



## National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is an independent statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on animal welfare matters. Its functions include recommending codes of welfare for issue, and making recommendations on legislative proposals including regulations relating to surgical procedures and traps and devices, and identifying research needs. It also promotes the development of guidelines for the use of traps and devices, and hunting and killing animals in a wild state.

Key items discussed at the 17 August 2016 meeting were:

- **Regulations** - The Animal Welfare Act was amended in May and now provides for regulations to set mandatory animal welfare standards and broadens the range of enforcement tools. The first two sets of regulations, live export and young calves, commenced on 1 August. NAWAC received an update on the progress of the remaining 77 regulations.
- **Prioritisation** – NAWAC discussed a workplan and their priorities for the next 18 months – 2 years. This was agreed, subject to feedback from those affected, and will be posted online once time frames have been established. For the first time, no codes of welfare were discussed at the meeting in favour of more flexible and proactive work programmes, which is indicative of NAWAC's plans going forward.
- **Layer hens** – There have been three questions raised on the interpretation of minimum standards in the code of welfare for layer hens. A subcommittee has been formed to work through these questions as soon as possible. MPI has sought legal advice on NAWAC's position and it has become clear that some further work will have to be done which will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **Greyhounds** – The advice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Minister of Racing on the independent review of Greyhound Racing New Zealand was agreed and finalised with some minor amendments.
- **Fish & Game** – Bryce Johnson, Chief Executive Fish & Game talked to the Committee about Fish & Game's views and work in the area of animal welfare and conservation. Discussed wounding rates of game, catch and release of fish, the use of 1080 and some recent reports from hunters of poor conditions for livestock over winter (namely muddy paddocks).
- **Next meeting** – Remaining meeting dates in 2016: 16 November.