



Welfare Pulse

Animal welfare in New Zealand and around the world

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Mark Fisher

A history of modern animal welfare

Concern for the well-being of animals has long been a human trait. However, our modern disquiet really became apparent with *Animal Machines*, Ruth Harrison's exposé of modern factory farming. The resultant UK Government enquiry into the welfare of animals kept in intensive livestock husbandry systems, better known as the *Brambell Report* after its Chairman, Professor Rogers Brambell, embraced the idea that the feelings of animals that can be derived from their structure, function and behaviour, must be taken into account in evaluating welfare.

The report, among other things, considered that animals should be afforded the space in which to be able to perform the minimum of natural maintenance behaviours – an animal should at least have sufficient freedom of movement to, without difficulty, turn around, groom itself, get up, lie down and stretch its limbs.

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of the *Brambell Report*. In that time, the five freedoms, as they became known, evolved, under the guidance of Professor John Webster of the University of Bristol and the Farm Animal Welfare Council, into the more familiar ones guiding modern animal welfare. The occasion provides an opportunity to remember the efforts of another pioneer of farm animal behaviour and its role in animal welfare, New Zealand's Ron Kilgour, a scientist at the Ruakura Research Station in Hamilton.



continued...



Tips for handling distress

It is well recognised that human and animal welfare have very many similarities and Ron Kilgour delivered the following insights into reducing human stress at workshops within the then Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the 1980s.

1. Go easy on yourself early in the day.
2. Get appointments which suit you.
3. Make notes – don't rely on memory.
4. Have a good spare tyre.
5. Cut duplicate keys.
6. Don't drive in rush hours.
7. Learn to say 'NO'.
8. Eat when you are hungry.
9. Keep petrol tank topped up.
10. Go early to airport – take a book.
11. Make diary appointments for you – then those slots – full.
12. Ease up – give yourself a treat.
13. Get more friends.
14. Copy key documents.

Considered the father of animal behaviour work in New Zealand, much of Ron Kilgour's work was undertaken in the 1970s. He examined aspects as diverse as the behaviour of ewes at lambing, humane handling of stock prior to slaughter, and the role of human-animal bonds in welfare. He defined humane care as maintaining husbandry procedures in keeping with an animals traits – farms needed to be fitted to animals. Ron Kilgour considered that standards of humane care should be set by consensus and achieved by avoiding injury, handling animals in the least stressful manner, and meeting their species-specific needs. He also considered that it is important to remember that animal welfare is a total society responsibility.

The foresight of people like Ron Kilgour, John Webster, the Brambell Committee and Ruth Harrison have been instrumental in developing modern expectations of, and standards for, animal welfare. Their legacy, that the animals' point of view is an important component of the assessment of their welfare, remains with us today.

Mark Fisher
Ministry for Primary Industries
Wellington, New Zealand
Mark.Fisher@mpi.govt.nz

Further reading

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R Harrison (1964). *Animal Machines. The New Factory Farming*. Vincent Stuart, UK.

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R Kilgour & DC Dalton (1984). *Livestock Behaviour – a Practical Guide*. Methuen, NZ.

R Kilgour (1985). Animal welfare considerations – pastoral animals. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* 33, 54-57.

J Webster (1995). *Animal Welfare. A Cool Eye Towards Eden*. Blackwell Scientific, UK.



My week as a veterinary volunteer at an elephant sanctuary

When my daughter said she was going to Thailand to do some volunteer work at an elephant sanctuary I was immediately attracted to the idea. So I asked her for some additional information and upon reading it I was hooked. After making the arrangements Anna and I arrived at Elephant Nature Park, in northern Thailand, to begin our volunteer duties.

As a “regular” volunteer Anna spent her week feeding and bathing the elephants (they love their daily wash in the river), cutting corn stalks, unloading and washing watermelons, and making rice balls, all of which are part of the approximately 150 kg of fodder each elephant consumes daily.

As a veterinary volunteer I assisted the head veterinarian with the daily rounds of treatments the animals required. As there are 65 elephants, 450 dogs, 100 cats, five horses, and a herd of buffalo all inhabiting the park, there is no shortage of veterinary work to be done! This work included, amongst other treatments, applying medicines to the feet of an elephant which had been seriously damaged after she stood on a landmine.

This was my first “up close and personal” experience with elephants, and during the week I learned about many facets of their behaviour. For example, I was amazed at how quietly they moved, how completely odourless they are, and that they liked to play tricks on people. Like the two times I was standing a good ten meters away from a bull elephant only to be showered with the dirt he had picked up in his trunk and thrown at me.



Roger treating an elephant's foot at the sanctuary.

My week at the park passed all too quickly and with some sadness I departed with Anna back to Chiang Mai for the rest of our holiday. However, for anyone who has a love of animals and wants to lend a hand to Elephant Nature Park, I give it my highest recommendation. And the park would be very grateful for your assistance. For further information go to their website: <http://www.elephantnaturepark.org/>

Roger Poland
Senior Adviser, Animal Welfare
Ministry for Primary Industries



Capacity and awareness building of animal welfare standards in Asia: the time is right!



Much of South East and East Asia does not have effective legislation covering the welfare of animals but most countries are working to develop standards, codes of practice and supporting legislation. This provides an invaluable opportunity to have some input into their development to ensure that they meet public expectations.

The World Organisation for Animal Health's (OIE) New Zealand and Australian Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis has teamed up with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in a project led by the Centre of Animal Welfare and Ethics of the University of Queensland in Australia. The project supports the OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy

for South East Asia vision of "a region where the welfare of animals is respected, promoted and incrementally advanced, simultaneously with the pursuit of progress and socioeconomic development".

The objectives are to:

- enhance knowledge of OIE slaughter and transportation standards in South East and East Asia;
- provide training for key personnel involved in transport and slaughter practices in South East and East Asia;
- conduct research to determine attitudes to slaughter and transport amongst key stakeholders and interested parties in the region and;

Top ten messages for improving the welfare of animals during transport

1. Prepare animals well for travel with suitable feed and handling.
2. Do not load sick or injured animals.
3. Load animals, or containers with animals, into suitable vehicles carefully and calmly.
4. Use low stress techniques to handle and transport livestock. Don't move animals by frightening or hurting them.
5. Don't overcrowd vehicles or animal containers.
6. Rest animals during and after long journeys. Ensure you provide them with feed, water and somewhere to lie down.
7. Do not throw, drag or drop animals or containers with animals.
8. Ensure steady and smooth journeys to avoid injury and reduce stress.
9. Don't let animals suffer from heat and cold stress. Be aware of their temperature requirements.
10. Provide clean and well-ventilated space for animals during transport. Minimise ammonia, dust and biohazards.

- determine the current motivations and barriers to improve welfare practices.

The project team developed a top 10 of basic messages for improving welfare during transport and at slaughter, derived from the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. A workshop was firstly held to “train the facilitators” (mainly government veterinarians and senior university lecturers) in each of the collaborating countries; Malaysia, China, Thailand and Vietnam. The facilitators, in turn, have trained 800 relevant industry stakeholders such as slaughterhouse managers and industry inspection officers.

Attendees from each country had different focuses in animal welfare with different interests and challenges. However, some factors were common across countries, including the challenge of governmental monitoring and enforcing of animal welfare standards, and the vast difference in standards between large often government-run slaughterhouses and the smaller locally-run slaughter operations. The common theme of progression was also evident in each country, with an interest in building momentum to improve their standards.

Research data is also being analysed examining the relationships between knowledge and attitudes in industry stakeholders, and to determine how these relationships affect acceptability of certain practices. The perceived barriers and motivators in embracing and facilitating improvement in animal welfare during slaughter and transportation are also being studied.

With the project seeing great success to this point, plans are being made to extend it which could include:



Michelle Sinclair

- replicating the program and research in 4 new countries with new partners (Myanmar, Bangladesh, India and Bhutan);
- developing further training content in Malaysia based around animal welfare in different farming systems;
- conducting further training and research in China, given the size and complexity of the nature, and it's importance as a major export economy.

Activities within this project have been supported by specially created resources, each translated into local languages and freely available via the project website: www.animalwelfarestandards.org.

Michelle Sinclair
Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics
School of Veterinary Science
Australia

Further Reading

OIE (2014). *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*; <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>

The New Zealand and Australia OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis, (2015). *Animal Welfare Standards Project*; available at www.animalwelfarestandards.org.

Top ten messages for improving the welfare of animals during slaughter

1. Be patient, competent and considerate throughout the slaughter process: including while loading, moving, in lairage or care, and during restraint, stunning, slaughter and bleeding of animals.
2. Always handle animals gently and with kindness: never handle them in a way that causes distress, pain or injury, such as kicking, hitting or throwing them.
3. Provide safe and suitable facilities that minimise fear and stress in the animals. Avoid frightening the animals, which might cause them to fall and injure themselves.
4. Protect animals in lairage from adverse weather conditions and provide adequate ventilation, time and space to lie down, drink and eat where appropriate.
5. Actively manage the most vulnerable animals as a priority: including emergency slaughter for severely injured animals unable to walk.
6. Use the most humane methods of restraint for slaughter: avoid excessive pressure that causes them to struggle and vocalise.
7. Ensure effective pre-slaughter stunning wherever possible so that the animal is unconscious until death.
8. Slaughter and bleed animals as rapidly as possible.
9. Confirm death through the absence of rhythmic breathing, blinking and pulsatile bleeding before proceeding with scalding or dressing procedures.
10. Monitor slaughter practices to ensure they satisfy OIE standards and local animal welfare regulations, and make improvements where required.



Reducing the transfer of zoonotic disease between pets, people and livestock: CALLISTO

CALLISTO (Companion Animals multisectorial, interprofessional, Interdisciplinary Strategic Think tank On zoonoses) was a three-year European research programme that aimed to examine companion animals as a source of infectious disease in people and food producing animals.

Integral to the project were the three annual conferences which were attended by approximately 100 experts in viral, bacterial and parasitic infections, epidemiology, psychology and sociology as well as animal health and welfare policy. Dr Nicki Cross, a Senior Adviser with the Animal Welfare Team at MPI, contributed to the policy actions working group on behalf of the OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Welfare Science and Bioethical Analysis.

The conferences used a “Dahlem-like” approach, which involved using many small workshops containing experts from the different fields in order to achieve a high level of ‘cross fertilization’ between the different disciplines and professions.

The first year of the CALLISTO project examined the current state of zoonotic disease in the European Union. The second year involved performing risk assessments to determine the priority risk areas in companion animal zoonoses. The third and final year made recommendations and identified priority areas for future actions to promote risk awareness in the European Union, which are outlined in the final report produced as a result of the study.

The recommendations that have been for reducing transfer of zoonotic disease in the EU centre around five key areas:

- Demographic and tracing/movement of companion animals.
- Education and communication.

- Surveillance and infection control.
- Risk assessment.
- New tools for diagnosis, prevention and therapy.

There exist key differences in potential for disease transfer between the countries in the EU when compared with Australia or New Zealand, as both Australia and New Zealand are island countries and share no land borders with other countries. This means that a higher level of control of animals/disease is able to be achieved across the border than is possible in the EU. As a result, some recommendations made as a result of this project relating to the tracing and control of companion animals across country borders would have a lesser impact in Australia or New Zealand than in the EU. However, the following recommendations may be applicable in reducing the risk of transfer of zoonotic disease between companion animals and food producing animals or humans in Australia and New Zealand.

CALLISTO recommended that any message delivered about companion animal zoonosis achieves a balance between maintaining or increasing the many positive effects of keeping companion animals while mitigating or eradicating potential infectious disease risks. The promotion of, and education in, responsible pet ownership is also recommended to reduce the risk of disease as is the recommendation that opportunities be created for the education of human medical staff, veterinarians, and owners about companion animal zoonoses.

Other recommended policy actions that may have relevance to Australia and New Zealand are the development of systems to identify and register the most common companion animal species and the development of surveillance programmes that



Dog receiving a rabies vaccination. Photograph supplied by Joanna Tuckwell.

capture zoonoses that occur in these animals.

Data collection and pathogen assessment in the less studied exotic animals (when compared with cats and dogs) could be implemented so that the potential risks of zoonotic disease from these animals are better understood, and disease and vector spread within Australia and New Zealand monitored and solutions developed to limit such spread.

CALLISTO has also recommended that the emergence of antimicrobial resistance in companion animals be monitored and controls placed on the use of human critically important antibiotics in companion animal species. The project also recommended that new approaches to companion animal antimicrobial therapy are developed in parallel to identify those strains of pathogens shared between humans, companion animals and food producing animals.

The full final report and further information about the CALLISTO project can be found at: www.callistoproject.eu

Nicki Cross
Senior Adviser
Ministry for Primary Industries

The benefits of nesting material for research mice

Research mice are typically kept at 20-26°C temperatures that humans find comfortable for working in the laboratory.

However, mice housed at any of these temperatures experience some degree of cold stress which has the potential to alter scientific results. For example, temperature affects obesity results, immune function, and tumour development in mice. Therefore, cold stress in mice raises concerns not only for animal welfare but also for science.

In standard laboratory caging, resting mice prefer temperatures around 30°C, with or without nesting material. Even with the benefit of huddling and nest building, mice choose to be in warmer temperatures. Preferences for 30°C were found in static caging, where air change is at the room level. Ventilated caging, however, is likely to further increase cold stress through convective heat loss, due to constant air movement. This will become increasingly pertinent as more laboratory facilities switch to individually ventilated caging. Housing mice at 30°C is not the solution to this problem since mouse temperature preferences differ with age, gender, and behaviour, making it exceedingly difficult to identify one optimal temperature. Additionally, increased aggressive interactions are seen in warmer temperatures, an issue already plaguing husbandry personnel.



Mouse in crinkle paper.

Nest building is an adaptive behaviour used by wild mice to survive in cold conditions. Not all laboratory mice can build efficiently with all nesting materials, but crinkle paper (also called sizzle nest or Enviro-Dri) was identified as the best nesting material that even poor nest builders could build with. The material is a thick corrugated paper cut in thin strips 4-5 inches long that can easily be woven to create dome nests. The material has similar properties to grasses which are commonly woven into nests in the wild, making it a biologically relevant building material. While providing any type or amount of nesting material is likely to be somewhat enriching, providing mice the opportunity to reduce thermal stress is of the utmost importance both in terms of animal welfare as well as scientifically.

When mice are provided with an appropriate type and amount of

nesting material (we recommend 8-10g crinkle paper) they build more enclosed nests. This improvement in nest building provides better insulation and reduced heat loss to the environment, resulting in improved feed conversion, reproductive performance, and pup survival. Crinkle paper has gone through safety testing, does not increase eye lesions in nude mice, can be irradiated, and does not appear to interfere with toxicology results. Crinkle paper, based on our calculations, is cheaper than other popular nesting materials (at amounts necessary to reduce thermal stress) and can be utilized by the whole colony.

An issue faced by providing the recommended amount of material, is that nests block visual observations required as part of daily husbandry. However, nest shape and building behaviours appear to be good indicators of a mouse's health and welfare. If a mouse is ill or in pain, they do not engage in these behaviours. You can think of it in terms of behaviours you no longer perform when you have the flu, such as going to the gym. Changes in these behaviours can also be used to identify disease onset or whether additional analgesics need to be administered.

Overall nesting material is the epitome of biologically relevant environmental enrichment since it allows mice to exert control over their environment while engaging in species typical and highly motivated behaviours.

Brianna N. Gaskill
 Assistant Professor, Animal Welfare
 Purdue University
bgaskill@purdue.edu



Brianna Gaskill

DEER: Matching profit with passion

Deer farming is known internationally as a signature New Zealand farming industry. Deer farmers are passionate about their animals, but the realities mean that farmers must have confidence that these wonderful animals will be as profitable as other farming options, which has not always been the case. Consequently there has been a decrease in deer numbers across the country in recent times.

In an attempt to reverse this trend, the Passion2Profit (P2P) programme has been initiated. A joint venture between Deer Industry New Zealand and the Ministry for Primary Industries through the Primary Growth Partnership aims to boost the profitability of deer farming. In a nutshell, P2P aims to better align supply and demand for New Zealand farm raised venison when it is best produced and when the best paying customers want it. Without P2P, New Zealand risks losing opportunities arising from a unique and high quality food.

P2P takes a whole value chain approach – starting in the market and linking back to areas of improvement in on-farm performance. At the present time, there exists a mismatch between the most efficient finishing for slaughter for venison in New Zealand, which is in our autumn and winter (March to August). However, this is the wrong time for the traditional European market who want fresh game meat in their northern autumn and winter (October to December). As a result, much of our prime venison is frozen and sold into the game meat trade as an undifferentiated commodity at a discount price. One of the main focuses of P2P is to address this mismatch in supply and demand. The five main venison marketing companies will jointly work to create demand during the traditional off-season, and jointly share the benefits from future sales at higher prices. In addition they will work to increase demand for venison in new markets such as China where NZ venison has only recently gained market access. Producers supplying venison to these programmes will meet industry-agreed standards for good animal husbandry which will include standards for access to water, feed and shelter, animal health planning and recommendations for compliance with environmental management requirements.

In order to produce more deer when the main markets want them, and improve overall productivity in the industry, the industry is also making some changes. The areas of focus are:

- **Feeding** – Improving the understanding of deer nutrition needs and forage systems to better match market demand and developing tools and information systems to deliver that



Innes Moffat

information to farmers in a form they can use. Also the formation of body condition scoring workshops to improve the ability of farmers to assess body condition of their animals. Body condition scoring is currently not widely practiced in the deer industry as it is notoriously difficult to assess by eye.

- **Genetics** – Developing venison-related breeding values for commercial deer farmers.
- **Animal Health** – Shifting the focus from deer health being a cost, to making it an opportunity, by encouraging better animal health planning and a better understanding of the loss of profit potential arising from poor health status.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the P2P work programme, with its integral component of attitude change through farm management planning and appropriate decision-making for deer farmers, will encourage people to continue to farm these unique and wonderful animals in New Zealand.

Innes Moffat,
Venison Manager
Deer Industry NZ



Media release: Swift action to eradicate mistreatment of bobby calves



Swift action to eradicate mistreatment of bobby calves

Seven industry associations, along with the Ministry for Primary Industries, have joined together to eradicate the mistreatment of bobby calves.

DairyNZ, the Meat Industry Association, Federated Farmers, the Road Transport Forum, the New Zealand Petfood Manufacturers Association, the Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand, the New Zealand Veterinary Association, and the Ministry for Primary Industries have made a joint commitment to stamp out any mistreatment.

The organisations and their members will be working together and individually to develop measures to ensure poor practice is eradicated.

DairyNZ Chief Executive Tim Mackle said there has been a lot of discussion over the last few days – and the dairy industry is now focussed on its next steps.

“Resolving these issues will depend, not on words, but on actions. We are committed to working with everyone in the supply chain to ensure bobby calves are well cared for. We have ensured good practice advice is available to all dairy farmers and that they have forums available where they can share their own good management practices with others.”

Tim Ritchie, Chief Executive of the Meat Industry Association said that the meat processing and export industry is subject to a comprehensive regulatory framework. He said that the meat industry, together with the dairy industry is undertaking a systematic review from farm to processor to identify any opportunities for improvement and this will be completed before the next bobby calf season.

Richard Brake, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Petfood Manufacturers Association said there were very strong codes in place for the treatment of bobby calves on farm, during transport and in processing.

“The vast majority of New Zealand’s dairy farmers, transport operators and processors uphold and, in many cases, exceed these world-class codes,” Mr Brake said. “We want everybody to uphold them. That’s what we will all be working on.”

Andrew Hoggard, Dairy Industry Group Chairperson of Federated Farmers said, “One of the things we are proud of that has emerged over the past few days is the reaction of many farmers. There has been disappointment, sadness, frustration and anger.

“This is not how we do things. Farmers are proud people and when we get the bit between our teeth we make things happen. We know the majority of farmers will back this coalition and commitment, and will work with us to eradicate bad practice.”

Ken Shirley, Chief Executive of the Road Transport Forum said, “Our organisations and the companies and farmers we represent, have a track record of working together on this issue.

“We have all had important roles in putting the current, strong codes of practice in place and supporting their implementation through training and education. We are committed to the next stage.”

Kimberly Crewther, Executive Director of Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand said, “Dairy companies share the wider industry and public’s concern at the unacceptable conduct of a small number of individuals.

“We fully support this joint approach with other dairy and meat sector participants to ensure full compliance with animal welfare requirements. All DCANZ members require compliance with animal welfare requirements as a condition of supply and will continue to do so.”

Julie Hood, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Veterinary Association said, “New Zealand’s animal stewardship is something we can be proud of. Our veterinary profession is committed to working as part of a united industry to stamp out the small minority who breach animal welfare standards.

“We must maintain our reputation as world leaders in animal welfare and the best way to do that is by veterinarians, farmers and wider industry working in partnership to improve compliance.”

Scott Gallacher, Deputy Director General of the Ministry for Primary Industries said, “New Zealand has a very strong record and international reputation for our animal welfare system.

“One of the ways that has been achieved is government and industry working together. This joint commitment is a strong signal of how seriously we all take this matter.

“MPI is committed to participating actively and working with industry to close any gaps that might be identified in regulatory frameworks.”

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Federated Farmers, Andrew Hoggard, Ph 027 230 7363

DairyNZ, Diane Young, Ph 021 228 2517

Ministry for Primary Industries, Media, Ph 029 894 0328

MPI works on bobby calf issue

The Ministry for Primary Industries confirms it immediately commenced an investigation into the alleged mistreatment of bobby calves that was the subject of a television programme in November following receipt of footage in September.

MPI Deputy-Director General Regulation and Assurance Scott Gallacher said the nature of the footage aired on the programme was unacceptable.

"Anybody seeing this type of abuse would be appalled. We share that view," Mr Gallacher said.

MPI takes animal welfare very seriously and there are very clear laws and guidelines for how animals should be treated.

After receiving the footage, animal welfare officers reviewed it and immediately began an investigation.

MPI must build a robust case before proceeding with any enforcement. MPI cannot comment on the specifics of the investigation as it may prejudice its outcome. We informed Farmwatch we would look into it.

However, the codes of welfare concerning bobby calves are clear on the following issues:

- It is not acceptable to throw, kick or hit animals.
- Using blunt force to euthanise bobby calves is unlawful except in emergency situations.

- Calves must be well fed, have comfortable accommodation and be fed within 2 hours of being transported.
- People who transport calves need to make sure they don't cause any unreasonable pain or distress.

MPI in conjunction with industry does a lot of work with farmers, transporters and processors to ensure the humane treatment of bobby calves and that everyone working with animals understand their obligations.

MPI gets about 700 animal welfare complaints a year and follows them all up. Where there is offending people are held to account.

MPI has a strong record of successful animal welfare prosecutions and the penalties are significant.

The maximum penalty for wilful ill-treatment is 5 years in prison and \$100,000 for individuals, and a maximum of \$500,000 for a company. A former dairy farmer was sentenced to 4-and-a-half years in prison earlier this year for wilfully ill-treating animals.

An additional \$10 million in new funding was provided in the 2015 budget for animal welfare. Parliament has passed the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2015 to improve compliance and enforcement.

We strongly encourage all people who have information about the ill-treatment of animals to contact MPI immediately on 0800 00 83 33.

Senior technician wins award for work that reduces animal use in teaching



A senior technician at Massey University has been selected as the recipient of the 2015 National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) Three Rs award.

The NAEAC Three Rs Award, sponsored by the Royal New Zealand SPCA, will be presented to Mr Neil Ward (pictured above) in recognition of his work in developing computer-aided learning resources and sharing them with other teaching institutions free of charge.

"The concept of the Three Rs, from which the award takes its name, is to replace and reduce the number of animals used in research, testing and teaching, and refine experimental techniques and animal care to minimise pain or distress," says NAEAC Chair Dr Virginia Williams.

"Computer-aided learning resources have allowed Massey University to significantly

reduce the number of animals it uses for teaching anatomy and animal biology subjects."

Royal New Zealand SPCA Chief Executive, Ric Odom, says the SPCA is proud to sponsor the award, which significantly contributes to promoting the concept of the Three Rs within the scientific community and to the wider public.

"Mr Ward has also provided leadership in developing training seminars for university staff and postgraduate students to promote and raise awareness about application of the Three Rs, animal ethics, and animal welfare," he says.

This national award is co-ordinated by NAEAC and is made to an individual, group or institution within New Zealand that epitomises best practice with regard to the Three Rs.

Glueboard trap use in New Zealand

Glueboard traps are used to monitor and capture rodents by trapping them on the sticky surface of the board as they cross the surface. The rodent then becomes stuck to the board and remains attached until disposed of or the animal dies. The use of these boards without regular checking for captured animals therefore has the potential to have a severe detrimental effect on a trapped animal's welfare.

Regulations were issued in 2009 in New Zealand under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to restrict the sale and use of glueboard traps for rodents from 1 January 2015, except under Ministerial approval. Approval can be granted where it is considered that it is in the public interest and where there is no viable alternative.

A number of individuals and organisations have applied for Ministerial approval to enable the continuation of glueboard use in particular situations where it is considered that there are currently no suitable alternatives. The majority of these applications are to allow glueboard use while alternative techniques are explored and rodent proofing is improved. Applications for approval are assessed according to whether the sale or use is in the public interest and whether there are viable alternatives. This includes a consideration of the biosecurity, conservation, public health, animal health or other purpose for which the glueboard traps are to be used, the consequences if glueboard traps are not used and whether the applicant must use glueboard traps in order to meet a particular statutory or other standard imposed by a client in New Zealand or overseas. It also includes a consideration of whether other alternatives would achieve the same outcomes.

MPI has issued 24 approvals in 2015 – two for sale of these traps and the remainder for their use. The approvals for use are for limited circumstances for biosecurity and conservation purposes, or for use in and around food storage and processing

facilities or in specialist applications where high hygiene is required.

Approvals are subject to a number of conditions relevant to each case including restrictions on who may use the traps and where they may be used, conditions to avoid catching non-target animals and to euthanase trapped rodents and ensure death prior to disposal. There are also requirements in place to ensure daily checking, training for use and reporting on the number of traps and trapped animals at the expiry of the approval period.

All approvals expire on 31 December 2015. The Ministry for Primary Industries is currently supporting the phasing out of glueboards by working with affected users, regulators, and rodent control experts, practitioners and manufacturers to identify and enable the implementation of alternative control techniques. Good Integrated Pest Management practices are the key to replacing glueboard traps and improving rodent management. Alternative tools include the use of single and multi-catch live traps and kill traps (used with trap covers where applicable) which seem to be a potential practical alternative for rodent monitoring and control where the use of poisons to kill rodents is not acceptable. A working group has been convened by MPI to support the development and testing of alternatives in order to make other traps available that are able to control rodent populations in situations where glueboards would have been previously used, while ensuring that any trapped rodents are killed humanely.



Kate Littin

For further information about the use of glueboards please see the MPI website at: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/traps-and-devices/>

Kate Littin
Manager, Standards Programme
Ministry for Primary Industries



Codes of Welfare – update on consultation, development and review since issue 18

Codes of welfare are issued by the Minister for Primary Industries under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Codes outline minimum standards for care and handling of animals and establish best practices to encourage high standards of animal care.

Recommended to the Minister

- Horses and Donkeys

In post-consultation process

- Dairy Housing Amendment
- Temporary Housing of Companion Animals

Under development

- Animals in Exhibition, Entertainment and Encounter

A complete list of the codes of welfare can be found on our [website](#).

Kate Littin
Manager Codes of Welfare
Ministry for Primary Industries
kate.littin@mpi.govt.nz

Codes of ethical conduct – approvals, notifications and terminations since issue 18

All organisations involved in the use of live animals for research, testing or teaching are required to adhere to an approved code of ethical conduct.

Codes of ethical conduct approved

- Nil

Amendments to code of ethical conduct approved after consultation with NAEAC (pursuant to section 96 of the Animal Welfare Act)

- Diatranz Otsuka Ltd

Notifications to MPI of arrangements to use an existing code of ethical conduct

- Advanced Genetics 2015 Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code, Invermay AEC)
- Advanced Regenerative Therapies Ltd (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- Aroa Biosurgery Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code, Ruakura AEC) (already has another arrangement in place to use University of Otago's code, Wellington AEC)
- Arotec Diagnostics Ltd (to use Victoria University's code)
- EquiBreed NZ Ltd (to use PharmVet Solutions' code)
- Haywood, Ursula (to use University of Waikato's code)

- The New Zealand King Salmon Co Ltd (to use Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology's code)
- Vetlife Ltd (to use Lincoln University's code)

Codes of ethical conduct revoked or expired or arrangements terminated or lapsed

- Kahne Ltd
- Novartis NZ Ltd
- Valley Animal Research Centre

Linda Carsons
Principal Adviser, Ministry for Primary Industries
linda.carsons@mpi.govt.nz

Across our desks

Brachycephalic problems in pugs

The excessive selective breeding that has resulted in short-muzzled or brachycephalic dogs has also caused them to experience associated respiratory tract problems including noisy and laboured breathing, snoring, coughing and an intolerance to exercise, which can cause the dog to collapse in severe cases. This study examined the ability of pug dogs to walk a distance of approximately 1km in 11 minutes and it was found that 33% of the dogs failed this test and 50% of the dogs showed the symptoms of a respiratory tract disorder. The results suggest that the welfare of many brachycephalic dogs is compromised and dogs with an excessively short muzzle should be excluded from breeding programmes.

Bartels A et al (2015) *Animal Welfare* 24, 327-333

Castration of bulls using anti-GnRF vaccination

This study examined the effect of immunising against gonadotrophin-releasing factor (GnRF) as an alternative to surgical castration for reducing sexual and aggressive behaviour in intact bulls. 60 Angus and Angus crossbred bulls were either vaccinated with anti-GnRF, which has been shown to reduce the release of testosterone, or band-castrated without pain relief. It was found that the band-castrated bulls showed higher physiological and behavioural indications of pain and distress following castration and sexual and aggressive behaviour was reduced in the calves vaccinated with anti-GnRF, compared with entire bulls suggesting that immunocastration with anti-GnRF can be used as a welfare friendly alternative to band castration in beef calves.

Marti S et al (2015) *Journal of Animal Science* 93, 1581-1591

Responses of little penguins to zoo visitors

Concerns have been raised around the effect that visitors have on little penguins both in zoos and when eco-tourism tours visit their colonies in the wild. This study examined the effect of visitor presence on a group of penguins in Melbourne Zoo. When visitors were excluded from the viewing area, the penguins showed less avoidance of the area and spent more time swimming in the pool adjacent to the visitor area. When visitors were present the penguins showed more vigilance behaviour together with higher levels of aggression and more huddling within close proximity to other penguins. The results suggest that the presence of visitors or some aspect of visitor behaviour may be fear-provoking for the penguins.

Sherwen SL et al (2015) *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 168: 71-76

The effects of toe trimming on the welfare of tom turkeys

Toe trimming of turkeys consists of removing or reducing the claws of three toes on each foot to prevent turkeys scratching each other, but its need has been questioned. This study assessed the behaviour of turkeys following toe trimming or sham toe trimming and found that those turkeys that had had toes trimmed performed fewer active behaviours such as feeding, standing, walking and running in the short-term, suggesting that the procedure causes pain, which can affect the behaviour of the birds in the long-term. The results suggest that toe trimming should not be a recommended procedure for the industry.

Fournier J et al (2015). *Poultry Science* 94, 1446-1453

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For general enquiries contact:

Welfare Pulse

Animal Welfare Standards

Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Tel: 64-4-894 0100

Email: animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

Animal welfare complaints: 0800 00 83 33