blood supply to the testes and scrotum is stopped immediately.
- (e) When shortening the scrotum with rubber rings, they must be placed below the testes taking care not to include the testes within the ring, and they must be of a tension and size appropriate to the animal in order to ensure that blood supply to the scrotum is stopped immediately.
- (f) If high tension bands are used to castrate an animal:
 - (i) local anaesthetic must be used (at any age) to provide pain relief, and
 - (ii) the band must be positioned on the scrotal neck as close to the testes and as far from the abdomen as possible.

Recommended Best Practice

Pain relief should be provided when animals are castrated, or have their scrotums shortened, at any age.

Operators should seek up-to-date advice from competent sources, including veterinarians and industry advisory bodies, on the best method of modifying testicular function, and use it, so as to minimise the acute and any chronic consequences for the health and welfare of the animal.

Conventional rubber rings should be used on younger animals in preference to the use of high tension bands at any age, since the former procedure is less noxious.

The area where castration, or shortening of the scrotum, is carried out, the equipment used, the animals themselves and the operator's hands should be as clean as possible and, where practicable, animals should be dry.

Precautions, such as vaccination, should be taken to minimise the risk of clostridial infections.

General Information

The preferred method of castration is to apply a rubber ring to the neck of the scrotum using an elastrator when the animals are a few weeks old.

If conventional rubber rings are used for castration or shortening of the scrotum, the best results are achieved up to four weeks of age.

Conventional rubber rings should not be used in well-grown animals (e.g. calves more than four months of age) as after this the ring is not able to effectively constrict blood flow leading to swelling and associated pain.

There is scientific evidence which shows that the application of high tension latex bands to calves of three to four months of age causes significant pain, while lesions associated with poor healing may be seen in some older animals. As conventional rubber rings are a less noxious alternative, the use of high tension bands is not recommended for young animals.

Surgical castration is not recommended in lambs since it causes greater and more prolonged acute pain and distress compared with other methods. There is also an increased risk of excessive bleeding, infection, and hernias (prolapse of the intestine into the scrotum).

Where acute pain is the major concern, scientific research shows that the least painful to the most painful castration procedures are:

Lambs

- rubber ring with local anaesthetic
- shortening of the scrotum
- rubber ring, without pain relief
- surgery without pain relief.

Calves

- rubber ring or high tension bands with local anaesthetic, or surgery with local anaesthetic plus analgesic
- rubber ring without pain relief or surgery without pain relief
- high tension bands without pain relief.

6. Tail docking

Introduction

Docking of tails is carried out for a variety of animal health and management reasons. Sheep are the most commonly docked animals where the procedure is undertaken to help prevent faecal soiling and dag formation and risk of flystrike, and to make dagging, crutching and shearing easier and safer to perform. Dairy cows' switch can be removed at the level of the last (terminal) two to three vertebrae to improve comfort for milking personnel and enhance milking efficiency.

Tails have a number of functions in different animals. The behavioural functions include deterring insects from the rear region of the animal. The structural functions include the base of the tail being an anchor for some muscles regulating the proper function of the rectum. Tails are richly supplied with nerves and blood vessels so that their removal is significant for the animal. It is therefore important that the reasons for, and necessity to, perform the operation are carefully considered (see Minimum Standard 1).

The common techniques of tail removal include the use of a conventional rubber ring or a hot-iron or searing iron.

Minimum Standard No.4 – Tail docking

Sheep

- (a) Tail docking of sheep must only be undertaken where there is significant risk of faecal and urine contamination, and/or flystrike, that leads to poor hygiene, health and welfare and/or failing to do so adds a significant cost to the farm system.
- (b) While complying with Minimum Standard 2(a), tail docking without pain relief must be performed when the sheep are as young as possible, and not greater than six months of age.
- (c) When tail docking a sheep over the age of six months, pain relief must be used.

Minimum Standard No. 4 Continued

Cattle

- (d) If tail shortening is undertaken it must be limited only to removal of the last (terminal) two to three vertebrae of the tail, using a rubber ring applied between the joints, and either
- be left to drop off of its own accord, or
 - not less than seven days after the application of the rubber ring, be severed by the use of a sharp instrument at a point below where the rubber ring has been applied and in such a manner as not to cause discomfort to the animal.

Recommended Best Practice

Operators should seek up-to-date advice from competent sources, including veterinarians and industry advisory bodies, on the best method of tail docking or shortening, and use it, so as to minimise the acute and any chronic consequences for the health and welfare of the animal.

When sheep are tail docked, their tails (excluding any wool) should be left long enough to cover the vulva in females and at a similar length in males.

Tail docking of sheep should be undertaken before six weeks of age.

Switch removal in cattle should only be considered for those animals with persistently compromised hygiene, and only after alternative solutions, including regular trimming of the switch hair, have been attempted and have failed.

Should practical and economic methods of providing pain relief for tail docking become available, they should be used.

Precautions, such as vaccination, should be taken to minimise the risk of clostridial infections.

General Information

Surgical techniques of tail removal are associated with greater risks of bleeding and infection.

Conventional rubber rings, or hot- or searing-irons, both cause similar amounts of acute pain and distress, and considerably less than surgical

techniques of tail removal. The exceptionally high pressure generated by high tension bands means they are likely to cause unnecessary pain if used to tail dock animals. Other, less painful methods are preferable.

Hot- or searing-irons need to be maintained at the correct temperature to avoid repeated applications (too cold) or unnecessary tissue damage (too hot).

7. Disbudding and Dehorning

Introduction

Horns, when used as weapons, can pose a significant risk to the health and welfare of other animals and humans. They also contribute to carcass downgrading through bruising and hide damage.

While the use of hornless or polled breeds is to be preferred, there are many horned breeds.

Horns grow from free-floating tissue or horn buds which appear in the skin above the skull at or soon after birth. As the animal grows older, the horn bud attaches to the skull and the horn starts growing as a bony extension of the skull. Horns are removed either at the horn bud stage (disbudding) or by amputation in the older animal (dehorning). Dehorning also exposes the frontal sinuses as they become continuous with the growing horn.

Disbudding techniques include thermal cautery (the use of heat to destroy the tissues nourishing the horn bud), caustic chemicals (also to destroy the horn bud) and surgical procedures (removing the horn buds with a sharp knife or scoop disbudder).

Dehorning involves amputating the whole horn with guillotine shears, a butcher's saw, embryotomy wire or scoop dehorner (interlocking semicircular blades).

Tipping, the removal of the insensitive end of the horn, is sometimes used to reduce the risk of injury to other animals.

Minimum Standard No.5 – Disbudding and Dehorning

- (a) Animals with intact or "tipped" horns must be managed to minimise the risk of injury to other animals.

Disbudding

- (b) When disbudding is performed, the following must apply:
- (i) the method must be chosen and undertaken so as to minimise the pain and distress and other negative health consequences (e.g. infection) for the animal, and
 - (ii) if used, thermal cauterising equipment must be used in such a

Minimum Standard No. 5 Continued

way as to minimise the risk of thermal injury to tissues other than the horn bud and adjacent skin, and

(iii) if used, caustic or chemical techniques of disbudding must only be used by personnel skilled with the procedure, and only used when injury to the animal beyond the horn bud, or to other animals, is minimised.

Dehorning

(c) When dehorning is performed, the following must apply

(i) the method must be chosen and undertaken so as to minimise the pain and distress and other negative health consequences (e.g. infection) for the animal, and

(ii) dehorning without pain relief must be performed when animals are as young as possible, and not greater than nine months of age,

(iii) when dehorning any animal over the age of nine months, pain relief must be used.

Recommended Best Practice

Pain relief should be provided when animals are disbudded or dehorned.

Animals should be disbudded in preference to being dehorned.

To facilitate the humane and effective management of the animals, and to minimise tissue damage and pain, horns should be prevented from developing, or be removed, at the youngest age compatible with minimising associated negative health and welfare consequences for the animal.

When dehorning, effective means of preventing excessive blood loss should be used. Likewise, a wound dressing or medication should be applied and if flies are likely to be a problem the animals should be treated with insecticide.

All animals should be inspected regularly during the healing period, especially for the first two weeks after disbudding, and any infected wounds treated.

Where dehorning has exposed the frontal sinuses of the skull, animals should be inspected regularly during the healing period, and any infected wounds treated.

Precautions, such as vaccination, should be taken to minimise the risk of clostridial infections.

General Information

While horn buds are generally evident at or soon after birth, there is some variation in the age at which horns develop, and the age at which the frontal sinuses become continuous with the hollow inner portion of the horn. Usually, the sinuses invade the horn when it reaches a certain size (often when the calf is about six months of age).

The skull of goat kids is much thinner than that of calves. Thermal cautery disbudding techniques must be carefully used to avoid damage to underlying tissues, including the brain. If the initial burn is not adequate, or does not cover the diameter of the horn bud, then the site should be allowed to cool before heat is reapplied. As well as being shallow, the horn bud of kids is more diffuse and a wider piece of adjacent skin (5mm around each horn bud) should also be taken to avoid regrowth of horn material (scurs).

Caustic chemical disbudding requires careful management to ensure the chemical does not come into contact with other tissues, either on the animal itself, or other animals, including humans. This risk is exacerbated when the animals are hungry and suck or rub their dams or herd mates, and by rain. The use of petroleum jelly around the horn bud can lessen injury to surrounding tissue. The technique is best performed when the horn bud is just palpable or just erupting, usually when the animals are 7-10 days old.

8. Operator Training, Stockmanship and Facilities

Introduction

The care of animals before, during and after painful husbandry procedures are applied, requires competence, experience and the observance of high standards.

Under the Act the “owner” of an animal and the “person in charge” is responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare.

This code establishes minimum standards of care for all animals upon which painful husbandry procedures are to be undertaken, and is intended to encourage all owners and persons in charge to adopt higher standards of husbandry, care and handling, based on the recommended best practices. While this code is based on current knowledge and technology available at the time of issue, there is also a need for experience and common sense in the handling of animals.

The importance of good stockmanship cannot be over-emphasised. Those responsible for the care of animals should be competent and well trained. Personnel should be appropriately instructed in the care and maintenance of equipment, in the techniques used, and in the care of animals and how their actions may affect animal health and welfare. Knowledge of the normal appearance and behaviour of animals is essential.

Minimum Standard No.6 – Operator Training, Stockmanship and Facilities

- (a) Owners or persons in charge of animals upon which painful husbandry procedures are to be undertaken, must ensure that they or their personnel have either the relevant knowledge and training or appropriate supervision, and suitable equipment, to ensure that the health and welfare needs of the animals in their care are met.
- (b) Persons undertaking painful husbandry procedures must be –
 - (i) experienced, or have received training, with the correct use of the particular technique and its variations, and
 - (ii) be able to recognise early signs of significant distress, injury or ill-health so that prompt remedial action can be taken or advice sought.

Minimum Standard No.6 Continued

- (c) All equipment must be maintained in full working order.
- (d) Appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene must be observed at all times.
- (e) Where used, handling facilities must allow the procedure to be undertaken with minimal compromise to the health and welfare of the animals.
- (f) Handling facilities must be sited, constructed, maintained and operated so as to minimise the risk of injury and avoid unnecessary distress to the animals.

Recommended Best Practice

Personnel should undergo training either formally or on the job by supervisors experienced in the correct application and use of the techniques.

Where there is an on-farm quality assurance programme in place, handling techniques should be included in these as written procedures, and the programme should emphasise the importance of training of personnel.

Owners and persons in charge of animals upon which painful husbandry procedures are undertaken should keep up to date with developments in techniques and alternative procedures designed to minimise the pain and distress associated with the procedure.

All equipment should be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

General Information

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority lists a number of training qualifications for stockhandlers.

Information on these qualifications and accredited training providers is available from the Agriculture Industry Training Organisation, PO Box 10 383, Wellington, or from the NZQA web site:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/>

Appendix I : Strict Liability and Defences

1. Strict Liability

In the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 committed after 19 December 2002, evidence that a relevant code of welfare was in existence at the time of the alleged offence and that a relevant minimum standard established by that code was not complied with is rebuttable evidence that the person charged with the offence failed to comply with, or contravened, the provision of the Animal Welfare Act to which the offence relates. (See sections 13(1A), 24(1) and 30(1A) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, as amended by the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2002).

2. Defences

It is a defence in the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 if the defendant proves that there was in existence at the time of the alleged offence a relevant code of welfare and that the minimum standards established by the code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. (See sections 13(2)(c), 24(2)(b) and 30(2)(c)).

If a defendant in a prosecution intends to rely on the defence under section 13(2)(c) or 30(2)(c), the defendant must, within seven days after the service of the summons, or within such further time as the Court may allow, deliver to the prosecutor a written notice. The notice must state that the defendant intends to rely on section 13(2) or 30(2) as the case may be, and must specify the relevant code of welfare that was in existence at the time of the alleged offence, and the facts that show that the minimum standards established by that code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. This notice may be dispensed with if the Court gives leave. (See sections 13(3) and 30(3)).

3. The strict liability provisions and the defence of equalling or exceeding the minimum standards established by a code of welfare apply to the following offences -

Failing to provide

Section 12(a) A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 10 (which provides that the owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge).

Suffering animals

Section 12(b) A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails, in the case of an animal that is ill or injured, to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 11 (which provides that the owner of an animal that is ill or injured, and every person in charge of such an animal, must, where practicable, ensure that the animal receives treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal).

Section 12(c) A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, kills the animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Surgical procedures

Section 21(1)(b) A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, acts in contravention of or fails to comply with section 15(4) (which provides that no person may, in performing on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure, perform that surgical procedure in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress).

Transport

Section 22(2) A person commits an offence who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any provision of subsection (1) (which provides that every person in charge of a vehicle or an aircraft, and the master of or, if there is no master, the person in charge of, a ship, being a vehicle, aircraft, or ship in or on which an animal is being transported, must ensure that the welfare of the animal is properly attended to, and that, in particular, the animal is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation and is supplied with proper and sufficient food and water.)

Section 23(1) A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, confines or transports an animal in a manner or position that causes the animal unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Section 23(2) A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or the person in charge of, an animal, permits that animal, without reasonable excuse, to be driven or led on a road, or to be ridden, or to be transported in or on a vehicle, an aircraft, or a ship while the condition or health of the animal is such as to render it unfit to be so driven, led, ridden or transported.

Ill-treatment

Section 29(a) A person commits an offence who ill-treats an animal.

4. Inspection of premises

Inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 have the power to enter any land or premises (with the exceptions of dwellings and marae), or any vehicle, aircraft or vessel, at any reasonable time, for the purpose of inspecting any animal—*Section 127(1)*.

Inspectors include officers of MAF Compliance and Enforcement Group, inspectors from approved organisations (e.g. Royal New Zealand SPCA, AWINZ) appointed by the Minister, and the Police.

Appendix II: Codes of Welfare

Codes of Welfare

- Animal Welfare (Broiler Chickens: Fully Housed) Code of Welfare No.1. 2003
- Animal Welfare (Rodeos) Code of Welfare No.2. 2003
- Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare No.3. 2004
- Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare No.4. 2004
- Animal Welfare (Zoos) Code of Welfare No.5. 2004
- Animal Welfare (Circuses) Code of Welfare No.6. 2004
- Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare No.7 2005

List of Regulations and Circular Deemed to be the Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2002

- Clauses 1(a) and 2, and the heading preceding clause 2, of Part 7 of the Schedule 1 of the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995 (SR 1995/54)
- Regulation 80(1) of the Game Regulations 1975 (SR 1975/174)
- Regulation 76 of the Meat Regulations 1969 (SR 1969/192)
- The Slaughter of Stock, Game, and Poultry Regulations 1969 (SR 1969/194)
- New Zealand Fishing Industry Agreed Implementation Standards 003.4 Live Eels and Rock Lobsters Circular 1995

Published Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards

- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Sea Transport of Sheep from New Zealand, September 1991 Code No. 2
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Sheep, July 1996 Code No. 3
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dairy Cattle, June 1992 Code No. 4
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Deer During the Removal of Antlers, July 1992 Code No. 5, Amendments August 1994, August 1997
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Horses, February 1993 Code No. 7
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Bobby Calves, July 1997 Code No. 8
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments, August 1993 Code No. 9

- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Slaughter at Licensed and Approved Premises, July 1996 Code No. 10
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Sale of Companion Animals, September 1994 Code No. 11
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Transported within New Zealand, November 1994 Code No. 15, Amendments May 1996, August 1998
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals at Saleyards, June 1998 Code No. 16
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Emergency Slaughter of Farm Stock, December 1996 Code No. 19
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dogs, May 1998 Code No 20
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Ostrich and Emu, June 1998 Code No. 21

Published Guidelines

- Guidelines for the Welfare of Stock from which Blood is Harvested for Commercial and Research Purposes, April 1996
- Guidelines for the Welfare of Yearling Fallow Deer During the Use of Rubber Rings to Prevent Antler/Pedicle Growth, September 1997
- Guidelines for the Welfare of Red and Wapiti Yearling Stags During the Use of Rubber Rings to Induce Analgesia for the Removal of Spiker Velvet, September 1998

Codes and Guidelines are available for purchase or inspection by contacting:

Executive Co-ordinator
 Animal Welfare
 MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
 P O Box 2526
 WELLINGTON

Tel: 04 819 0366
 e-mail: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz

Codes and Guidelines are available on MAF's website. The web page address is: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare>