Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Operational Code

Petfood Processing

Chapter 3 Supply, Slaughter and Dressing of Farmed Animals

[Document Date]

Issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries

New Zealand Government

TITLE

Operational Code: Petfood Processing

COMMENCEMENT

This Operational Code is effective from [Effective Date]

REVOCATION

This chapter of the Operational Code replaces Chapter 3 Petfood Processing: Supply, Slaughter (On-farm) and Dressing of Young Calves 22 July 2016 and Part 3.1 Slaughter and Killing of Farmed Mammals June 2005.

ISSUING BODY

This Operational Code is issued by the Animal Products Team, Regulation & Assurance Branch, MPI

Dated at Wellington this ... day of .....

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(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

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Introduction

(1) Chapter 3 of the Petfood Operational Code (Code) assists petfood processors and manufacturers to:

a) comply with the requirements of the Animal Products Act 1999 (APA) and relevant subordinate legislation of the Act; and
b) produce petfood that is safe and suitable for animal consumption.

(2) The Code has been developed by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), in consultation with the New Zealand Petfood Manufacturers Association (NZPFMA).

(3) This introduction is not part of the Operational Code but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

(1) This Chapter provides guidance on the requirements for:

a) the supply of farmed animals for slaughter intended for processing into petfood;
b) slaughter and dressing of farmed animals; and
c) post-slaughter processing of animal material.

(2) It has been developed mainly for petfood processors and manufacturers operating a risk management programme (RMP).

Background

(1) This Chapter discusses the requirements for primary processing of petfood under the APA and its subordinate legislation, particularly the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption (signed on the 6th October 2014).

(2) This chapter also includes industry agreed procedures for the handling and processing of young calves, where appropriate. These procedures are based on the *Young Calf Processors Agreement (14 June 2016)*, the agreement between the 3 stand-alone slaughter operators of young calves for petfood.

(3) Where appropriate, this chapter also provides information on relevant industry agreed procedures for meeting some of the requirements under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, its regulations and codes.

(4) Animal suppliers, transport operators and slaughter operators must not rely on this chapter for complete information regarding their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, its regulations and codes.

Who should read this Operational Code?

(1) This Chapter should be read by:

a) petfood RMP operators involved in the slaughter and dressing of farmed animals;
b) suppliers of farmed animals for processing into petfood;
c) transport operators;
d) regulators; and
e) verifiers.

Why is this important?

(1) This Chapter clarifies MPI's expectations on how relevant petfood regulatory requirements should be met. This will assist petfood processors and RMP verifiers have a consistent understanding of these requirements and their applications.

(2) The Petfood Code is a guidance document on how to meet APA requirements. If an RMP operator incorporates the whole or part(s) of the Code into their RMP, then the incorporated part(s) of the Code becomes mandatory (i.e. is no longer a guide) and legally enforceable.

Layout of this Chapter

(1) Regulatory requirements, recommended procedures and guidance information are distinctly differentiated in this document.

(2) A regulatory requirement is identified by having a citation, at the end of the relevant sentence or clause, of the specific legislation from which the particular requirement is derived from. The word "**must**" is also used indicating its mandatory status. For example:

"All inputs, including raw materials, ingredients, additives and packaging must be handled, processed, and stored in a manner that minimises any potential contamination or deterioration [AP Reg 9]".

In many cases, the mandatory requirements have been paraphrased. Operators should refer to the cited legislation for the actual wording of the legal requirement.

The abbreviations used for legislation cited are:

APA - the Animal Products Act 1999

AP Reg - the Animal Products Regulations 2000

AC Spec - the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption signed on the 6th October 2014

RMP Spec - the Animal Products (Risk Management Programme Specifications) Notice 2008

(3) Industry agreed requirements or recommended procedures are accepted or industry agreed means of achieving or complying with regulatory requirements. To differentiate them from regulatory requirements, the word "**should**" is used rather than "**must**".

MPI expects RMP operators to comply with the recommended procedures ("**should**") that are applicable to their product and process unless they have proposed an alternative process, procedure or parameter that will achieve the same outcome. The operator should be able to demonstrate the validity and effectiveness of any proposed alternative. Any alternative process, procedure or parameter should be documented in their RMP.

(4) Guidance or supplementary information

> **Guidance**
> Guidance material is presented in a box. It provides explanatory information and options or examples for achieving a particular outcome or requirement.

Part 1: Definitions

(1) In this Code, unless context otherwise requires:

farmed animals include farmed mammals and farmed birds

farmed birds include farmed ratites (e.g. ostriches, emus), and farmed poultry (e.g. chicken, ducks, turkeys)

generally fit and healthy means that an animal displays signs or behaviour of being reasonably bright and alert and does not display signs or behaviour of being moribund or infected with disease that would exclude it from being fit for purpose for processing for petfood [AC Spec Definitions]. Refer to Appendix 1 Assessment of Farmed Mammals for Slaughter for a more detailed description of what is "generally fit and healthy"

on-farm slaughter means the slaughter of a farmed animal on the animal supplier's farm, but excludes the slaughter of any farmed animal undertaken by a mobile slaughter operator. On-farm slaughter covers the stunning or shooting, sticking and bleeding of a farmed animal

primary processor means a person who, for reward (other than as an employee) or for purposes of trade:

a) slaughters and/or dresses animals or birds; or
b) dresses animals or birds that are killed wild animals or are killed as if they were wild animals; but does not include hunters

supplier in relation to the supply of animals for primary processing, is the owner or person in charge of the animals. A saleyard operator may be a supplier. However, a person solely engaged in facilitating transfer, such as a transport operator or purchasing agent, is not considered a supplier

whole flock health scheme in relation to a flock of farmed birds, means a documented programme implemented by poultry operators to ensure that any hazards associated with the birds that are likely to affect human health are identified and managed in an appropriate manner. The whole flock health scheme includes:

a) measures for disease control or eradication;
b) activities to ensure that agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines are used according to any general or specific conditions of use; and
c) measures for feed management

young calf means

a) a bovine that has not had milk (or milk replacer) permanently removed from its diet;
b) it is up to 14 days of age; and
c) it has been separated from its mother.

A young calf is commonly referred to as "bobby calf"

(2) References in this Code to subclauses, clauses, appendices and parts are references to subclauses, clauses, appendices and parts of this Code unless otherwise stated.

(3) Any term or expression used in this Code that is defined in the APA, Regulations or Notices made under the APA and used, but not defined, in this Code has the same meaning as in the APA, Regulations or Notices.

Part 2: Primary processing of farmed animals for petfood

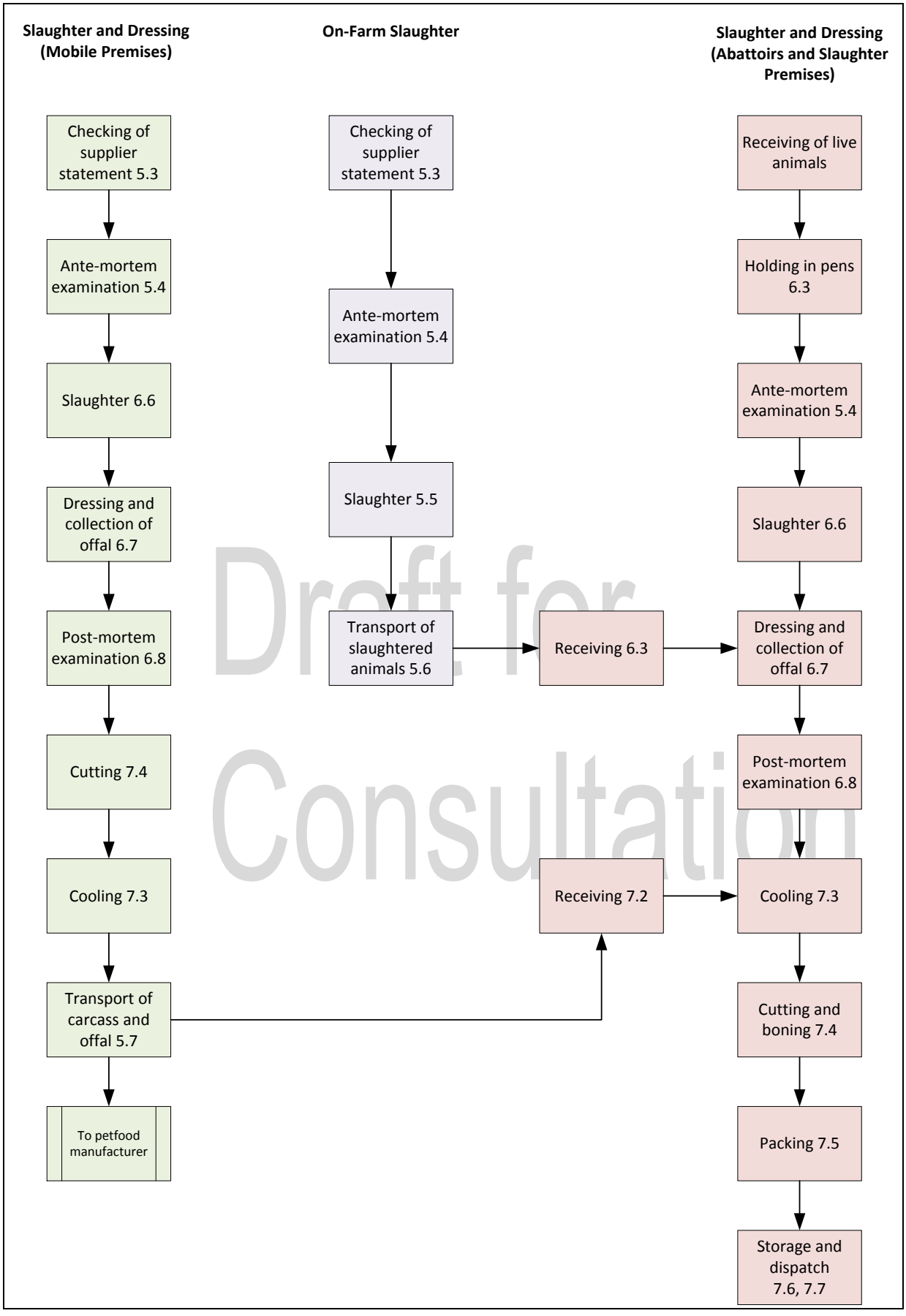
2.1 Scope

(1) This Chapter covers these 3 types of slaughter and dressing operations typically undertaken by petfood primary processors:

a) slaughter and dressing in permanently located primary processing premises (e.g. abattoir);
b) slaughter and dressing in mobile slaughter premises; and
c) on-farm slaughter (previously referred to as on-farm killing).

(2) The key steps of these processes are shown in Figure 1 Typical Processes for Slaughter of Farmed Animals for Petfood. The number given at a step corresponds to the section wherein the requirements for the particular step are discussed.

Figure 1: Typical processes for slaughter of farmed animals for petfood



Part 3: Supply and transport of live farmed animals (excluding young calves) for slaughter

3.1 Scope

(1) This Part discusses the requirements for the supply of live farmed animals (excluding young calves) supplied directly to primary processors for:

a) slaughter and dressing in permanently located primary processing premises (e.g. abattoir);
b) slaughter and dressing in mobile slaughter premises; or
c) on-farm slaughter (also previously referred to as on-farm killing).

(2) This Part also discusses the transport of live farmed animals (excluding young calves) from the farm to an abattoir or slaughter premises.

(3) The requirements for the supply of live young calves for slaughter are discussed in Part 4: Supply and transport of live young calves for slaughter.

(4) The requirements for killing of wild animals, including farmed animals that have become feral, are discussed in Chapter 4 Harvesting and Processing of Wild Animals, of this Code.

3.2 Supply of live farmed animals (excluding young calves)

(1) The requirements in this section apply to suppliers of all farmed animals (excluding young calves) for slaughter that are intended to be used for processing or manufacture of petfood.

(2) All farmed animals must be alive and generally fit and healthy at the time of presentation for slaughter at a primary processing premises or for on-farm slaughter [AC Spec 7.3 (9) and (10)]. Refer to Appendix 1 Assessment of Farmed Mammals for Slaughter for guidance on the assessment of farmed mammals presented for slaughter.

(3) All farmed mammals presented for slaughter must be identified to enable trace back of the animals to their supplier statement. Cattle and deer must be identified in accordance with the National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) scheme. Refer to the NAIT Act and regulations.

(4) All poultry intended for slaughter must be produced under a "whole flock health scheme" [AC Spec 7.8 (1)].

(5) A farmed animal must not be presented as a farmed animal for slaughter, if the supplier is aware, or has reason to believe, that:

a) the animal may have been exposed to any unapproved veterinary medicine, poison or environmental contaminant;
b) material derived from the animal (e.g. meat, offal) may contain residual levels of a chemical that may be harmful to animals on consumption;
c) the animal has been used in experiments, trials or research, unless the supplier meets the requirements given in 3.4 Supply of farmed animals that have been used in experiments, trials or research and has obtained the appropriate approval from MPI; or
d) the supplier does not have a correctly completed supplier statement or Animal Status Declaration (ASD) from the previous owner stating that the animals have not been treated with, or exposed to an unapproved veterinary medicine, and the animal was:
    i) not born on the supplier's property; or
    ii) not been farmed by the supplier in the last 60 days.
e) the animal is within the withholding period for buparvaquone (BPQ) [Refer to the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Animals Treated with Buparvaquone 2014] [AC Spec 7.3].

(6) The supplier of any farmed animals, that have been purchased more than 60 days prior to the date of the supplier statement must:

a) declare in the supplier statement whether any of the animals are within a meat withholding period for any veterinary medicine administered by the supplier or previous owner; and
b) provide details about the treatment [AC Spec 7.3 (2), (3), (4) and (8)].

3.3 Supplier statements for farmed animals (excluding young calves)

(1) A supplier of farmed animals for slaughter must provide the slaughter operator a correctly completed supplier statement using the appropriate MPI approved form, as listed in Table 1: Supplier Statements, at the time the animals are presented for slaughter [AC Spec 7.5 (2)]. Alternatively an Animal Status Declaration (ASD) may be used.

Table 1: Supplier statements

Farmed animal	Supplier statement form
Cattle (excluding young calves), deer, sheep (including lambs), goats, alpacas, llamas, horses	Farmed Animal Supplier Statement- Petfood
Pigs	Farmed Animal Supplier Statement- Petfood
Ostriches and emus	There is no MPI approved form specifically for ratites. Suppliers of ratites should use the Farmed Animal Supplier Statement- Petfood.
Poultry	There is no MPI approved form for poultry. Refer to Clause 3.3 (2) below.

(2) In relation to Clause 3.3 (1) above, a supplier statement is not required for poultry that is supplied by a poultry operator identified as a "specified supplier" in the petfood slaughter operator's supplier guarantee programme [AC Spec 7.5 (4)].

Guidance
An MPI approved supplier statement has not been developed for poultry because all poultry suppliers currently supply farmed birds in accordance with a supplier guarantee programme. MPI can develop a supplier statement if needed.

A supplier guarantee programme is a programme documented in a slaughter operator's RMP that establishes that poultry supplied by specific suppliers identified in the programme have been produced under a whole flock health scheme (refer to Clause 3.2 (4) of this Chapter). It requires poultry suppliers to annually provide information equivalent those in farmed animal supplier statements. Refer to the Animal Products Notice Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption.

(3) The supplier must complete the statement to the best of his/her knowledge, and with reference to any supplier statements provided by previous persons in control of the animal(s) [AC Spec 7.5 (5)].

(4) The supplier may deliver the supplier statement to the processor by electronic transmission [AC Spec 7.5 (6)]. This should be agreed with the recipient.

(5) The supplier must keep the following records for a period of 1 year after the supplying the animals for slaughter:

a) a copy of any supplier statements;
b) any records and other information used to complete any supplier statements; and
c) any manufacturers' declarations relating to the composition of animal feeds fed to farmed ruminants [AC Spec 7.5 (7)].

(6) The records listed in Clause 3.3 (5) above must be kept in a readily accessible form, and made available for audit or verification on request by a person authorised by MPI [AC Spec 7.5 (8)].

3.4 Supply of farmed animals that has been used in experiments, trials or research

(1) The supplier of any farmed animal that has been used in an experiment, trial or research, must obtain approval from MPI prior to the presentation of any of these animals to a slaughter operator where any of the following apply:

a) unregistered veterinary medicines or agricultural compounds;
b) registered veterinary medicines or agricultural compounds outside the conditions of their registration or exemption under the ACVM Act; or
c) genetic modification [AC Spec 7.2 (2)].

(2) In relation to Clause 3.4 (1) above, the MPI approval may be subject to conditions and may be granted on a category or class basis [AC Spec 7.2 (2)].

Guidance
Suppliers of animals to be used in experiments, trials or research using veterinary medicines or agricultural compounds should apply for approval before undertaking any experiment, trial or research with MPI using the Drug Trial Approval Form.

The completed form should be sent to the Animal Products team at animal.products@mpi.govt.nz.

If the application is successful MPI will issue:
(a) a formal letter of approval, including any specified conditions (e.g. 3 working days notification, trial or research timeframes); or
(b) an exemption (refer to Clause 3.4 (4) below).

(3) The supplier of any farmed animal that has been used in an experiment, trial or research must:

a) notify the slaughter operator in writing at least 3 working days before presenting the animal for slaughter; and
b) on presentation of the animal, provide the slaughter operator with a copy of the MPI approval and a completed supplier statement to the effect that all relevant conditions of the approval have been complied with [AC Spec 7.2 (3)].

(4) MPI may issue an exemption from the requirements given in Clause 3.4 (2) and (3) above for certain classes or descriptions of animals, when MPI is satisfied the risk to animal health is negligible [AC Spec 7.2 (4)].

(5) Animal product from animals that have been used in experiments, trials or research may not be eligible for export (refer to 6.9 Eligibility for export).

3.5 Transport of live farmed animals

(1) Suppliers and transport operators must ensure that the farmed animals are handled and transported in a manner that ensures that the animals remain generally fit and healthy at the time of presentation for slaughter [AC Spec 7.3 (9) and (10)].

Guidance
Animal suppliers and transport operators must meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, its regulations and codes.

Part 4: Supply and transport of live young calves for slaughter

4.1 Scope

(1) This Part discusses the requirements for the supply of live young calves supplied directly to primary processors for:

a) slaughter and dressing in permanently located primary processing premises (e.g. abattoir);
b) slaughter and dressing in mobile slaughter premises; or
c) on-farm slaughter (also previously referred to as on-farm killing).

(2) This Part also discusses the transport of live young calves from the farm to an abattoir or slaughter premises.

4.2 Supply of live young calves

(1) All young calves must be alive and generally fit and healthy at the time of presentation for slaughter at a primary processing premises or for on-farm slaughter [AC Spec 7.3 (9) and (10)]. Refer to Appendix 1 Assessment of Farmed Mammals for Slaughter for guidance on the assessment of farmed mammals presented for slaughter.

(2) A young calf must not be presented for slaughter, if the supplier is aware, or has reason to believe, that:

a) the young calf may have been exposed to any unapproved veterinary medicine, poison or environmental contaminant; or
b) any animal material derived from young calf may contain residual levels of any chemical that may be harmful to animals on consumption [AC Spec 7.3 (2) and (8)]; or
c) the young calf was born to a cow that had been treated with Buparvaquone (BPQ) [Refer to the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Animals Treated with Buparvaquone 2014].

4.3 Supplier statements for young calves

(1) Suppliers of young calves for slaughter should provide the slaughter operator information about the animals supplied, including:

a) whether any of the animals have been exposed to or treated with any veterinary medicine and remain within a withholding period; and
b) whether any of the animals have been fed ruminant protein.

Guidance
The petfood industry does use a form to record seasonal information required in Clause 4.3 (1) above and other information relating to animal welfare requirements. A record may cover a whole season or part of a season, as appropriate to the supplier's operation. This form can be obtained by the NZPFMA. MPI encourages the use of these forms.

4.4 Transport of live young calves

(1) Suppliers and transport operators must ensure that the young calves are handled and transported in a manner that ensures that the animals remain generally fit and healthy at the time of presentation for slaughter [AC Spec 7.3 (9) and (10)].

(2) Young calves should be uplifted in daylight so their fitness for transport can be easily determined [Young Calf Processors Agreement].

(3) Young calves should be transported for a duration not longer than 12 hours [Young Calf Processors Agreement].

Guidance
Animal suppliers and transport operators must meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, its regulations and codes.

4.5 Reporting and verification for slaughter operators of live young calves

(1) Slaughter operators of young calves should report weekly to their MPI verifier, during the calving season, by completing the Young Calf Collection Run Sheet [Young Calf Processors Agreement].

(2) Slaughter operators should take part in the MPI On-Farm Verification programme [Young Calf Processors Agreement].

Part 5: On-farm slaughter and slaughter in mobile premises

5.1 Scope

(1) This Part discusses the requirements for the on-farm slaughter (formerly referred to as on-farm killing) and slaughter in mobile premises for all types of farmed mammals.

(2) This Part also discusses the transport of slaughtered animals.

5.2 RMP requirements

(1) Operators involved in the slaughter and dressing of farmed mammals must operate under a registered RMP and have on-farm slaughter included in the scope of their RMP [APA 13].

(2) Operators must have written procedures in their RMP for this operation, including slaughter for humane reasons [AC Spec 7.6].

(3) Slaughter operators must comply with all relevant requirements discussed in Chapter 2 Good Operating Practice.

5.3 Checking of supplier statements

(1) The slaughter operator must ensure that correctly completed supplier statements are provided for the following farmed mammals at the time an animal or group of animals is presented for slaughter (refer to Clause 3.3 of this Chapter for the list of supplier statements):

a) cattle (excluding young calves), deer, sheep (including lambs), goats, alpacas, llamas, horses, ostriches, emus;
b) pigs; and
c) poultry [AC Spec 7.5 (2) and 8.2 (1)].

(2) The slaughter operator should ensure that information listed in Clause 4.3 (1) of this Chapter is provided by suppliers of young calves for slaughter.

(3) The slaughter operator must not accept any farmed animal for processing, if:

a) the supplier statement is absent or incomplete; or
b) the slaughter operator is aware of, or has received information, that would give reasonable grounds to suspect that the information in a supplier statement cannot be relied on; or
c) the slaughter operator has been advised by the recognised verifier that the supplier has a status of “notified” or “listed” under any residue or contaminant control scheme or any disease surveillance suspect list [AC Spec 8.2 (1), (3) and (9)].

(4) The slaughter operator must inform the recognised verifier within 1 working day if the situation described in 5.3 (3) (b) occurs [AC Spec 8.2 (4)].

5.4 Ante-mortem examination

(1) All farmed animals to be processed for petfood must be subjected to, and pass an ante-mortem examination by an official assessor or an ante-mortem petfood examiner before being processed [AC Spec 8.3 (1)].

(2) Ante-mortem examination must occur within 2 hours prior to slaughter [AC Spec 8.3 (2)].

(3) All animals must be assessed to be generally fit and healthy at the time of ante-mortem examination [AC Spec 8.3 (3)]. Refer to Appendix 1 Assessment of Farmed Mammals for Slaughter for guidance on the assessment of farmed mammals for slaughter.

(4) The ante-mortem petfood examiner must complete and sign an Ante-mortem Examination Declaration – Petfood form prior to the slaughter of each animal or group of animals [AC Spec 8.3 (4) to (6)].

(5) The slaughter operator must document procedures to deal with situations where documentation does not confirm the status of the animal material as suitable for processing. Documentation includes:

a) a supplier statement; or
b) a landowner/manager poison use statement – petfood; or
c) a Department of Conservation Pesticide Summary [AC Spec 8.3 (7)].

(6) Any animal material or product that is determined unsuitable for processing into petfood by the ante-mortem petfood examiner must be designated by the slaughter operator as medium risk raw material (provided it has not been classed as high risk raw material by MPI). Records of these animal materials and products and how they are disposed of must be maintained [AC Spec 8.4 (1)].

(7) Procedures for the handling and disposal of medium and high risk raw material should be documented in the slaughter operator's RMP.

5.5 Slaughter procedures

(1) The slaughter of animals (i.e. stunning, sticking and bleeding) must be carried out without unnecessary delay after the animals are presented for slaughter, and in a way that minimises contamination of the carcass [AC Spec 8.5 (1)].

(2) A gun or captive bolt should be used for slaughter.

(3) Procedures for ensuring for this should be documented in the slaughter operator's RMP.

Guidance
It is acceptable to use solid or frangible bullets for slaughter. However, the potential for contamination of the product with fragments should be considered in the hazard analysis.

Operators must meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, its regulations and codes.

(4) Carcasses of animals that are slaughtered on-farm should not be skinned or washed on-farm. This does not apply to animals slaughtered and dressed in mobile slaughter premises.

(5) Mobile slaughter operators must comply with the requirements for dressing, post-mortem examination and post-slaughter processing discussed in Clauses 6.7, 6.8, 7.3 and 7.4 of this Chapter.

5.6 Transport of slaughtered animals from on-farm slaughter

(1) The slaughter operator must ensure that on-farm slaughtered animals are:

a) handled and transported in such a manner that contamination and deterioration are minimised;
b) delivered to the slaughter and dressing premises within 6 hours of slaughter;
c) not transported with any material that is not suitable for processing for petfood; and
d) not transported with any material intended for processing for human consumption [AC Spec 7.7 (1)].

(2) The slaughter operator must ensure that slaughtered animals ineligible for export processing, as described in 6.9 Eligibility for export are clearly identified and physically separated from export eligible animal material to prevent them from entering the export chain [AC Spec 12.4 (1)].

(3) Slaughtered animals must not be transported in the same vehicle (truck and/or trailer) with any live animals unless they are physically separated [AC Spec 12.4 (1) and (3)].

5.7 Transport of carcasses and other animal material from animals slaughtered and dressed in mobile premises

(1) The transport of carcasses and other animal material from farmed animals slaughtered in mobile premises should comply with the requirements given in Part 18: Transport of petfood materials and products of Chapter 2 Good Operating Practice of this Code.

Part 6: Slaughter and dressing in a slaughter premises

6.1 Scope

(1) This Part discusses the requirements for:

a) the slaughter of farmed animals for petfood undertaken in permanently located slaughter premises (e.g. abattoirs); and
b) the dressing and post-slaughter processing of animal material for petfood undertaken in permanently located slaughter premises (e.g. abattoirs) and mobile slaughter premises.

6.2 General

(1) All operators involved in the slaughter and/or dressing of farmed animals must operate under a registered RMP [APA 13].

(2) Slaughter and dressing operators must comply with all relevant requirements discussed in Chapter 2: Good Operating Practice of this Code.

(3) Slaughter and dressing operators must have the following written procedures included in their RMPs, as applicable to their operation:

a) procedures for receiving live farmed animals presented for slaughter, including procedures to deal with situations where the supplier statement does not confirm the status of the animal as suitable for petfood processing;
b) procedures for receiving of carcasses, carcass parts or offal of farmed animals that have been slaughtered on-farm or in mobile premises;
c) slaughter and dressing procedures, including hygienic techniques and practices at key processing steps; and
d) post-slaughter processing procedures [AC Spec 7.6 (1) and 8.2 (5)].

(4) Slaughter operators must have a documented tracking system to identify and trace animal material or product from the supplier, operator's premises and then to the next recipient [AC Spec 5.3 (1)].

(5) Slaughter operators of young calves should report weekly to MPI, during the calving season, by completing the Young Calf Collection Run Sheet [Young Calf Processors Agreement].

6.3 Receiving of live farmed animals for slaughter

(1) The slaughter operator must ensure that correctly completed supplier statements are provided for the following farmed animals at the time an animal or group of animals is presented for slaughter (refer to Clause 3.3 of this Chapter for the list of suppler statements):

a) cattle (excluding young calves), deer, sheep (including lambs), goats, alpacas, llamas, horses, ostriches, emus;
b) pigs; and
c) poultry, except when Clause 6.3 (2) of this Chapter applies [AC Spec 7.5 (2)and 8.2 (1)].

(2) The slaughter operator must not accept any farmed animal for processing, if:

a) the supplier statement is absent or incomplete; or
b) the slaughter operator is aware of, or has received information, that would give reasonable grounds to suspect that the information in a supplier statement cannot be relied on; or
c) the slaughter operator has been advised by the recognised verifier that the supplier has a status of "notified" or "listed" under any residue or contaminant control scheme or any disease surveillance suspect list [AC Spec 8.2 (1), (3) and (9)].

(3) The slaughter operator should ensure that information listed in Clause 4.3.1 of this Chapter is provided by suppliers of young calves for slaughter.

(4) The slaughter operator must inform the recognised verifier within 1 working day if the situation described in Clause 6.3 (2) (b) in this Chapter occurs [AC Spec 8.2 (4)].

(5) In relation to 6.3 (1), the slaughter operator may hold live farmed animals in order to give the supplier an opportunity to provide a completed or a replacement supplier statement that clarifies the status of the animal material as suitable for processing to the satisfaction of the slaughter operator [AC Spec 8.2 (8)].

(6) The slaughter operator must keep a copy of every supplier statement, landowner/manager poison use statement – petfood, ante-mortem examination declaration, and Department of Conservation Pesticide Summary they receive from suppliers for a minimum of 4 years [AC Spec 8.2 (6)].

(7) All areas where any young calf is received and held prior to slaughter (i.e. the lairage) should be under CCTV surveillance [Young Calf Processors Agreement].

(8) CCTV footage covering a consignment of young calves should to be retained and be available for one month from the time the consignment is received at the slaughter premises [Young Calf Processors Agreement].

(9) All young calves should be slaughtered without unnecessary delay after arrival at the premises (i.e. in lairage and not held overnight) [Young Calf Processors Agreement].

6.4 Receiving of slaughtered animals for dressing

(1) The slaughter and dressing operator must ensure that the following records are provided for on-farm slaughtered animals at the time they are received at the slaughter premises:

a) correctly completed supplier statements; and
b) completed Ante-mortem Examination Declaration – Petfood forms [AC Spec 8.2(1)]

(2) The slaughter and dressing operator must check all incoming slaughtered animals and accompanying records to ensure that only slaughtered animals that meet the following requirements are accepted for dressing:

a) have been slaughtered within the past 6 hours from the time of receipt;
b) have been found suitable for processing into petfood at ante-mortem examination;
c) have not been transported with any material that is not suitable for processing to petfood; and
d) show no signs of deterioration, or gross contamination or defects [AC Spec 7.7 (1); 8.3(1)].

6.5 Ante-mortem examination

(1) Refer 5.4 Ante-mortem examination.

6.6 Slaughter

(1) The slaughter of animals (i.e. stunning, sticking and bleeding) must be carried out without unnecessary delay after the animals' arrival at the premises, and in a way that minimises the contamination of the carcass [AC Spec 8.5 (1)].

(2) The slaughter of farmed animals should be undertaken at a rate at which carcasses of animals can be accepted for dressing.

Guidance

All farmed animals need to be effectively stunned, in accordance with animal welfare requirements and RMP documented procedures, prior to slaughter. Whenever stunning becomes inadequate, the slaughter of animals should cease until the problem is rectified.

6.7 Dressing

(1) Dressing of carcasses must be carried out without unnecessary delay and in a hygienic manner that minimises the transfer, proliferation, and redistribution of contaminants on and between animal material or product [AC Spec 8.6 (1) (g and h)].

(2) Hygienic techniques should be applied during dressing to prevent or minimise contamination of the carcass from:

a) contaminated parts of the animals such as the hide, pelt or hair; the gastro-intestinal tract; the integument, hooves, trotters, or feet of the same or another carcass;
b) contaminated equipment, such as uncleaned knives, viscera tables, buggies and equipment used for suspending carcasses, offal or other parts;
c) contaminated surfaces, such as the floor or drains; and
d) wastes and other contaminated material.

Guidance

Hygienic dressing techniques

- knives should be cleaned after each use on a carcass, and disinfected regularly;
- all equipment should be cleaned and disinfected when contaminated;
- carcasses should be physically separated from each other during de-hiding, de-pelting and evisceration, so that cross contamination is minimised;
- evisceration should be performed in a manner that prevents puncture of the gastro-intestinal tract, gall bladder, uterus and bladder;
- care should be taken to prevent leakage onto the carcass when removing the gut set; and
- scraps and trimmings that are not suitable for processing into petfood should be put in designated containers or chutes and disposed of appropriately.

(3) Where multiple dressing operations are carried out on the same carcass by the same operator, the operations posing the least risk of contamination should be performed first.

(4) Offal and other animal material for petfood must be collected in a hygienic manner [AC Spec 8.6 (1) (h)].

(5) Tissues derived from the thyroid gland or from the surrounding throat structures (larynx) should not be saved and used for petfood unless permitted in an Overseas Market Access Requirement (OMAR).

(6) Animals need to be dressed such that all parts remain 'positively identifiable' (traceable) to the carcass until the completion of the full post-mortem examination (refer to Clause 6.8 of this Chapter). An exception to this can only be made when batch examination procedures are in use, or when tissues have been adequately controlled as condemned/medium risk material.

(7) Carcasses and animal products that have not passed post-mortem examination must be physically separated from those that have passed post-mortem examination [AC Spec 8.6 (1) (e)].

6.8 Post-mortem examination

(1) The slaughter operator must ensure that:

a) all animal material to be processed for petfood is subjected to post-mortem examination by an official assessor or post-mortem petfood examiner;
b) tissue is examined in accordance with the post-mortem examination procedures in Domestic Petfood Farmed Mammal - Post-Mortem Disposition Tables;

c) product dispositions are made in accordance with Domestic Petfood Farmed Mammal - Post-Mortem Disposition Table; and
d) where lot or batch post-mortem examination procedures are to be used on animal products derived from a common source and included in a single supplier statement, the procedure is fully documented [AC Spec 8.7 (1)].

(2) The slaughter operator must inform the recognised verifier within 1 working day of any animal carcass or animal material suspected by the post-mortem petfood examiner to be infected with:

a) tuberculosis;
b) *Taenia saginata, T. solium*; or
c) true hydatids [AC Spec 8.7 (2)].

(3) The slaughter operator must identify and retain the carcass or animal material suspected of being infected until such time as the recognised verifier gives a final disposition [AC Spec 8.7 (3)].

(4) Any carcass or animal material found not fit for purpose must be immediately identified as such by the slaughter operator and separated to ensure that is not mistaken as fit for purpose [AC Spec 8.7 (4)].

(5) The slaughter operator must ensure that all animal material or product is handled and disposed of in accordance with the instructions of the post-mortem petfood examiner [AC Spec 8.7 (5)].

(6) Any carcass or animal material that is found not fit for purpose (suspect) as petfood by the post-mortem petfood examiner must be deemed medium risk raw material (provided it has not been classed as high risk raw material by MPI) [AC Spec 8.7 (6)].

(7) The handling and disposal of risk material should be documented in the slaughter operator's RMP.

6.9 Eligibility for export

(1) Procedures for ensuring the separation and identification of export eligible and non-export eligible animal material or animal product should be documented in the slaughter operator's RMP.

(2) The suitability of animal material or animal product for export is subject to the applicable Overseas Market Access Requirement (OMAR).

6.9.1 Farmed animals ineligible for export processing

(1) Suppliers must not present farmed animals for primary processing intended for export when:

a) it has been treated with or exposed to a registered agricultural compound and is within the withholding period stated on the label for that species, or animals of that type; or
b) it has been treated with or exposed to a registered agricultural compound in a manner that differs from its conditions of registration, unless:

i) 91 days have elapsed since the treatment of farmed ruminants (such as cattle, deer, sheep and goats); or
ii) 63 days have elapsed since the treatment of farmed monogastrics (such as pigs, horses, birds and rabbits) [AC Spec 7.4].

c) it has a condition (unhealthy) that requires it to be slaughtered on-farm. Suppliers can present farmed animals for primary processing intended for export when the animal has been slaughtered on-farm for humane reasons i.e. was generally fit and healthy at time of slaughter.

Part 7: Post-slaughter processing

7.1 Scope

(1) This Part discusses the requirements for post-slaughter processing (i.e. operations after post-mortem examination such as cooling, cutting and boning).

7.2 Receiving of carcasses and other animal material for post-slaughter processing

(1) The slaughter and dressing operator must ensure that deliveries of carcasses, carcass parts and offal from mobile slaughter operations are accompanied by the following records at the time they are received at the premises for post-slaughter processing:

a) correctly completed supplier statements; and
b) completed Ante-mortem Examination Declaration – Petfood forms [AC Spec 8.2(1)].

(2) All deliveries of animal material should be checked on receipt to ensure that they:

a) are fit for processing into petfood, with the animal material showing no signs of deterioration, or gross contamination or defects; and
b) are at the appropriate temperature.

7.3 Cooling of carcasses and offal

(1) The cooling of carcasses, carcass parts and offal must be undertaken without unnecessary delay and in a manner that minimises microbial growth and deterioration of the animal material or product [AC Spec 8.8 (1)].

(2) The cooling procedures and parameters should be written in the RMP.

Guidance
Animal material should be continuously cooled until the required preservation temperature is reached. The generally accepted preservation temperature for chilled meat is 7˚C or cooler and for frozen meat it is -12˚C or cooler.

Refer to section 13.2.2 (3) of Chapter 2 Good Operating Practice of this Code for guidance on cooling of offal using ice.

(3) The cooling parameters should be monitored and records kept.

7.4 Cutting and boning

(1) Carcasses intended for boning and cutting should be processed without unnecessary delay. The rate of processing should be managed so that processing delays and stock-piling of meat do not occur.

(2) Hygienic boning and cutting techniques should be applied to minimise contamination, and the redistribution and growth of microorganisms on meat cuts.

(3) After boning or cutting, meat should be refrigerated without delay unless they are to be used immediately in the manufacture of petfood.

7.5 Packing and labelling

(1) Packaging materials used for containing or packing petfood meat should conform with the requirements discussed in Part 13: Purchase, Handling and Storage of Raw Materials, Ingredients, and Packaging Clause13.2.1 (4) of Chapter 2 Good Operating Practice of this Code.

(2) All products must be identified and labelled in accordance with the requirements and procedures discussed in Part 14: Identification and Labelling of Products of Chapter 2 Good Operating Practice of this Code.

7.6 Storage

(1) All products must be handled and stored in a manner that minimises their contamination or deterioration [AC Spec 11.3].

(2) Products should be:

a) moved to storage as soon as possible after packing;
b) held at appropriate temperatures to maintain their safety and suitability for their intended purpose (refer to Clause 13.2.3 of Chapter 2 Good Operating Practice of this Code for further guidance);
c) protected against contamination or damage;
d) stored on racks, shelves or pallets to ensure no contact with the floor;
e) kept separate from maintenance compounds and other hazardous materials; and
f) properly labelled or identified.

(3) If the packaging material of any product is damaged, the operator must:

a) check and ensure that the contents have not deteriorated or become contaminated;
b) rectify the problem (e.g. repack the product or repair the packaging); and
c) dispose of any affected raw material or ingredient that is no longer suitable for processing [AC Spec 3.19 (3)].

7.7 Dispatch

(1) All products should be dispatched from the slaughter premises in accordance with the requirements and procedures discussed in Part 17: Dispatch of Petfood Materials and Products of Chapter 2 Good Operating Practice of this Code.

Appendix 1 – Ante-mortem assessment of farmed mammals

A. General

The following table provides the general guidance that apply to **all** slaughter operators of farmed mammals for petfood.

Table A: General guidance for on-farm slaughter of farmed mammals for petfood

<table>
<tr><th>No.</th><th>Topic</th><th colspan="2">Requirements</th></tr>
<tr><td>1.</td><td>On-farm slaughter of farmed mammals for petfood</td><td colspan="2">Only primary processors who have documented procedures for this activity within their registered RMP.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">2.</td><td rowspan="3">Generally fit and healthy</td><td colspan="2">To be eligible for on-farm slaughter, farmed mammals must be assessed as generally fit and healthy by a trained petfood examiner.

The following provides general information regarding what is considered to be generally fit and healthy. It also provides information as to what would be considered not generally fit and healthy and therefore may not be suitable for petfood.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Generally fit and healthy</td><td>Not generally fit and healthy
(and therefore not suitable for petfood)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Animals should exhibit the following symptoms:
• ears pricked and locating sound
• eyes bright and follow movement
• generally aware of surrounding environment
• able to stand and bear weight evenly on all limbs
• may move away on being approached
• bright and alert
• normal behaviour

Normal temperatures at rest are:
• 38.0˚C for horses;
• 38.5˚C for cattle; and</td><td>Animals exhibiting some or all of the following symptoms:
• ears drooped, not moving
• eyes semi-closed, not following movement
• sitting or lying, with head drooped or on the ground
• not interested in surrounding environment
• diarrhea / scour
• abnormal behaviour
• increased breathing and panting
• laboured breathing without any obvious cause
• signs of excessive or unusual discharge from eyes, nose, mouth, vagina or rectum
• dull and depressed</td></tr>
</table>

No.	Topic	Requirements	
		• 39.0˚C for calves, sheep, goats and pigs. These may vary by 0.5˚C up or down and vary during the day. For some of these animals, the stress of measuring the temperature is enough to cause it to rise.	• abnormal temperature
3.	Timely action	The welfare of the animal is paramount. Decisions and interventions must be undertaken in a timely manner, so as to avoid unnecessary pain or distress of the farmed animal. The petfood processing operator should remind the owner that they have obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 if they: • determined an animal is not suitable for petfood (e.g. during initial telephone call from the owner); or • is unable to attend to an animal in a timely manner. The animal must be treated (including veterinary treatment where appropriate) or destroyed humanely, if it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.	
4.	Ante-mortem examination – general	All farmed mammals must be subjected to, and pass, ante-mortem examination in accordance with Clause 8.3 of the AC Spec.	

B. On-farm slaughter for humane reasons

The following table provides the general guidance for the on-farm slaughter for humane reasons, of farmed mammals for petfood.

Table B1: Assessment for on-farm slaughter for humane reasons

No.	Topic	Requirements
1.	General requirements	Comply with **Table A. General requirements**.
2.	Ante-mortem examination – **additional requirements** for animals being slaughtered for humane reasons	When assessing the animal as being generally fit and healthy the ante-mortem examiner should consider whether the suspected condition will affect the animal's suitability for purpose. **Note**: • The resulting animal product is subject to post-mortem examination. The disposition will be affected by the extent of the defect or condition at this examination. • The animal must not be processed into petfood if after post-mortem examination: (a) an animal fails to meet the requirements relating to the suspected condition (e.g. too advanced); or (b) there is reason to suggest the animal is generally ill or suffering from any condition other than those provided for in these requirements.
3.	Specified conditions for slaughter on-farm for humane reasons	**Table B2** - to be eligible for on-farm killing for humane reasons a farmed mammal must have one of the specified conditions described in Table B2 below. **Note**: These specific conditions: • should be read in conjunction with the Petfood Examiner's Reference Manual – Ante-Mortem. This manual provides addition detail including ante-mortem signs; and • would prevent the humane transport of the animal for human consumption. **Note**: The Animal Welfare (Calves) Regulations (5) prohibit the use of blunt force to the head to kill calves except in specific circumstances. A calf must be in severe pain or distress and, as a result, require immediate humane destruction, but there must be no reasonably practicable alternative method of killing available. Refer to the regulations for full details of the requirements.

Table B2: Specified conditions for on-farm slaughter for humane reasons

Conditions	Species	General explanation	Requirements / supporting evidence
Traumatic injury e.g. – broken leg; – dislocated limbs; – mounting causing split pelvis; – fighting injuries.	All	An animal showing recent signs of injury through traumatic event (damage to nerves, bones or the musculo-skeletal system) to a localised region of the body.	**Where an animal is suffering pain and distress, it must be humanely killed as soon as possible. Where:** • the animal exhibits signs of lameness or pain when moving; • there is clear evidence of fracture, dislocation or swelling of the joint. **Note**: in some cases of localised swelling, lameness or pain to the joint, it may not be possible to clearly differentiate between other causes of lameness e.g. infective arthritis. In these cases the animal may be killed on humane grounds and subject to (intensified) post-mortem examination procedures. **Likely ante-mortem signs:** • haemorrhages or injuries, dislocation; • animal may be sitting, but not lying down; • reluctance to move; • lameness; or • soft tissue injuries, bleeding, cuts.
Emaciation	All	An animal that has lost condition, due to a lack of feed, so that it would be inhumane to transport it. This may be due to: • drought; • being snow bound (and potentially suffering from exposure); • starvation; or • nutritional deficiency.	When the body condition score is below those defined in the codes of welfare urgent remedial action must be taken to either improve condition or humanely kill the animal. In the case of drought or snowbound event there is clear evidence that the general procurement area or farm is experiencing either of those events. **Likely ante-mortem signs:** • animal is very thin; or • very weak, reluctant to move. **EXCLUSION:**

Conditions	Species	General explanation	Requirements / supporting evidence
			Animals that have become emaciated through a disease. The disease should be assessed recognising that it has caused emaciation which may change the ante-mortem decision.
Any metabolic disease	All, especially dairy cattle	Cows which are down as a result of a metabolic condition such as milk fever, which have not responded to treatment.	These animals must be specifically assessed as fit for processing into petfood. When making this assessment consideration must be given to any previous history or treatment the animal may have had which would affect its suitability for petfood. This includes any therapeutic treatment given and the diagnostic history of the animal. This assessment must either be undertaken by either: (a) an ante-mortem examiner; or (b) a **practising veterinary clinician** must provide, within the last 36 hours, the supplier with a Veterinary Certificate or Veterinary Practice Docket declaring that in their opinion the animal is fit for processing into petfood. This document must include the following information: i) the owner's name; ii) the cow's ear tag and herd identification number; iii) a statement that the cow shows no evidence of a septic or toxic condition; iv) the fact that the animal is not fit to be transported; v) time of examination; vi) veterinarian's signature and date; and vii) veterinary practice address. The supplier must provide to the petfood primary processor: • the Veterinary Certificate or Veterinary Practice Docket; and • the supplier statement.

Conditions	Species	General explanation	Requirements / supporting evidence
Calving paralysis	Cattle, especially dairy	An animal that shows signs of full or partial paralysis of the hind legs.	• the animal exhibits signs of weakness or paralysis in one or both hind legs and is unable to stand; or • there is a temporal association of pregnancy and calving. **Note:** calving paralysis is caused by damage to the hind leg nerves associated with the calving process. In particular it occurs where the calf is large relative to the size of the pelvis.
Cancer eye (squamous cell carcinoma)	All	Cancer eye, where the size and location of the lesion(s) means, that it is likely to be injured during transport, or associated with mucopurulent discharge (secretion of fluid containing mucus and pus).	There are specific requirements describing those cancer eye lesions that are ineligible for transport. The Petfood Examiner's Reference Manual – Ante-Mortem is another option for those cancer eye cases that have advanced beyond the stage that allows them to be acceptable for transport. However the Petfood Examiner's Reference Manual – Ante-Mortem is not to allow carte blanche acceptance of neglected cancer eye cases to be processed for petfood. **EXCLUSION**: Signs of gross osseus (bony) involvement or a significant systemic involvement would make any such animals ineligible for processing into petfood.
Ingrown horns	All, especially cattle		When the horns are placing pressure on the animal's head and contacting the skin or eye.
Prolapsed uteri (womb) or rectum	Pig, sheep, cattle		Each prolapse should be examined to rule out any condition that may impact on the animal's suitability for processing into petfood e.g. evidence of gangrene. Determine what steps are needed to ensure hygienic processing.

C. Conditions not acceptable for petfood

The following table provides a list of conditions that are not acceptable for petfood. This is not an exhaustive list, so the ante-mortem examiner must always consider whether a condition will make it unacceptable for petfood.

Table C: Conditions not acceptable for petfood for ALL species

No.	Condition	Explanation
1.	General systemic illness, sick, or showing evidence of an infectious disease	As described as not generally fit and healthy in Table B1. These animals should not be held for extended periods and instead should be humanely euthanised as soon as possible.
2.	Diarrhea (enteritis)	Bloody or gangrenous.
3.	Gangrene/Necrosis	Infection and break-down of tissues. Absorption of poisons from affected area can causes paralysis and death. Where the gangrene/necrosis is localized e.g. to the udder the affected tissue can be trimmed and the rest of the carcass acceptable for processing (no sign of systemic involvement from infection or toxin). **Ante-mortem signs of a generalised condition:** • characterised by strong offensive smell; • green/black tissue around infected area; • fever; • animal dull and depressed; • animal down; • may be an associated injury, like muscular or bone injuries, mastitis; • foul-smelling faeces, may be blood; or • animal will be obviously sick. **Note**: could be more than one animal affected, some may be dying or dead.
4.	Salmonellosis	**Ante-mortem signs of a generalised condition** (serious bacterial infection of the intestines): • foul-smelling faeces, may be blood; or • animal will be obviously sick.

No.	Condition	Explanation
		Note: could be more than one animal affected, some may be dying or dead.
5.	Septicaemia	**Ante-mortem signs of a generalised condition** (infection of the circulatory system): • will either be systematically ill or dying; • pin-head haemorrhages on mouth lining may be evident; or • often associated with a disease: enteritis, arthritis, mastitis, abscess.
6.	Toxaemia	**Ante-mortem signs of a generalised condition** (toxins circulating in the blood stream)**:** • will either be systematically ill or dying.