Code of Welfare

Temporary Housing of Companion Animals

1 October 2018

Issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999

New Zealand Government

TITLE

Code of Welfare: Temporary Housing of Companion Animals

COMMENCEMENT

This Code of Welfare comes into force on 1 October 2018.

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Code of Welfare is issued by the Minister of Agriculture, by a notice published in the Gazette, under section 75 and 76 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, after having complied with the matters specified in section 75(1) and 76(2).

AMENDMENTS

This Code of Welfare has been amended by:

Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Amendment Regulations 2020

Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Amendments inserted on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

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Introduction

This introduction and any appendices are not part of the Code of Welfare, but are intended to indicate its general effect.

Introduction amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

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 of Welfare 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. There are many stressors associated with animals 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.

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.

This Code of Welfare also references regulations issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Regulations are prescribed under the Animal Welfare Act and impose enforceable requirements on owners and persons in charge of animals. For ease of reference, regulations relevant to this Code are set out in an appendix to this Code. Penalties for failure to comply with the regulations are specified in the relevant regulations. The appendix to this Code is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of all obligations under the Act or regulatory requirements. Owners and persons in charge of animals are responsible for ensuring that they are aware of and understand all Act and regulatory requirements that are relevant to them including all applicable Codes of Welfare.

Note that the Act sets criteria for whether a procedure carried out on an animal is a significant surgical procedure. Only a veterinarian, or a person who is acting under the direct supervision of a veterinarian and who is a student undergoing his or her training to become a veterinarian, are able to perform a significant surgical procedure, unless a regulation says otherwise.

Who should read this Code of Welfare?

This Code of Welfare 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, quarantine/isolation facilities and pet shops, as described in Schedule I: Interpretation and Definitions.

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, principals, 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 the owner's responsibility to ensure that the requirements of the Act and animal welfare regulations are met.

Who should read this code of Welfare? amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

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 under 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 of Welfare 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.

Owners and persons in charge of animals are not required to comply with the recommendations for best practice in this Code, but are encouraged to do so to provide higher standards of 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 minimum standards in this Code and the general provisions of the Act, and any regulations issued under the Act. A copy of the Act and animal welfare regulations are available at: www.legislation.co.nz.

Legislative background amended on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Other information

Further detail on species-specific requirements for animals are covered in relevant codes of welfare for dogs, cats, horses and other animals. Other codes of welfare should be consulted where appropriate. See the Ministry for Primary Industries website at: www.mpi.govt.nz.

Codes of welfare must be accompanied by a report that sets out the deliberations that the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) undertook when developing the codes of welfare including the standards and recommendations for best practice, the nature of any significant differences of opinion during drafting and consultation, and any matters that should be dealt with by regulation. Code reports can be accessed online (see www.mpi.govt.nz).

Although efforts to include relevant regulations within this code have been made, there may be other regulations which are relevant to you. The full list of all animal welfare regulations should be consulted where appropriate (see www.legislation.co.nz).

Where animals are being sold the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993 and the Fair Trading Act 1986 apply. The Dog Control Act 1996 also contains relevant requirements.

Part 1: General Requirements

1.1 Application

This Code of Welfare applies to all companion animals (as defined in Schedule I: Interpretation and Definitions) in a temporary housing facility (as defined in Schedule I: Interpretation and Definitions). It also applies to any animals born to companion animals while being kept in temporary housing facilities. It does not apply to the temporary housing of animals by their owners, for instance at shows or exhibitions, nor does it apply to animals being held temporarily within foster homes or training facilities. While boarding establishments attached to veterinary clinics are covered by this Code, veterinary clinics housing animals for the purpose of providing veterinary treatment or supervision are not covered. It also does not apply to temporary housing of companion animals in temporary emergency shelters during civil defence and other emergency situations.

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 Schedule I: Interpretation and Definitions.

Part 2: Responsibilities, Competency and Animal Handling

Introduction

While this Code is based on good practice, scientific knowledge and available technology 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 operators of a temporary housing facility for companion animals need to ensure that their staff have either the relevant knowledge and training or appropriate supervision to provide for the health and welfare needs of the animals in their care. It is important that staff, including temporary or contract staff, either undergo formal training or be trained on the job by experienced supervisors. Staff need to 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 of the animal 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. 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 governance and managerial level, owners or persons in charge 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 Part 12: Quality Assurance 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 the 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 Animal Handling Skills

Introduction

The importance of competent and skilled handling 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 need to 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.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 12 – Muzzles on dogs
- Regulation 47 – Collars and tethers

Minimum Standard No. 1 – Competency and Animal Handling
Animals in temporary housing facilities must be cared for by a sufficient number of staff, who collectively possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the animals' health and welfare in accordance with this Code.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 1 – Competency and Animal Handling

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

Recommended Best Practice

a) 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, age and health status to enable each animal to: maintain good health; and (b) meet its physiological demands, including those resulting from pregnancy, lactation, growth, exercise and exposure to cold; and 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
- 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
- Faeces appearance is "normal" i.e. no evidence of diarrhoea, constipation, blood etc.
- Staff understand that it is important they 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) Certain foods and changes in diet can cause diarrhoea and care should be taken to inform all staff of the possible causes to avoid this happening.
d) 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 heath. Most commercially available foods provide a guide to the quantity to be fed. It has to be kept in mind that individual variation means that recommended amounts will not always be appropriate, so bodyweight and condition of the animal needs to 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 needs to 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 Drinking Water

Introduction

Water is an essential daily requirement for the proper functioning of the whole body.

See summary of regulations appended to this Code:

- Regulation 13 – Dogs must have dry and shaded shelter

Minimum Standard No. 3 – Drinking Water for Terrestrial Animals
Animals must have frequent 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. 3 – 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

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 have to 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 wet food.

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 needs to 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, which may result in diarrhoea.

It is not expected that owners or persons in charge of dogs in temporary housing facilities need to provide the dogs with access to water at all times of the day, but they are responsible for ensuring that the dogs have access to water where they sleep/spend most of their time.

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 needs to 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 being segregated.

Minimum Standard No. 4 – 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 and/or receive prompt veterinary attention. (c) Any unvaccinated animal, or animal of unknown vaccination status, must be quarantined for an appropriate amount of time to minimise risk of infecting other animals. (d) Any animal known or suspected of having an infectious disease must be carefully supervised and securely isolated so as to prevent the infection spreading to other animals. (e) Any animal that is assessed as being aggressive, either towards people or other animals, must be handled or housed so as to minimise risk to other animals and staff. (f) A health record must be developed for any animal entering a temporary housing facility and kept in a manner that it can easily be traced back to the animal. (g) When the owner of an animal places the animal in a temporary housing facility, but wishes to retain ownership of the animal, they must sign a consent form to allow veterinary treatment of the animal in the case that the animal becomes ill or injured and they cannot be contacted.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 4 – 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 isolation 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 a suitably experienced or qualified person
- Details of any health or behavioural issues and treatment, veterinary or otherwise, are documented on the animal's health record
- A signed consent form giving the owner's permission for veterinary treatment is attached to the health record

General Information

When an animal of an unknown background which may have been previously owned enters a shelter or pound, it is important that attempts are made to find the animal's owner using advertisements and other relevant sources.

4.2 General Health within the Facility

Introduction

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. 5 – General Health
(a) Animals in a temporary housing facility must be visually assessed for signs of ill health or injury at least twice a day. (b) Owners, or persons in charge of animals, must seek immediate attention from a veterinarian or appropriately trained animal health practitioner, if they observe the animals to be showing any of the following: i) signs of significant acute pain, suffering and distress; ii) signs of chronic pain, suffering and distress; iii) signs of rapidly deteriorating health; iv) serious injury.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 5 – 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
- Daily inspections and remedial outcomes are documented
- There is documented evidence that a veterinarian is consulted if a significant animal health problem persists
- There is documented evidence that a veterinarian is consulted if an animal is humanely destroyed
- 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) All staff should have a basic knowledge of animal health assessment.
b) Animals should be provided with protection against infectious disease by vaccination according to veterinary recommendation prior to sale or rehoming.
c) Animals should be given regular and effective treatments to prevent internal and external parasite burdens, as recommended by veterinarians or product manufacturers.
d) Each temporary housing facility should have an arrangement with a veterinarian or veterinary clinic whereby a veterinarian is available for emergencies on a 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.

e) 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.
f) 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. Animals may also need to be isolated if suspected of carrying a contagious disease (refer to 8.6 - Isolation Management).

Minimum Standard No. 6 – Contagious Diseases
(a) Dogs and cats entering a temporary housing facility must: i) be fully vaccinated based on veterinary advice or to the requirements of the particular temporary housing facility; or ii) be kept in quarantine until their immune status has been established, if appropriate. (b) Evidence of vaccination must accompany each relevant animal entering a temporary housing facility. (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. 6 – 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 isolation for observation and/or veterinary treatment
- If a disease outbreak is suspected, animals are compartmentalised to reduce the spread of infection and details of the intervention are 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 needs to 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, it is recommended that boarded animals be attended to first and a change of outer garments and footwear is undertaken. Particular attention needs to be given to human hygiene to reduce disease transmission and facilities for hand washing need to be readily available.

Part 5: Significant Surgical Procedures

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 sets criteria for whether a procedure carried out on an animal is a significant surgical procedure. The criteria are set out in Section 16 of the Act.

If any person has to determine whether a procedure carried out on an animal is a significant surgical procedure under this Act, the person must determine the question by considering the following criteria:

a) whether the procedure has the potential to—

   i) cause significant pain or distress; or
   ii) cause serious or lasting harm, or loss of function, if not carried out by a veterinarian in accordance with recognised professional standards; and

b) the nature of the procedure, including whether this involves—

   i) a surgical or operative procedure below the surface of the skin, mucous membranes, or teeth or below the gingival margin; or
   ii) physical interference with sensitive soft tissue or bone structure; or
   iii) significant loss of tissue or loss of significant tissue.

Only a veterinarian, or a person who is acting under the direct supervision of a veterinarian and who is a student undergoing his or her training to become a veterinarian, are able to perform a significant surgical procedure, unless a regulation says otherwise.

For all animal welfare regulations please see www.legislation.govt.nz. Note that not all of the surgical procedures included within these regulations meet the criteria of a significant surgical procedure, some have been regulated for clarity only.

Significant Surgical Procedures inserted on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Part 6: 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. While many temporary housing situations are quite restrictive and the provision for normal patterns of behaviour may be more difficult, opportunities for animals to remain active and stimulated need to be provided. 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. 7 – 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) Housing must provide the means for animals to shelter and sleep.
(c) Adequate dry, clean, species appropriate bedding must be used for non-aquatic species at all times.
(d) Housing must provide the means for animals to meet species-specific needs.
(e) Dogs must receive daily exercise sufficient to maintain their health and well-being.
(f) Where animals are housed or exercised communally, care must be taken to manage groups to avoid aggressive interaction.
(g) Electronic training devices must only be used with the written consent of the owner, under the supervision of qualified and experienced persons, and must not be used in a way that compromises the welfare of the animal.
(h) Sufficient perches of varying diameter, roosting areas, and feed and water stations must be provided to meet the needs of all the birds in a cage or aviary.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 7 – Providing for Behavioural Needs

- Facilities are designed and managed so that animals can move about freely and carry out normal behaviours
- Normal free movement and access to feed and water is not impeded by space restrictions or excessive competition
- 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)
- Species-appropriate enrichment toys are provided
- All non-aquatic animals are provided with a bedding or nesting area for shelter and/or sleeping
- Bedding or nesting material is provided where this is a species-specific need, including for rodents and rabbits
- 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
- Dogs are not housed permanently in night boxes
- There are no injuries or deaths through housing aggressive individuals or species together

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) Animals should not be kept in shop windows.
e) Cats should be provided with high areas and areas in which they are able to hide.
f) Electronic training devices should not be used on animals in temporary housing facilities.

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:

- Addition of 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 need to 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 or managing it.

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

Part 5 renumbered on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Part 7: Housing

7.1 Housing Design and Construction

Introduction

A temporary housing facility needs to 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 needs to 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, it is important that professional advice is 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 have special needs and requirements that need to be taken into account when designing and constructing facilities to hold, display and separate animals.

Minimum Standard No. 8 – Housing Design and Construction
(a) Housing systems and equipment, including shelters and mechanical equipment, must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that allows animals to move around comfortably, without risk of injury, disease or harm and enables them to meet their physical, health and behavioural needs as appropriate for the animals and species. (b) 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. (c) All enclosures must be secure, have fencing of an appropriate height and be unable to be opened by animal occupants and/or accessed by unauthorised persons or other animals. (d) Housing systems must be sited to facilitate drainage of storm water away from buildings and to minimise risks posed by natural and environmental hazards. (e) Controlled environment housing must have alarms that warn of power failure and/or significant temperature variance.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 8 – 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
- Fencing is fixed to the ground and is of an appropriate height that animals cannot climb over it
- All animals can be inspected with ease, with minimal handling to reduce stress (i.e. there is good access to all animals and sufficient lighting)
- Provisions are in place to control people accessing the premises
- Operation of equipment is monitored daily and corrective action is taken promptly and documented.
- Cage and aquarium units are secured to prevent toppling
- 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 (i.e. those that have not been desexed), to prevent stress and unwanted breeding.
b) Observation windows should be provided in enclosures to enable the animals to be watched as necessary without disturbance.

c) Kennels should be separated by partitions that have both a solid part (wall) and a part where the animals are able to have visual access to each other (wire dividers), allowing dogs the choice of contact.
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) The owner should be advised as soon as possible if their pet goes missing so that they are able to make attempts to locate it.

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 need to be consulted where appropriate (see the Ministry for Primary Industries website at www.mpi.govt.nz). Industry participants are also encouraged to prepare a Code of Practice that gives more detailed suggestions on species-specific housing requirements.

Part 6 renumbered on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Part 8: Facility Management

8.1 General Facility Management

Introduction

Effective management of a temporary housing facility is a vital aspect of ensuring the good health, safety and well-being of the animals. Each animal species held within the facility has particular needs and requirements and these need to be taken into account when considering the day-to-day management of the animals. Pest control programmes may need to be implemented in order to control either pest animals that may increase the risk of disease, or to control the growth of toxic plants to maintain the health and welfare of the animals.

Minimum Standard No. 9 – General Facility Management
(a) Measures must be taken to control pests in and around housing and shelters. (b) Terrestrial animals must be able to urinate and defecate away from sleeping and feeding areas.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 9 – General Facility Management

- Pest control is implemented and documented
- The size of each enclosure (for mammals) includes sufficient space for bedding, toileting, and food and water bowls

8.2 Temperature

Introduction

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

Minimum Standard No. 10 – Temperature
(a) Temperatures must be maintained at a level that provides for the health and welfare of the animals, as appropriate to the species. (b) Immediate remedial action must be taken when animals show signs of discomfort as a result of exposure to excessive cold or heat.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 10 – Temperature

- Temperature at the level of the animals is monitored and is within the temperature range that is appropriate for the species
- Staff are sufficiently trained to be able to recognise thermal stress in all species
- Temperature is monitored and visual checks for signs of stress are performed several times throughout the day during periods when outdoor temperatures are extreme
- Corrective action is taken if signs of stress are observed during daily inspection
- Staff are trained to manage the ventilation and temperature regulation equipment to keep the environmental conditions within the appropriate range for the animal
- 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) A thermometer should be installed in areas best suited to monitor temperature changes to ensure that the temperature stays within an appropriate range for the species of animals being held.
c) Special care should be given to animals in enclosures in close proximity to windows where sunlight can result in higher temperatures.
d) Optimal body temperatures for reptiles should be accommodated by the creation of a thermal gradient throughout the enclosure for reptiles.
e) When using heat lamps and devices, they should be stable, inaccessible to the animal, and positioned so that the animal is able to move in and out of the heat as it wishes.

8.3 Lighting

Introduction

Lighting is a key part of the physical environment that can affect the welfare of animals in temporary housing facilities. Providing a dark period is important for the welfare of animals so that they are able to rest adequately.

Minimum Standard No. 11 – Lighting
(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 must 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
- Where UV lighting is used, bulbs are changed regularly in order to retain UV capability

Recommended Best Practice

a) Care should be taken to ensure that lights do not cause excessive heat for the animals.
b) Lighting should be installed safely and securely, and be inaccessible to animals.

8.4 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). It is important that Roofs are 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 contribute to 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. Care needs to be taken to provide them with the appropriate type of water according to the species.

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 noxious odours (e.g. ammonia) 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 aquariums must have a filtration system that is adequate for the species and population densities, and effective at all times.
ii) Water of an appropriate quality must be provided for any particular species of aquatic animal being held.
iii) Unless specifically contraindicated for certain species, aquariums must have a water volume of 4 litres or greater.
iv) Water chemistry must 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
- All aquariums have a filtration system

Recommended Best Practice

For non-aquatic species

a) Air quality parameters should be monitored and recorded on a weekly basis.
b) Dust levels should be kept to a minimum by maintaining appropriate ventilation and humidity levels and appropriate litter management.

General Information

For aquatic animals, adequate changes of water are important to maintain good water quality in relation to population density. Replacing 25% of the water in the aquarium each fortnight using water of appropriate quality is the normal minimum requirement. For high density aquariums or aquariums where there are frequent population changes, more frequent water changes may be required.

At the time this Code was issued, *Betta splendens* (Siamese fighting fish) was the only species for which water volumes of less than 4 litres can be provided.

8.5 Hygiene

Introduction

Good hygiene standards are essential to enhance animal welfare and minimise disease. Cleaning and disinfecting agents need to 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.

Where animals have died it is important to remove them promptly to prevent the spread of disease. The requirements of local authorities regarding the disposal of dead animals need to be followed.

Minimum Standard No. 13 – Hygiene
(a) Animal housing and exercise areas must be cleaned so that the comfort and health of animals can be maintained. (b) Before new animals are introduced, vacant enclosures (except aquariums) must be thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and dried. (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) Utensils and containers used for food preparation must be kept clean of contamination that may pose a threat to the health and welfare of the animal. (e) Food must be prepared hygienically and stored appropriately. (f) Premises and equipment must be thoroughly cleaned following a disease outbreak to limit the carryover of disease-causing organisms to incoming animals. (g) Dead animals must be promptly removed and disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 13 – Hygiene

- Hygiene protocols detailing daily cleaning routines including removal of contaminated bedding and waste are clearly documented
- Areas in which animals are housed and exercised are clean
- The animals are clean, their coats/feathers are free of waste material and animals show no signs of skin disorders from lack of hygiene
- Food and water bowls or bottles are clean
- Protocols for regular washing of utensils are documented

Recommended Best Practice

a) Animal housing and exercise areas should be cleaned daily and disinfected regularly, and before new animals are introduced.
b) After cleaning, animal housing areas should be rinsed and left as dry as possible prior to animals being returned to them.
c) Sufficient numbers of litter trays should be provided and cleaned regularly as appropriate to the species and the number of animals being housed.
d) Faeces should be removed from housing and exercise areas as soon as it is observed, in order to prevent possible contamination.
e) Phenol and products containing phenol are highly toxic to cats and chinchillas, and should not be used.
f) Water bowls or bottles should be washed daily.
g) Food bowls should be washed with hot soapy water or antibacterial agent and then rinsed and dried in a manner that will not spread infectious diseases (e.g. air-drying or with a disposable paper towel) after each feed.

h) Care should be taken to clean around food containers daily to remove small pieces of discarded food that may harbour saliva and infectious agents.
i) Food leftovers should not be re-offered, and all food scraps should be removed and disposed of.
j) Food should be stored in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.
k) Hot and cold water should be available in sufficient quantities to enable thorough cleaning.

8.6 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, segregation of incoming animals for a period of time in a quarantine facility may be necessary (see Part 4.3: Contagious Diseases).

Similarly, once animals are in residence, it may be necessary to isolate them because of the subsequent development or identification of disease, injury or behavioural issues. This section of the Code will refer to isolation facilities as the facilities where the animals will be placed in if they exhibit signs of disease, but recognises that these facilities, if the need arises, may also function as quarantine facilities for animals that have been exposed to a disease, are suspected of having disease or have an unknown disease status.

Minimum Standard No. 14 – Isolation Management
Suitable isolation facilities must be immediately available, and must be used when any animal is either suspected of, or has been diagnosed with, a contagious disease or a condition that requires segregation.

Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 14 – Isolation Management

- A facility is available which will adequately isolate animals suspected of, or known to be, carrying an infectious disease, from unaffected animals. For animals in shelters, this may include the use of foster homes.

Recommended Best Practice

a) Access to and from the isolation area should be separate from other entry/exit points used by other animals.
b) Cages/kennels in the isolation area should be separated by solid partitions (walls) to preclude contact between animals.
c) The isolation area should have its own drainage, ventilation and water supply systems and enclosures should not be able to drain waste into adjoining enclosures.
d) Suitable over garments and footwear should be available at entry/exit points and should be worn while inside the isolation area.
e) There should be provision for all equipment used within the isolation area (e.g. food bowls, waste buckets, carry cages, towels, brushes, leads, nets) to remain in the isolation area or be disinfected before leaving the area.
f) Hand washing facilities and appropriate footbaths/pads should be used at all entry/exit points. Where footbaths/pads are not present, disposable shoe coverings should be worn or footwear should be kept in the isolation area.

General Information

When designing the isolation facilities, thought needs to be given to aerial transfer of disease and efforts need to be made to build the facilities in such a way so as to reduce the risk of transfer of disease in this manner.

8.7 Contingency Planning

Introduction

Contingency plans need to be in place for emergencies such as fire, flooding or a power cut to ensure the welfare of the animals. It is important that staff are made aware of how they need to act in the event of an emergency and are suitably trained to carry out the contingency plan if required.

Minimum Standard No. 15 – Contingency Planning
Staff must be suitably trained to respond to an emergency that could have a detrimental effect on the animals in the temporary housing facility.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard 15 – Contingency Planning

- There is a written evacuation plan and all staff are well acquainted with the procedures set out in the plan
- The contingency plan outlines actions to take in the case of adverse events occurring
- A reserve supply of feed and water is maintained on site, sufficient for the maximum capacity of the facility for at least 72 hours in case of an emergency

Recommended Best Practice

a) Emergency warning devices (including smoke alarms, fire detectors, fire extinguishers, emergency telephone numbers and exits) should be clearly marked and maintained.
b) Emergency evacuation procedures should be in place and should be carried out annually in a simulated evacuation.
c) Food storage areas should be able to hold a minimum of five days' worth of easily accessible food sufficient for the maximum capacity of the facility.
d) At least one staff member should be on site at all times and be able to assist the animals in the case of an adverse event.

Part 7 renumbered on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Part 9: 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. Where animals are being sold the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993 and the Fair Trading Act 1986 apply. Under the Dog Control Act 1996, where the owner of the dog is not known and cannot be identified, city councils and district councils may only sell or otherwise dispose of a dog after holding it for 7 days.

Minimum Standard No. 16 – 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) People selling or rehoming animals must, at the time of supply, disclose to persons receiving them any known inherited disorders that the animal may be predisposed to which may cause health and/or welfare problems during the animal's lifetime.
(c) Individual animals with existing inherited disorders must not knowingly be sold or rehomed without full disclosure to and acceptance by the new owner.
(d) 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.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 16 – Sale or Rehoming

- Facility policy documents specify the following:
  - Criteria to be considered when selecting a new owner, including a minimum age of the owner
  - Breed-specific potential inherited disorders are disclosed to new owners
  - Records of disclosure documents, signed by the new owner and detailing the illness, injury or inherited disorders of an animal sold or rehomed, are maintained
  - Records of temperament evaluation of an animal sold or rehomed are maintained

- Except under exceptional circumstances, 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

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) All animals being sold or rehomed from a temporary housing facility should be desexed, or have an arrangement in place to ensure desexing, if they are of a species and an age for which such procedures are surgically possible.
e) 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.
f) Animals should not be made available for sale if temperament evaluation indicates a lack of suitability, unless the new owner has experience and the ability to manage and correct the unwanted behaviours.
g) The facility's policy should attempt to limit the number of animals that are returned because of health, temperament or behavioural problems.
h) Cats should be identified with a registered microchip prior to sale or rehoming.
i) Animals, with the exception of fish, should not be sold or rehomed while pregnant.

Part 8 renumbered on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Part 10: Transportation

The Act requires that any person in charge of a vehicle or an aircraft has to ensure that any animal carried in that vehicle or aircraft is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation, and its welfare is properly attended to.

The Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2011 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 animal daycare centres).

Part 9 renumbered on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Part 11: Euthanasia

Introduction

The Animal Welfare Act requires owners and persons in charge of animals to ensure that animals receive treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal. Sometimes this involves euthanasia. Euthanasia is the induction of a painless and rapid death, and needs to be performed so as to ensure minimal suffering by 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.

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. 17 - Euthanasia
(a) When an animal is euthanased, this must be carried out by an appropriately trained person in such a way as to ensure that death occurs quickly and that pain and distress is minimised, and that death is confirmed by inspection. (b) Animals must not be killed by drowning or freezing.

Example Indicators for Minimum Standard No. 17 – 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 are available for any animal that dies or has to be euthanased, outlining the procedures and, where performed, necropsy findings

Recommended Best Practice

a) Animals should be euthanased by a veterinarian or, where they are clearly suffering unreasonable and unnecessary pain and a veterinarian is not immediately available, by a warranted inspector under the Act.
b) In boarding establishments, if euthanasia is required or an animal dies of unknown causes, then a necropsy should be undertaken to ascertain the reason or cause of death and a report provided to the animal's owner and a full record of the incident kept for a minimum of two years.
c) Animals should be euthanased discretely and at a site distant to other animals so as not to cause other animals anxiety.

General Information

Animals may be euthanased for a variety of reasons in temporary housing facilities including illness and disease, but also for behavioural reasons or reasons relating to management. Veterinary or species expert advice can be sought. Otherwise, guidelines on acceptable methods for a range of species are available from a number of sources, including World Animal Protection and the American Veterinary Medical Association (www.avma.org).

The Act provides for the euthanasia of injured or sick animals by a veterinarian. This issue can be extremely complicated and facility operators are encouraged to seek legal advice in the development of their euthanasia procedures to avoid problems.

Part 10 renumbered on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Part 12: Quality Assurance

Introduction

Welfare assurance or quality assurance programmes 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 assurance programmes 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 programme 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.

Recommended Best Practice

a) The documented quality assurance programme should be independently verified using performance-based audits on a regular basis.
b) 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.
c) The elements of the quality assurance programme should provide for the minimum standards and, where possible, the recommendations for best practice of this Code.
d) The quality assurance programme 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 is recommended to be based on the general principles of Standard AS/NZ 9001 or similar, it is not essential for it to be certified under the JAS-ANZ (Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand) certification scheme.

Part 11 renumbered on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589

Schedule 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 b) or c) above, any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage."

animal daycare centre

An establishment that takes into its care 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.

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

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (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

Any animal that lives with humans as a companion 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

A structure in which to keep animals in (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.”

isolation facility

A facility to house animals known or suspected to have a contagious disease.

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 facility

A holding facility where incoming animals or animals of unknown health status are kept to monitor for any signs of contagious disease or behavioural issues.

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

Transfer of ownership of a companion animal by means of sale, adoption or gift.

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.

staff

Either paid or volunteer personnel tasked with caring for animals in a temporary housing facility.

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.

temporary

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

temporary housing facility

A temporary housing facility is any facility that receives companion animals which require temporary housing away from their usual place of keeping.

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 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 daycare centres, grooming establishments, and animal wholesale facilities.

veterinarian

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

Appendix of extracts from the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018

This Appendix is not part of the Code of Welfare but is included as a reference.

Although efforts to include relevant regulations within this code have been made, there may be other regulations which are relevant to you. The full list of all animal welfare regulations should be consulted where appropriate (see www.legislation.govt.nz).

3 Interpretation

In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

tether means any form of restraint that secures any part of an animal to an object or the ground.

12 Muzzles on dogs

(1) The owner of, and every person in charge of, a dog that is muzzled must ensure that the muzzle does not—

a) cause a cut that bleeds or discharges; or
b) cause a skin abrasion that bleeds or discharges; or
c) cause a swelling; or
d) prevent the dog from breathing normally, panting, drinking, or vomiting.

(2) However, a muzzle that restricts panting, drinking, or vomiting may be used if—

a) the muzzle is used under constant supervision to prevent injury to any human or animal during veterinary treatment or handling; or
b) the muzzle is used by—

i) an inspector or auxiliary officer while performing or exercising his or her functions, duties, or powers under the Animal Welfare Act 1999; or
ii) a dog control officer, dog ranger, or warranted officer performing or exercising his or her functions, duties, or powers under the Dog Control Act 1996; or

c) the muzzle is used under constant supervision to facilitate handling of the dog for therapeutic purposes, including preventative treatment.

(3) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $900.

(4) The offence in subclause (3) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of $300.

13 Dogs must have dry and shaded shelter

(1) This regulation—

a) applies when a dog is on land or premises owned or occupied by the dog's owner or the person in charge of the dog; but
b) does not apply when a dog is temporarily tethered or confined.

(2) The owner of, and every person in charge of, the dog must—

a) ensure that the dog has access at all times to an area (a lying area) that—

i) is large enough to allow the dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down in a natural position; and
ii) is fully shaded; and
iii) is dry; and
iv) is ventilated; and

v) provides the dog with protection from extremes of heat and cold; and

b) ensure that the dog has access at all times to water; and
c) ensure that the dog has access at all times to an area in which to urinate and defecate away from its lying area; and
d) ensure that faeces or urine do not accumulate in any area in which the dog is kept.

(3) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $900.

(4) The offence in subclause (3) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of $300.

47 Collars and tethers

(1) The owner of, and every person in charge of, an animal must ensure that any collar or tether on the animal (whether on the neck or on any other part of the animal) does not—

a) cause a cut that bleeds or discharges; or
b) cause a skin abrasion that bleeds or discharges; or
c) cause a swelling; or
d) prevent the animal from breathing normally, panting, or drinking.

(2) A person who fails to comply with this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding $900.

(3) The offence in subclause (2) is an infringement offence with an infringement fee of $300.

Appendix replaced on 9 May 2021 by Notice in the Gazette 2021-go1589