

Draft for Consultation

# Temporary Housing of Companion Animals

Code of Welfare

## **TITLE**

Code of Welfare: Temporary Housing of Companion Animals

## **COMMENCEMENT**

This Code of Welfare comes into force on <please specify>.

## **ISSUING AUTHORITY**

This Code of Welfare: Temporary Housing of Companion Animals is issued by the Minister for Primary Industries, by a notice published in the *Gazette*, under section 75 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, after having complied with the matters specified in section 75(1).

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## Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Code of Welfare, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

## Purpose

The purpose of this code is to provide information to the owners and persons in charge of companion animals in a temporary housing facility about the standards they must achieve in order to meet their obligations under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

This code encourages all those responsible for the welfare of companion animals in a temporary housing facility to adopt the highest standards of husbandry, care and handling, and to equal or exceed the minimum standards.

Adequately maintaining the welfare of companion animals requires experience, training and the observance of high standards. Maintaining adequate standards of welfare can be particularly challenging when animals are housed temporarily, as these situations are often associated with high-density accommodation or isolation from a familiar social structure, and are therefore associated with high levels of stress for the animals involved.

## Background

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 provides for the welfare of animals in New Zealand. It puts obligations on people who own or are in charge of animals to provide for the welfare of their animals.

The Act establishes the fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals and provides for the development and issue of codes of welfare.

Codes of welfare expand on the basic obligations of the Act by setting minimum standards and recommending best practice for the care and management of animals.

## Who should read this Code of Welfare?

This code is intended for all persons responsible for the welfare of animals in a temporary housing facility for companion animals, including animals in boarding establishments, animal welfare centres and pounds, training establishments, quarantine/isolation facilities and pet shops, as described in section 1.1 (Application).

Under the Act the “owner” and every “person in charge” of an animal are responsible for meeting the legal obligations for the welfare of animals under their care. The Act also provides for liability of employers, principles, directors and officers of bodies corporate.

For companion animals in temporary housing facilities, the owner of the animals places them in the care of others who become the persons in charge, but this does not derogate from their responsibility to ensure that the requirements of the Act are met.

## Why is this important?

Failure to meet a minimum standard in this code may be used as evidence to support a prosecution for an offence under the Act. A person who is charged with an offence against the Act can defend him or herself by showing that he or she has equalled or exceeded the minimum standards in this code.

This code includes information and example indicators for each minimum standard. The list of indicators is not exhaustive but is given to provide guidance on ways in which a minimum standard may be met.

The recommendations for best practice in this code have no legal basis and are included to encourage higher standards of animal welfare.

## **Legislative background**

This code does not provide an exhaustive list of the Act's requirements, and owners and those in charge of animals should note that they must comply with the general provisions of the Act. For further information on the Act and the legal effect of codes of welfare, see [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare).

## **Other information**

Other codes of welfare should be consulted where appropriate (see the Ministry for Primary Industries website at: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare)).

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## **Part 1: General Requirements**

### **1.1 Application**

This code applies to all persons responsible for the welfare of animals in a temporary housing facility for companion animals, including animals in boarding establishments, animal welfare centres and pounds, training establishments, quarantine/isolation facilities and pet shops. It does not apply to the temporary housing of animals by their owners, for instance at shows or exhibitions.

For the purposes of this code a temporary housing facility is any facility that receives companion animals which require temporary housing from their usual place of keeping. A temporary housing facility may be owned and managed by a public or private organisation, or by an individual person, a welfare organisation, a government department or a local authority. It may be commercial, non-profit or a charitable organisation.

There are many stressors associated with being housed temporarily. Animals are confronted by new surroundings, change of diet and routine, and separation from familiar people and/or other companions. Most temporary housing facilities also keep animals at a much higher density than is common for more permanent pet homes, increasing the risk of contagious diseases. Maintaining a high standard of animal welfare in a temporary housing facility can be a challenge, and requires particularly strict attention to behavioural needs and hygiene standards.

#### **1.1.1 Temporary Housing Facilities**

A temporary housing facility is not limited to but may carry out one or more of the following services: provide temporary accommodation and care, rehome by either sale or adoption, arrange euthanasia of those animals whose welfare needs cannot otherwise be adequately met, reunite the animal with its owner or provide specific services such as veterinary care or grooming for the animal. Examples of temporary housing facilities include (but are not limited to): boarding establishments; pet shops; animal welfare centres, shelters, and pounds; quarantine/isolation facilities; animal day care centres; grooming establishments; and animal wholesale facilities. While boarding establishments attached to veterinary clinics are covered by this Code, veterinary clinics housing animals under veterinary treatment or supervision are not covered. Note that (stationary) temporary housing facilities used or operated by animal transport companies are included under this Code, but the actual transport of the animals is covered in a separate Code of Welfare.

No matter what the form, size or ethos of a temporary housing facility, its overriding duty is to provide for the welfare of the animals in its care. This takes priority over every other consideration. Whether the establishment is non-profit, charitable or operated for profit is irrelevant, as are the motives of those responsible for its operation.

Each and every temporary housing facility is totally accountable for the standard of care that it provides.

#### **1.1.2 Companion Animals**

The term "companion animal" is an all-encompassing phrase given to an entire spectrum of animals with whom interaction and/or companionship is enjoyed by humans, and where responsible guardianship is established and accepted for the animals' welfare by humans. A companion animal is any animal that lives with humans as a companion and is dependent on humans for its welfare.

This code also applies to stray or unowned animals kept in temporary housing facilities for companion animals, such as stray cats and dogs in pounds and shelters.

## **1.2 Interpretation and definitions**

Refer to Appendix I.

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## Part 2: Responsibilities, Competency and Stockmanship

### Introduction

While this code is based on current knowledge and the technology available at the time of issue, it does not replace the need for experience and common sense in the handling and management of animals. Owners or persons in charge of a temporary housing facility for companion animals need to ensure that their personnel have either the relevant knowledge and training or appropriate supervision to provide for the health and welfare needs of the animals in their care. Personnel, including temporary or contract staff, should either undergo formal training or be trained on the job by experienced supervisors. Personnel should be appropriately instructed in the care and maintenance of animals and how their actions may affect the animals' welfare. Knowledge of the normal appearance and behaviour of animals is essential for recognising early signs of distress or disease so that prompt action is taken or advice sought.

### 2.1 Responsibilities

#### Introduction

When animals are resident in a temporary housing facility the person in charge may change from the legal owner of the animal to the manager of the housing facility. Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, both the owner and the person (or persons) in charge of animals have responsibilities for meeting the animals' needs (see Appendix III: Legislative Requirements). While animal owners may put animals in the care of others for temporary housing, this does not derogate from their responsibilities under the Act. In addition, responsibility may be shared between several people, particularly if the temporary housing involves other related services such as transport or rescue/rehoming.

When there is any question in a legal situation, the responsibilities of the owner(s) and person(s) in charge will always be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, the following provides some general guidance.

Responsibility operates at two levels: the governance and managerial level, and the operational level. At a managerial and governance level, owners or managers of animals are responsible for the general health of the animals and their fitness to deal with the additional stressors associated with being housed in an unfamiliar environment. Those rehoming or selling animals need to ensure animals are in good health or under the supervision of a veterinarian prior to sale or rehoming.

Responsibility for meeting requirements relating to the provision, design and maintenance of facilities and equipment, quality assurance procedures, the allocation of operational responsibilities and the competence and supervision of employee performance, generally lies with the owner or manager of the business or facility. It is recommended in Section 12 Quality Management in this Code, that businesses involved in temporary housing for companion animals develop their own clear guidance on who is responsible for meeting particular parts of this code of welfare, and incorporate this guidance into quality assurance procedures.

At an operational level, those responsible for carrying out particular tasks in the temporary housing facility are likely to be considered the person(s) in charge for the purposes of the Animal Welfare Act and are responsible for ensuring that applicable minimum standards in this code of welfare are met. The 'person in charge' is defined in the Animal Welfare Act as including "a person who has an animal in that person's possession or custody, or under that person's care, control, or supervision". In practice, the identification of the person or persons in charge will depend on the minimum standard in question.



## 2.2 Competency and Stockmanship

### Introduction

The importance of competency and stockmanship in the maintenance of animal welfare cannot be over-emphasised. To ensure that the welfare of all animals in a temporary housing facility is maintained, staff must have access to adequate training and supervision. The skills required to achieve high levels of welfare will be facility and species-specific, but all people handling animals need to be competent in the care and handling of the animals under their care. They also need to be competent in the tasks they are required to undertake, and need to understand how their actions may affect the animals' welfare. Knowledge of the normal appearance, needs and behaviour of animals is essential in order to recognise abnormal situations requiring remedial action or seeking veterinary or other expert advice. Competence may be gained through formal training and/or practical experience.

#### Minimum Standard No. 1 – Competency and Stockmanship

- (a) Animals in temporary housing facilities must be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel, who collectively possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain their health and welfare in accordance with this code.
- (b) Staff must be suitably trained to handle an emergency, e.g. fire evacuation.

#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 1 – Competency and Stockmanship

- Number of personnel is appropriate for the situation (e.g. for the skill level of the personnel, the number of animals, the type of animals, and the type of housing facility)
- Staff training and competence is appropriate for tasks that each staff member is expected to undertake and is documented
- Documentation includes whether staff training or competence covers each of the following areas:
  - ensuring animals are fit for temporary housing and obtaining veterinary certificates where this is required for animals that are otherwise considered unfit
  - planning appropriately for the various tasks associated with housing including appropriate stocking densities, and feed, water and ventilation requirements
  - responsibilities for animals during their stay in the facility
  - species-specific animal behaviour, general signs of distress, and indicators of poor animal welfare such as stress, pain and fatigue, and their management
  - relevant authorities and applicable regulations, and associated documentation requirements;
  - methods of inspecting animals, managing situations frequently encountered during temporary housing and dealing with emergencies
  - species-specific aspects of animal handling and care, including feeding, watering and inspection

#### Recommended Best Practice

The competence of those responsible for animals during their stay in a temporary housing facility should be demonstrated through practical experience or an appropriate certificate from an independent and formally recognised training or professional development body.

## Part 3: Food and Water

### 3.1 Food and Feeding

#### Introduction

Temporary housing facilities need to meet the nutritional and metabolic needs of all animals in their care. This may include animals from a range of species, ages and states of health, and animals with an unknown history. Given the considerable variation that occurs between species and between individual animals, food and nutrient requirements will vary widely. Therefore, it is not appropriate to specify, as minimum standards, a complete range of the quantities of food and nutrients required for each species and type of animal that might be housed temporarily.

Food needs to be adequate in quality and quantity and a range of factors need to be taken into account, including characteristics of the animals (i.e. species, physiological state, age, sex, size, state of general health and development, and level of activity and exercise) and the food (i.e. its nutritional composition and feeding frequency). Careful consideration also needs to be given to the animal's normal diet, previous foods and feeding levels and any potential periods of food deprivation (e.g. during transportation).

#### Minimum Standard No. 2 – Food and Feeding

- (a) Animals must receive adequate food and nutrients relative to their species to enable each animal to:
- (i) maintain good health; and
  - (ii) meet its physiological demands, including those resulting from pregnancy, lactation, growth, exercise and exposure to cold; and
  - (iii) avoid metabolic and nutritional disorders.

#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 2 – Food and Feeding

- Nutritionally balanced diets appropriate for the species, age and physiological status of the animals held within the facility are available
- A reserve supply of feed and water is maintained on site, sufficient for the maximum facility capacity for at least 72 hours in case of an emergency
- Animals are given sufficient daily feed to maintain appropriate body condition
- Records of monitoring of body weights or body condition scores while in temporary housing facility are documented
- Dung/manure appearance is "normal" i.e. no evidence of diarrhoea, constipation, blood etc
- Staff understand that they must quickly identify any animal that is not eating while in the temporary housing facilities and take steps to remedy the problem
- Staff understand and ensure that they quickly identify, seek advice on and remedy any nutritional deficiencies and metabolic diseases
- Food is stored appropriately, with dry food in a rodent-proof container and perishable food (i.e. meat) in a refrigerator
- Food is free from harmful objects that could cause intestinal problems (e.g. plastic, metal, wool)

#### Recommended Best Practice

- a) Processed food should be obtained from reputable manufacturers or suppliers.
- b) The temporary housing facility should be able to feed special diets, especially when required for medical reasons.

- c) Changes in diet can cause scouring, as can certain foods. Care should be taken to avoid this and therefore all staff should be made aware of causes.
- d) Bones should be fed with care to avoid aggression between animals, and to avoid digestive problems.
- e) Veterinary or expert guidance should be sought on nutritional needs for every species held in a temporary housing facility.

## General Information

Good quality, complete and balanced commercial foods are available for most species. These foods generally provide all the nutrients required for optimal health. Most commercially available foods provide a guide to the quantity to be fed. It should be kept in mind that individual variation means that recommended amounts will not always be appropriate, so bodyweight and condition should be carefully monitored. Not all foods provide all the elements required to maintain good health. Particular care needs to be taken with 'home-made' diets.

Codes of welfare contain requirements and specific information for individual species, including cats, dogs, and horses and donkeys. There are several animal societies that produce specific guidance, including for rodents, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.

Diseased animals may have a suppressed appetite, leading to reduced nutrition, and other animals may have special dietary needs. If there is any doubt concerning an appropriate feeding regime for animals, independent advice should be sought from those recognised as experts in the field of animal nutrition specific to the species concerned (e.g. veterinarians, veterinary nurses, and manufacturers).

## 3.2 Food Preparation

### Introduction

Good hygiene standards are essential to minimise the incidence of disease in animals.

<b>Minimum Standard No. 3 – Food Preparation</b>
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Food and water bowls or bottles must be kept clean of contamination that may pose a threat to the health or welfare of the animal.
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### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 3 – Food Preparation

- Food and water bowls or bottles are clean
- Protocols for regular washing of utensils are documented

### Recommended Best Practice

- a) Water bowls or bottles should be washed daily.
- b) Food bowls should be washed with hot soapy water or antibacterial agent and then rinsed and dried after each feed.
- c) Food leftovers should not be re-offered, and all food scraps should be removed and disposed of.
- d) Feeding bowls should ideally be made of stainless steel.
- e) Food should be prepared hygienically in a separate area away from the animals and should be stored appropriately in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
- f) Food storage areas should be able to hold a minimum of five days' requirements under peak conditions.
- g) Hot and cold water should be available in sufficient quantities to enable the area and feeding utensils to be thoroughly cleaned.

- h) Containers should be of easily cleanable shapes and made of durable material. They should be rinsed and dried in a manner that will not spread infectious diseases (e.g. air-drying or with a disposable paper towel). Care should be taken to clean around food containers daily to remove small pieces of discarded food that may harbour saliva and infectious agents.

## 3.3 Water

### Introduction

Water is an essential daily requirement for the proper functioning of the whole body, and accordingly a suitable container of fresh water should be available at all times.

<b>Minimum Standard No. 4 - Water</b>
Animals must have continuous access to clean and fresh water that is palatable, not harmful to health and available in sufficient quantities to meet their needs.

### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 4 - Water

- Palatable water is available at all times within enclosures
- Animals do not show signs of dehydration
- Water that is not from a domestic supply is tested for contaminants
- Water bowls/troughs are clean and there is documented evidence of regular checks for contamination

### General Information

Water is an essential requirement for proper bodily function. It is particularly important for dogs because their main method of losing heat is evaporation of saliva from the tongue when panting. During hot temperatures, animals require more water.

The water intake of animals will vary among species. While all animals must be provided with access to water daily, requirements will be modified by the water content of the food provided. Animals eating dry food will require more water than those eating canned food or pet rolls.

It should be noted that dehydration can become a serious problem for animals (especially young animals) when diarrhoea or other conditions occur that cause excessive fluid loss from the body.

Equally, if an increase in thirst occurs, this may indicate a serious medical condition such as kidney damage or diabetes, in which case veterinary attention should be sought.

Milk is neither essential nor a substitute for water, and is not recommended for adult animals. After weaning, many animals (particularly cats and chinchillas) lose the ability to digest milk, resulting in possible diarrhoea.

## Part 4: Health

### Introduction

The nature of temporary housing facilities, where animals with variable or unknown disease or immune status and socialisation may be brought together, introduces the potential to create conditions for disease transmission, as well as for high levels of stress amongst the facility population.

### 4.1 Health Assessment on Admittance

#### Introduction

It is important that the health, welfare and socialisation status of each animal be established on its admittance to a temporary housing facility.

Such assessment should encompass any special requirements requested by the owner or person in charge or veterinary instructions, including administration of medication, feeding of special diets, bathing, grooming, and isolation of any animal that has medical or behavioural conditions or issues that affect itself, other animals or the ability of staff to care for the animal appropriately, and that would benefit from isolation.

#### Minimum Standard No. 5 – Assessment on Admittance

- (a) Every animal, on admittance to a temporary housing facility must be assessed for overt symptoms of health or behavioural problems by an experienced or qualified person.
- (b) Any incoming animal identified as requiring urgent veterinary treatment must be immediately referred back to the owner or receive prompt veterinary attention.
- (c) Any incoming animal suspected of having an infectious disease must be isolated on arrival.
- (d) Any animal that is assessed as being aggressive, either towards people or other animals, must be housed so as to minimise risk to staff and other animals.

#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 5 – Assessment on Admittance

- Staff demonstrate experience in the species relevant to the facility
- Animals in the facility show no signs of ill health unless under treatment and appropriately isolated
- Animals that show symptoms of contagious disease are placed in quarantine for observation and veterinary treatment if appropriate
- A health record is documented for every animal in the housing facility, and contains details of a general health assessment on entry by an experienced person
- Details of any health issues and veterinary treatment are documented on the health record
- Details of any behavioural issues that may put the animal, other animals or staff at risk of injury are identified on its record and are displayed to staff in an appropriate position to prevent injury

### 4.2 General Health within the Facility

#### Introduction

Health and welfare are closely associated, and persons in charge are responsible for the health of animals in their care. Those responsible for the care of animals in temporary housing facilities have a responsibility to identify signs of good health, ill health and injury, and to maintain the health and welfare of animals in their care.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 6 – General Health**

- (a) Animals in a temporary housing facility must be visually assessed for signs of ill health or injury at least once a day.
- (b) Animals which are observed to be showing:
  - (i) signs of pain, suffering or distress; or
  - (ii) signs of continuous ill health; or
  - (iii) signs of rapidly deteriorating healthmust urgently receive veterinary attention or be brought to the attention of an animal welfare inspector under the Act (e.g. an SPCA inspector) or, if required, be humanely euthanased in accordance with the Act.
- (c) Animals must be groomed as appropriate to each species.

#### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 6 – General Health**

- There is evidence that staff are trained and possess the knowledge and competence to recognise ill-health and injury in the relevant species and to undertake prompt action and treatment as necessary
- No sick or injured animals are left untreated
- There is documented evidence that a veterinarian is consulted when a significant animal health problem persists and any animal that fails to respond to treatment is humanely destroyed
- Daily inspections and remedial outcomes are documented
- No animals exhibit pain or distress due to matting of hair or to overgrowth of claws, horns, teeth or beaks
- Animal health records show that all animal remedies have been used appropriately
- An animal first aid kit is kept on site and all staff are aware of the contents of the kit, demonstrate knowledge of how to treat a minor injury and of when veterinary assistance is required

#### **Recommended Best Practice**

- a) Every effort should be made to contact the person in charge if there is any concern about the health of an animal. If it is not possible to contact the person in charge, veterinary attention should immediately be sought.
- b) All staff should have a basic knowledge in health assessment.
- c) Each temporary housing facility should have an arrangement with a veterinarian or veterinary clinic whereby a veterinarian is available on an emergency response 24-hour basis. An animal with a problem of a non-urgent nature should be seen by a veterinarian within 12 - 24 hours of it being noticed
- d) In the event of any health problem, records (including signs of ill health and veterinary records) should be retained and passed to the person in charge.
- e) Medication prescribed for a specific animal should not be given to another animal.

## **4.3 Contagious Diseases**

### **Introduction**

All temporary housing facilities are considered high-risk situations for the spread of contagious diseases, many of which can be minimised through preventative action such as vaccination and parasite treatments.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 7 – Contagious Diseases**

- (a) Dogs and cats entering a temporary housing facility must

- (i) be fully vaccinated based on best practice veterinary advice or to the requirements of the particular temporary housing facility; or
- (ii) be kept in isolation until their immune status has been established, if appropriate.
- (b) Vaccination certificates must accompany each relevant animal entering a temporary housing facility stating clearly the full details of the veterinarian and the veterinary clinic including the veterinarian's signature.
- (c) Vaccination certificates must show the date on which the vaccine was administered and the recommended date(s) for revaccination.
- (d) Staff must be trained to recognise the early signs of a disease outbreak.
- (e) Any animal suspected of carrying a contagious disease must be immediately isolated and treated appropriately.

#### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 7 – Contagious Diseases**

- An appropriate vaccination history is held for all animals for which vaccination is relevant
- No animals in the main part of the facility show signs of contagious disease
- Animals that are suspected of carrying a contagious disease are placed in quarantine for observation and/or veterinary treatment
- If a disease outbreak is suspected, intervention is documented

## **4.4 Joint Facilities**

Where boarding kennels are used by a local authority as a pound or animal welfare centre, the facility to house the pound or animal welfare centre should be physically separated by a sufficient distance to minimise the spread of disease to boarded animals. It is preferable that separate staff be available for each business. If this is not possible, boarded animals should be attended to first and a change of outer garments and footwear should be undertaken. Particular attention should be given to human hygiene to reduce disease transmission, and facilities for hand washing should be readily available.

## Part 5: Providing for Behavioural Needs

### Introduction

Understanding an animal's behavioural needs is essential for the maintenance of their welfare, particularly in higher-density temporary housing. Behavioural needs will vary with each species, so it is important for managers of temporary housing facilities to have a comprehensive understanding of the specific needs of the animal under their care. Nevertheless, the need for exercise, rest and sleep is applicable for all species. Many temporary housing situations are quite restrictive. In these situations, animals need to be allowed to adapt and need to be managed appropriately in facilities that are designed and constructed with the well-being of the animals in mind.

#### Minimum Standard No. 8 – Providing for Behavioural Needs

- (a) Animals in temporary housing facilities must have sufficient space to socialise, rest, sleep, stand, stretch, swim, fly or move freely about (as appropriate to the species).
- (b) Where animals are housed or exercised communally, care must be taken to manage groups to avoid aggressive interaction
- (c) Housing must provide the means for animals to shelter and sleep.
- (d) Adequate dry, clean, species appropriate bedding must be used for non-aquatic species at all times.
- (e) Housing must provide the means for animals to meet species-specific needs.
- (f) Electronic training devices must only be used with the written consent of the owner and under the supervision of qualified and experienced persons and must not be used in a way that compromises the welfare of the animal.

#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 8 – Providing for Behavioural Needs

- Facilities are designed and managed so that animals can move about freely and carry out normal behaviours
- There are no injuries or deaths through housing aggressive individuals or species together.
- Normal free movement and access to feed and water is not impeded by space restrictions or excessive competition
- Dogs are not housed permanently in night boxes
- Housing provides appropriate means for animals to meet species-specific needs, including, as appropriate, access to a source of UV light for reptiles, access to water of sufficient depth and quality for aquatic and semi-aquatic animals, access to a dry area for semi-aquatic species, and access to dust baths (chinchillas)
- Bedding or nesting material is provided where this is a species specific need, including for rodents and rabbits
- All animals are provided with a bedding or nesting area for shelter and/or sleeping
- Animals kept in shop windows at night are hidden from public view
- Animal enclosures are protected from excessive light at night, even if it is generated from outside the premises
- Animals can withdraw to a sleeping area that is appropriate for their species, in order to sleep for the time required for that species

#### Recommended Best Practice

- a) Accommodation should aim to promote normal behaviour and to reduce boredom, aggression and stereotypic behaviour.
- b) Mammals should have supervised and/or safe, predator-proof access to exercise out of their enclosure on a daily basis, to prevent behavioural problems.
- c) Different species should be housed separately at all times, except for compatible individuals.



- d) Species-appropriate enrichment toys should be provided.

## General Information

Animals in temporary housing facilities may have their normal behaviour restricted by their environment and/or their management. In such circumstances, provision for the animals to remain physically active and psychologically stimulated is crucial to their health and well-being. Behavioural restriction can lead to boredom and frustration, and animals may display abnormal behaviour patterns or stereotypic behaviour. This may include excessive grooming, repetitive pacing, jumping, circling, vocalisation, paw-lifting or self-mutilation.

Environmental enrichment can be beneficial. It may include:

- Adding partitions to provide separate areas of interest (e.g. climbing and scratching poles for cats)
- Addition of objects, such as toys, grips, platforms or perches. These play items should be regularly sterilised to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and periodically changed to provide variation in stimuli
- Social contact with staff (e.g. interaction, exercise, training, grooming and handling)
- Provision of adequate opportunity for exercise
- Appropriate cover for fish (species appropriate)

While each species of animal has the same set of innate behaviours, they have different thresholds at which they are stimulated to exhibit such behaviours. If a behavioural problem does occur, it is important to seek advice from a suitably qualified person. The earlier the behavioural problem is addressed, the greater the chance of correcting it.

Temperament evaluation or assessment of animals is particularly important as part of behavioural assessment in evaluating companion animals in care. Temporary housing facilities (e.g. boarding establishments) should seek information from animals' owners as to whether there are any existing behavioural problems in their animals.

## Part 6: Housing

### 6.1 Housing Design and Construction

#### Introduction

A temporary housing facility must be designed, constructed, serviced and maintained in a way that ensures the good health and well-being of the animals, while also preventing escape of animals and injury to animals. Housing should provide protection from weather (wind, rain, sun and extremes of climate), vermin and harassment by other animals. When temporary housing facilities are being constructed or renovated, professional advice should be sought from people who have experience in building animal facilities. Local authority building regulations need to be adhered to.

Each animal species held within the facility has special needs and requirements that should be taken into account when designing and constructing facilities to hold, display and separate animals.

#### Minimum Standard No. 9 – Housing Design and Construction

- (a) Housing systems and equipment, including shelters used outside and mechanical equipment, must be designed, constructed and maintained to avoid injury, disease or harm to animals and to meet their physical, health and behavioural needs as appropriate for the animals and species.
- (b) All enclosures must be secure, and unable to be opened by animal occupants and/or accessed by unauthorised persons or other animals. Where fencing is used to contain animals, it must be fixed to the ground and constructed at an appropriate height so that animals cannot escape.
- (c) Housing systems must be sited to facilitate drainage of storm water away from buildings and to minimise risks posed by natural and environmental hazards.
- (d) Measures must be taken to control pests in and around housing and shelters.
- (e) Controlled environment housing must have alarms that warn of power failure and/or significant temperature variance.
- (f) Terrestrial animals must be able to urinate and defecate away from sleeping and feeding areas.
- (g) The design, size and maintenance of the openings and doors of housing systems must be such that animals can be placed in or removed from them without injury or distress.
- (h) Sufficient perches of varying diameter, roosting areas, and feed and water stations should be provided to meet the needs of all the birds in a cage or aviary.

#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 9 – Housing Design and Construction

- The design and construction of facilities allows animals to move around comfortably, without risk of injury
- There are no hazards and no equipment upon which animals may injure themselves in areas to which they have access
- All animals can be inspected with ease (i.e. there is good access to all animals and sufficient lighting)
- Provisions are in place to control personnel accessing the premises
- Pest control is implemented and documented
- Environmental parameters of the housing system are in accordance with the minimum standards for Lighting, Ventilation, and Temperature
- Operation of equipment is monitored daily and corrective action is taken promptly and documented.
- Emergency management plan outlines actions to take in event of power failure
- Cage and aquarium units are secured to prevent toppling

- Housing is appropriate for the species
- Swimming areas for reptiles are species appropriate

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- a) Special consideration should be given to the design of housing facilities for entire animals, to prevent stress and unwanted breeding.
- b) Adequate dry, clean bedding (preferably raised off the ground) should be used at all times.
- c) Kennels should be separated by solid partitions (walls) or solid and wire dividers (walls with wire dividers), and should be constructed so that the animals cannot have physical or visual contact with each other.
- d) All outside entrances should be double-door "mantraps". This entails having sufficient space between the doors, allowing one door to be closed behind the person entering before the next door is opened, thereby preventing animals from escaping.
- e) Emergency warning devices (including smoke alarms, fire detectors, fire extinguishers, emergency telephone numbers and exits) should be clearly marked and maintained.
- f) Emergency evacuation procedures (in case of fire or flooding) should be in place and be subject to annual simulated evacuation. Staff should be well acquainted with procedures.

### **General Information**

Other codes of welfare in existence or under development provide minimum standards and recommendations for best practice with respect to the housing of many companion animals. These should be consulted where appropriate (the Ministry for Primary Industries website at [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare)). Industry participants are also encouraged to prepare a Code of Practice that gives more detailed suggestions on species-specific housing requirements.

## Part 7: Facility Management

### 7.1 Temperature

#### Introduction

Temperature requirements for various species vary considerably and must be managed accordingly. Young animals and aquatic species have limited ability to maintain adequate body temperatures and thus additional heat input is required to maintain the temperature within an acceptable range for these animals.

<b>Minimum Standard No. 10 - Temperature</b>
(a) Temperatures must be maintained at a level that provides for the health and welfare of the animals, as appropriate to the species. (b) A thermometer must be installed in areas best suited to monitor temperature changes. (c) Immediate remedial action must be taken when animals show signs of being too cold or too hot.



#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 10 - Temperature

- Temperature at the level of the animals is monitored and within the temperature range that is appropriate for the species
- Corrective action is taken if signs of stress are observed during daily inspection.
- Temperature and animal behaviour are monitored more frequently when ambient temperatures are extreme and corrective action is taken if required
- Staff are trained to manage the ventilation and temperature regulation equipment to keep the environmental conditions within the appropriate range for the animal
- No animals show signs of thermal stress
- Contingency plans are in place for dealing with any problems with the ventilation or temperature control systems e.g. spare parts for equipment are available on site

#### Recommended Best Practice

- a) Multiple thermometers should be used in individual reptile enclosures to monitor various zones of temperature.
- b) Special care should be given to animals in enclosures in close proximity to windows where sunlight can result in higher temperatures.
- c) Optimal body temperatures for reptiles should be accommodated by the creation of a thermal gradient throughout the enclosure for reptiles.
- d) Care should be taken when using heat lamps and devices. These should be stable and inaccessible to the animal, and the animal should be able to move in and out of the heat.

### 7.2 Lighting

<b>Minimum Standard No. 11 – Lighting</b>
(a) Animals must be provided with natural or artificial light of appropriate intensity for a duration appropriate for their species. (b) Natural light (not filtered by glass or plastic) or artificial UV lighting must be provided to reptiles. (c) Lighting should be available and sufficient to enable thorough inspection of all animals and housing areas.

## Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 11 - Lighting

- Light control systems are working and are well maintained
- Light levels during inspection are sufficient to ensure that all animals in all parts of the facility are clearly visible
- There are no injuries caused by low light intensity

## Recommended Best Practice

- a) The duration and intensity of internal lighting should be as close as possible to natural conditions.
- b) Care should be taken to ensure that lights do not cause excessive heat for the animals.
- c) Lighting should be installed safely and securely, and be inaccessible to animals.
- d) Where UV lighting is used, bulbs should be changed regularly to retain UV rays.

## 7.3 Environmental Air and Water Quality

### Introduction

For non-aquatic species, ventilation provides fresh air and removes stale, contaminated air. It assists in the control of temperature and humidity, and reduces the build-up of noxious gases (e.g. ammonia, methane, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide), dust and other airborne particles. The accumulation of water vapour, heat, noxious gases and dust particles may cause discomfort or distress to animals and predispose them to the development of health problems.

Humidity is determined by both external ambient conditions and factors within the facility such as stocking density, ventilation rate, indoor temperature, functioning of technical equipment and litter quality (where this is relevant). Roofs should be insulated to reduce condensation. In controlled environment housing, good insulation of the walls and floor in addition can assist with achieving good air quality and temperature control.

Dust is a particularly harmful air contaminant for birds, particularly in combination with ammonia and other gases. It may directly damage the respiratory tracts and also act in the transmission of infectious agents.

Aquatic and semi-aquatic species are reliant upon water in an appropriate quantity and quality to meet their behavioural and physiological needs.

### Minimum Standard No. 12 – Air and Water Quality

- (a) For non-aquatic species
  - (i) Ventilation of the housing facility must be sufficient to prevent the build-up of heat, humidity, dust or noxious gases to levels that are harmful to animal health or that cause pain or distress to animals.
  - (ii) Immediate remedial action must be taken if ammonia levels greater than 20 ppm are detected at animal level, or if animals exhibit signs of heat stress, respiratory distress or distress from humidity, dust or noxious gases.
- (b) For aquatic species
  - (i) All fish tanks and goldfish bowls must have a filtration system that is adequate for the species and population densities, and effective at all times.
  - (ii) All aquariums must have a water volume of 4 litres or greater, regardless of the species or number of fish kept in them.
  - (iii) Water chemistry should be checked regularly, and appropriate measures taken to correct any imbalances.

## Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 12 – Air and Water Quality

- Animals do not display any signs of discomfort, distress or disease due to poor air or water quality
- Animals do not have any eye or nasal irritation indicative of ammonia level over 20 ppm or other air quality problems
- All fish tanks/bowls have a filtration system

## Recommended Best Practice

- a) For non-aquatic species
  - i) Air quality parameters, such as ammonia levels, should be monitored and recorded on a weekly basis.
  - ii) An extraction fan system should be provided where birds are housed, to remove as much feather, dander and dust as possible from the premises.
- b) For aquatic species
  - i) Water changes should be adequate to maintain good water quality in relation to population density. Replacing 25% of the water in the aquarium each fortnight is the normal minimum requirement using water of appropriate quality.
  - ii) Filtration equipment should be adequate for the species and population densities, and effective at all times.
  - iii) Any dead aquatic animal should be disposed of in a manner that will not be the cause of a disease being filtered into natural waterways.

## 7.4 Hygiene

### Introduction

Good hygiene standards are essential to enhance animal welfare and minimise disease. Cleaning and disinfecting agents should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness. It is essential to follow label instructions, since a solution that is too weak may be ineffective and solution that is too concentrated may be toxic to animals. Birds, reptiles and amphibians in particular have extremely sensitive respiratory systems, which can be severely damaged by some cleaning products and air fresheners.

### Minimum Standard No. 13 - Hygiene

- (a) Animal housing and exercise areas must be cleaned so that the comfort of animals can be maintained.
- (b) Before new animals are introduced, vacant enclosures (except aquariums) must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- (c) All waste (including faeces, litter material and food waste) must be removed at least once a day to prevent contamination that may pose a threat to the health and welfare of the animal.
- (d) Dead animals must be removed and disposed of promptly in accordance with the requirements of local authorities.
- (e) Premises and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned following a disease outbreak to prevent the carryover of disease-causing organisms to incoming animals.

## Recommended Best Practice

- a) Faeces should be removed from housing and exercise areas as soon as it is observed, in order to prevent possible contamination.
- b) After cleaning, animal housing areas should be rinsed and left as dry as possible prior to animals being returned to them.

- c) As some pesticides (e.g. rodent poisons) and some herbicides are toxic to companion animals, they should be used with extreme caution. All animals should be completely excluded from that part of the facility until the poison programme is complete.
- d) Sufficient numbers of litter trays should be provided and cleaned regularly as appropriate to the species.
- e) Phenol and products containing phenol are highly toxic to cats and chinchillas, and should not be used.
- f) Animal housing and exercise areas should be cleaned daily and disinfected regularly, and before new animals are introduced.
- g) After cleaning, animal housing areas should not be allowed to remain wet.

## 7.5 Quarantine/Isolation Management

### Introduction

Maintenance of the health of animals in a temporary housing facility requires a policy to limit the importation and spread of disease. To avoid injury and to promote disease control, isolation or segregation of incoming animals for a period of time is necessary.

<b>Minimum Standard No. 14 – Quarantine/Isolation Management</b>
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Suitable quarantine/isolation facilities must be immediately available, and must be used when any animal is suspected of carrying a contagious disease.
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### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 14 – Quarantine/Isolation Management

- A facility is available which will adequately isolate animals suspected of, or known to be, carrying an infectious disease from healthy animals

### Recommended Best Practice

- a) 10% of the carrying capacity of the temporary housing facility should be suitable for use as a quarantine/isolation area and be available at all times.
- b) A quarantine/isolation area should ideally be a separate building located away from the main accommodation buildings.
- c) If a separate building is not possible, access to and from the quarantine/isolation area should be separate from other entry/exit points used by other animals.
- d) The quarantine/isolation area should have its own drainage, ventilation and water supply systems.
- e) Suitable overgarments and footwear should be available at entry/exit points, and should be worn while inside the quarantine/isolation area.
- f) There should be provision for all equipment used within the quarantine/isolation area (e.g. food bowls, waste buckets, carry cages, towels, brushes, leads, nets) to remain in the quarantine/isolation area or be disinfected before leaving the area.
- g) Appropriate footbaths/pads and hand washing facilities should be used at all entry/exit points or disposable shoe coverings worn or footwear kept in the quarantine/isolation area.

## Part 8: Sale or Rehoming

### Introduction

Some temporary housing facilities that receive displaced animals, whose owners cannot be traced, make these animals available for sale or rehoming. For others, the sale of animals is their core business. In either case, the welfare of the animals is paramount, and those making animals available for sale or rehoming need to ensure that such animals are suitable for purpose, and that their new owners have the knowledge and facilities to care for them appropriately. It is also an offence under the Animal Welfare Act to sell, attempt to sell, or offer for sale, an animal that is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

#### Minimum Standard No. 15 – Sale or Rehoming

- (a) Animals that are suspected or known to be sick, injured or diseased must not be sold or rehomed without full disclosure to and acceptance by the new owner.
- (b) All potential hereditary problems must be communicated to the new owner.
- (c) Individual animals with known hereditary problems must not knowingly be sold or rehomed without full disclosure to and acceptance by the new owner.
- (d) Animals must not be made available if temperament evaluation indicates a lack of suitability for sale or rehoming.
- (e) Young animals must be fully independent prior to sale or rehoming except under circumstances where the mother is unable to provide the necessary care and specific provisions have been made for a competent person to provide full care for nutritionally dependent young.
- (f) Animals for which vaccination is possible must be partially or fully vaccinated prior to sale or rehoming, with appropriate certification provided.
- (g) Animals of appropriate species must be treated for internal and external parasites prior to sale or rehoming.
- (h) All animals being sold or rehomed from a pound or animal welfare centre must be desexed if they are of a species and an age for which such procedures are routine.
- (i) Dogs must be microchipped prior to sale or rehoming.

#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 15 – Sale or rehoming of sick, injured or diseased animals

- Facility policy documents specify the following:
  - Criteria to be considered when selecting a new owner, including a minimum age
  - Breed-specific potential hereditary problems are disclosed to new owners
  - Records of disclosure documents, signed by the new owner and detailing the illness, injury or hereditary status of an animal sold or rehomed, are maintained
  - Records of temperament evaluation of an animal sold or rehomed are maintained
- Except in the circumstances detailed above, animals offered for sale or rehoming are no less than:

– Dogs, cats and rabbits	8 weeks
– Guinea pigs	6 weeks
– Mice and rats	4 weeks
– Chinchillas	10 weeks
- Vaccination, parasite treatment and desexing records are maintained
- Animals are not returned to the facility because of health, temperament or behavioural problems



### **Recommended Best Practice**

- a) Vaccination certificates completed by a veterinarian and provided to the new owner should record the due date of any repeat vaccination requirements and clearly identify the owner and the animal.
- b) New owners should be given appropriate literature on the care of the animal for example on feeding, desexing, parasite control, health (including procedures for emergency treatment), housing, and responsible companion animal ownership including current legislation covering the registration of companion animals.
- c) New owners should be encouraged to seek advice about problems with their companion animal from a veterinarian and other people with proven experience in animal care and management.
- d) Animals should not be released for sale or rehoming if there is any doubt about the ability of the potential owner to care for them appropriately.
- e) Cats should be microchipped prior to sale or rehoming.
- f) Animals that are aggressive, antisocial or pregnant, and animals with known vices such as excessive barking or fence jumping (dogs), should not be made available for sale or rehoming.

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## **Part 9: Transportation**

The Act requires that any person in charge of a vehicle must ensure that any animal carried in that vehicle is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation, and its welfare is attended to. It is an offence to confine or transport an animal in manner or position that causes unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress, and animals must be healthy and in a fit condition for transport.

The Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare applies to the transport of all species of animal, including those covered by this code. This is particularly relevant for animals being held prior to or after transport, and for animals transported as part of a service provided by a temporary housing facility (such as transport to or from shelters or daycare centres).

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## Part 10: Euthanasia

### Introduction

The Animal Welfare Act requires owners and persons in charge of animals to ensure, where practicable, that animals receive treatment that alleviates any unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal. Sometimes this involves euthanasia. Euthanasia is the induction of a painless and rapid death, and should be performed so as to ensure minimal suffering of the animal, preferably by a veterinarian. It is an offence under the Act to kill any animal in such a manner that it suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress (see Appendix II, "Legislative Requirements", to this code).

Euthanasia in temporarily housed animals may be necessary where treatment to restore the health of an animal is impractical or unsuccessful, where efforts to rehome have failed or where rehoming is inappropriate.

Temporary housing facilities need to be aware of their legal obligations relating to the euthanasia of owned and unowned animals under the Animal Welfare Act, before euthanasing any animal. There are particular obligations relating to animal welfare inspectors and approved organisations.

#### Minimum Standard No. 16 - Euthanasia

- (a) When an animal is euthanased, this must be carried out in such a way as to ensure rapid death that is confirmed by inspection.
- (b) Animals must not be killed by drowning or freezing.

#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 16 - Euthanasia

- A documented protocol is in place that ensures:
  - Animals are euthanased by methods prescribed in relevant codes of welfare or in relevant, accepted guidelines
  - Persons undertaking humane killing or euthanasia are appropriately trained
  - Death is confirmed following the procedure in a manner appropriate to the species
- Full and comprehensive records outlining the procedures and findings following necropsy of any animal that dies or has to be euthanased are available and held for a minimum of 2 years after the event

#### Recommended Best Practice

- a) Animals should be euthanased by a veterinarian or, where they are clearly suffering extreme and unacceptable pain and a veterinarian is not immediately available, by a warranted inspector under the Act (e.g. animal welfare inspector).
- b) In boarding establishments, if euthanasia is required or an animal dies then a necropsy must be undertaken to ascertain the reason or cause of death and a report provided to the animal's owner.

#### General Information

The Act provides for the euthanasia of a severely injured or sick animal by a veterinarian, without the permission of the owner, where delay in finding the owner would cause unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress to the animal. A warranted inspector or auxiliary officer under the Act (e.g. an SPCA inspector or auxiliary officer) may also perform this task; however, it is preferable that euthanasia be performed by a veterinarian if immediately available. This issue can be extremely complicated and facility operators should seek legal advice in the development of their euthanasia procedures to avoid problems.

A set of guidelines on acceptable methods for a range of species is available from the American Veterinary Medical Association ([www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)). Otherwise, veterinary or species expert advice can be sought.

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## Part 11: Quality Management

### Introduction

Welfare assurance or quality management schemes that detail how minimum standards will be achieved provide assurance to consumers and organisations responsible for auditing compliance that a strong emphasis is being placed on the welfare of animals. They can also help in the development of industry-wide policies on animal welfare and the improvement of animal welfare through a commitment to further developing and implementing industry best practice. Individual facilities may operate under their own quality management scheme, or under those of an external provider. Good quality management schemes evolve as new animal welfare information comes to light and the industry matures, and may cover the following features, alongside other matters such as staff management or customer services that are not directly related to the welfare of the animals:

- general requirements for the design and maintenance of temporary housing facilities specific to the species involved
- staff responsibilities, roles and training
- operating procedures for routine tasks including admittance, rehoming or sale, communal housing, transportation, isolation, provision of medication and veterinary care, euthanasia and emergencies
- system and frequency for monitoring facilities and equipment and rectifying problems
- system and frequency for monitoring animals, including the early detection of problems, and remedial action
- procedures for contacting animal owners in the event of incidents or emergencies
- procedures for recording and investigating incidents and deaths
- procedures for improving on the basis of past problems

If the scheme is to be externally audited, it can include information on criteria to be checked, the frequency of inspection and by whom, and action to be taken if the facility does not operate according to the requirements of the programme.

<b>Minimum Standard No. 17 – Quality Management</b>
Temporary housing facilities for companion animals must be managed under a documented quality management scheme that assures compliance with this code.

### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 17 - Quality Assurance

- The quality assurance documentation contains information on routine management procedures in the facility and provides for all incidents resulting in significant sickness, injury or death of animals to be investigated and documented
- The quality assurance scheme meets requirements specified for quality assurance throughout this code of welfare

### Recommended Best Practice

- a) The documented programme should be independently verified using performance-based audits on a regular basis. Where the results of an investigation may have implications for current industry management practices, a report outlining the incident and implications should be forwarded to the appropriate industry body for consideration.
- b) The quality assurance system should require continual review of existing systems, procedures and training schedules that could enhance the welfare of animals in temporary housing facilities

### General Information

Operators may find it helpful to adopt or adapt an industry-generic quality assurance programme. Such an approach could facilitate the development of industry-led standards on such details as code-compliant minimum enclosure size or special considerations for the welfare of animals currently not covered by a detailed companion animal code. While the quality assurance programme should be based on the general principles of Standard AS/NZ 9001 or similar, it is not essential that the quality assurance programme be certified under the JASANZ (Joint Accreditation Standards for Australia and New Zealand) certification scheme.

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## Appendix I – Interpretation and definitions

### Act

The Animal Welfare Act 1999.

### animal

As defined in the Act:

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

### animal day care centre

An establishment that caters to animals (usually dogs) during daytime hours in the owner's absence.

### animal establishment

As defined in the Act: “a place at which animals are used or held in the charge of any person, and which has, as its principal purpose, the using or holding of animals for display, sport, entertainment, temporary care, sale, conservation, scientific study, or other activity.”

### animal show

A gathering of animals and their owners/handlers for the purpose of exhibition, judging and/or interaction with others.

### animal welfare organisation

A registered organisation or group of individuals who attend to the welfare of animals in need, often in a voluntary capacity.

### aquarium

A container for the holding of live fish and other aquatic animals. Includes ponds, tanks and vats regardless of the method of construction.

### **available technology**

NAWAC takes to mean technologies which are used practically to care for and manage animals (e.g. existing chemicals, drugs, instruments, devices and facilities).

### **boarding establishment**

An establishment specifically built to house cats or dogs temporarily for a fee. Includes boarding kennels and catteries.

### **companion animal**

For the purpose of this code, means any animal that ordinarily lives with humans and is dependent on humans for its welfare.

### **electronic training device**

A device that gives an electric shock or other aversive stimulus, designed for the purpose of training or disciplining animals, primarily dogs. Includes electronic collars.

### **enclosure**

Designed specifically to enclose animals (e.g. kennel, cage, hutch, pen, aviary, aquarium).

### **foster home**

Normally a private home, where animals are cared for in the home environment for a limited period of time.

### **good practice**

NAWAC takes to mean a standard of care that has a general level of acceptance among knowledgeable practitioners and experts in the field; is based on good sense and sound judgement; is practical and thorough; has robust experiential or scientific foundations; and prevents unreasonable or unnecessary harm to, or promotes the interests of, the animals to which it is applied. Good practice also takes account of the evolution of attitudes about animals and their care.

### **ill-treat**

As defined in the Act: "in relation to an animal, means causing the animal to suffer, by any act or omission, pain or distress that in its kind or degree, or in its object, or in the circumstances in which it is inflicted, is unreasonable or unnecessary."

### **kennel**

An enclosed housing for dogs.

### **minimum standard**

Minimum standards provide the details of specific actions people need to take in order to meet the obligations of the Act. They are identified in the text by heading, and generally use the word "must" or similar. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.

### **night box**



A kennel or cage, with no run, designed principally for animals to sleep in.

#### **owner**

As defined in the Act: “in relation to an animal, includes the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who –

- a) owns the animal; and
- b) is a member of the parent’s or guardian’s household living with and dependent on the parent or guardian.”

#### **person in charge**

As defined in the Act, “in relation to an animal, includes a person who has the animal in that person’s possession or custody, or under that person’s care, control, or supervision.”

#### **pet shop**

A retail establishment from which live companion animals are sold.

#### **physiological state**

Relates to the functioning of the body, its organs and body systems.

#### **quarantine/isolation facility**

A facility where animals that are sick or are suspected of illness are held separately from other animals for the purposes of treatment, assessment or preventing the spread of disease. May also refer to the separate housing of animals newly acquired or imported or awaiting export.

#### **recommended best practice**

NAWAC takes to mean the best practice agreed at a particular time, following consideration of scientific information, accumulated experience and public submissions on the code. It is usually a higher standard of practice than the minimum standard, except where the minimum standard is best practice. It is a practice that can be varied as new information comes to light. Recommendations for best practice will be particularly appropriate where it is desirable to promote or encourage better care for animals than is provided as a minimum standard. Recommended best practices are identified in the text by heading, and generally use the word “should”.

#### **sale or rehome**

To transfer a companion animal by means of sale, adoption or gift.

#### **stray animal**

For the purpose of this code, means a companion animal for which the owner is temporarily or permanently unidentified. Stray animals may be lost or abandoned and living as an individual or in a group (or colony). Stray animals may have their needs indirectly supplied by humans, and live around centres of human habitation. Stray animals are likely to interbreed with the unneutered companion animal population.

#### **scientific knowledge**

NAWAC takes to mean knowledge within animal-based scientific disciplines, especially those that deal with nutritional, environmental, health, behavioural and cognitive/neural functions, which are relevant to

understanding the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals. Such knowledge is not haphazard or anecdotal; it is generated by rigorous and systematic application of the scientific method, and the results are objectively and critically reviewed before acceptance.

**temporary**

Lasting only for a limited period of time and not permanently.

**temporary housing facility**

As defined in section 2 of this code.

**veterinarian**

A person who is registered under the Veterinarians Act 2005 and holds a current practising certificate.

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