



Check!

Are you doing it right? Encourage others to check too at www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs

Email us your questions to animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

Call us about an animal welfare issue 0800 00 83 33

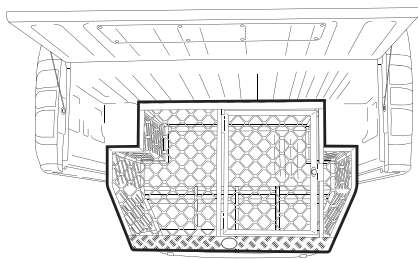


Animal Welfare Matters

Owning an animal comes with responsibilities to provide for its care and wellbeing. Before you introduce a new animal to your block, take some time to find out what it needs by checking the codes of welfare and regulations.

Regulations make it easier for MPI to take action against animal mistreatment. Fines for breaching animal welfare regulations start at \$300 for individuals and go up to \$25,000 for businesses. Some breaches may also result in a criminal conviction.

If an animal's welfare is seriously compromised, higher penalties under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 apply.



On public roads, dogs on the back of trucks, utes or trailers must be **secured** either in a cage or crate, or tied up **safely** so they cannot reach their legs over the side or fall off.

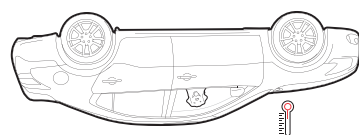
There is an exemption for farm dogs when they are actively working.

Dogs on vehicles

All paws on deck

Dogs quickly suffer and can die in hot cars. Even warm days are a risk.

✗ Don't let a dog get **heat stressed** in a car. Seeking shade, panting, drooling and hyperventilating are all signs of a heat-stressed dog.



Dogs in vehicles

Too hot for Spot

More information

Many of the regulations come from the codes of welfare. These set out minimum standards and recommended best practices when caring for animals. Codes that may be relevant to you include:

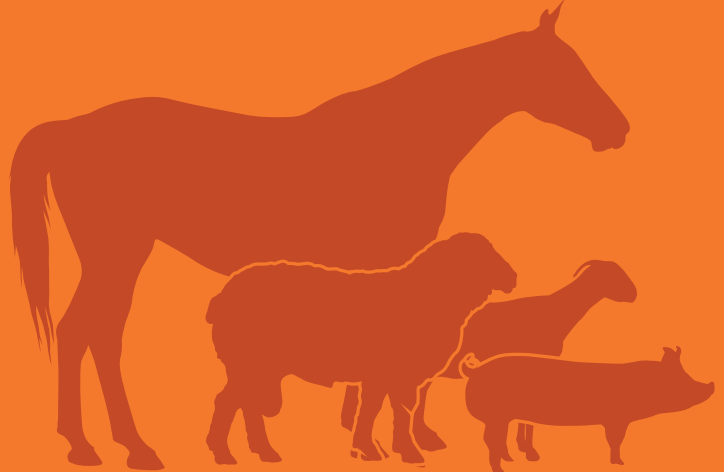
- dairy cattle
- deer
- dogs
- goats
- horses and donkeys
- llamas and alpacas
- pigs
- sheep and beef cattle
- transport within NZ

You can find the regulations, our guidance on the regulations, and the codes of welfare on our website at www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs



Animal Welfare Regulations

Lifestyle blocks

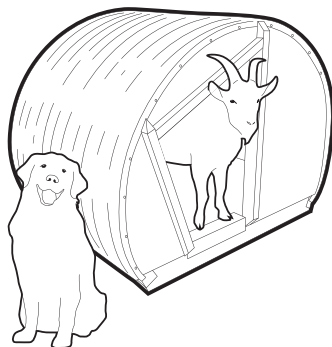


Shelter

We've got this covered

Make sure your animals have the appropriate shelter for their needs. In general shelters must:

- ✓ be dry, shaded and ventilated
- ✓ be clean
- ✓ be big enough
- ✓ have food and water nearby.



Equipment

Equipment used on an animal must not cause injury.

It is important to:

- ✓ check your animals daily if they're wearing equipment
- ✓ ensure saddles, covers and halters etc. are fitted correctly
- ✓ keep the equipment clean.

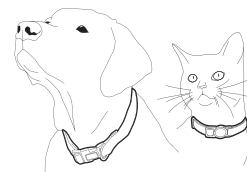


Collars and tethers

Not too loose, not too tight, just right

If you need to tether your animal, make sure its **collar fits properly** and allows it to eat, drink, breathe, and pant normally.

It's **best not to tether** animals for long stretches, and many will need access to shade and shelter.

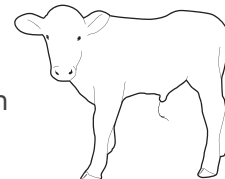


Transporting livestock

Livestock must be **fit for transport** on your property, on the road, and on arrival.

Livestock must be:

- ✓ healthy and in good condition
- ✓ free of injury and disease
- ✓ not recently castrated or dehorned.



Young calves

If you're using a trailer or ute with a deck height less than **900 mm**, you can carefully lift calves on and off. Otherwise, you need to have loading facilities.

Painful practices

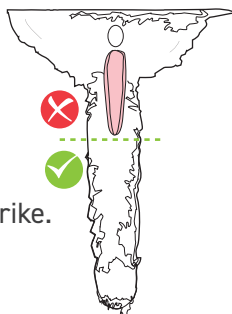
Handle with care

Sheep tail-docking

Sheep tail-docking can be done for cleanliness and to reduce the risk of flystrike.

Under 6 months old

- ✓ You must use a hot iron or rubber ring.
- ✗ Don't dock any shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold – this is the point where the two folds of skin attach on the underside of the tail.
- ✓ Aim to leave enough tail on so it covers the vulva in ewes and a similar length in rams.



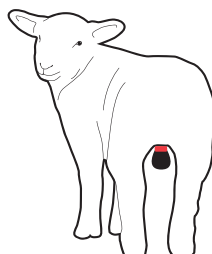
Over 6 months old

Must only be done by a **veterinarian** using pain relief.

Castration

Removing testicles is painful and **pain relief** is always recommended.

- ✓ You must use pain relief when castrating cattle, sheep and goats over 6 months old, or if using a high tension band at any age.
- ✓ Rubber rings are the preferred method.



Pig nose ringing

Nose ringing or clipping is painful.

If you need to do this to your pig, it must only be done:

- ✓ if necessary to meet council requirements to prevent soil damage
- ✓ by a competent person, using the right equipment – wire must not be used
- ✓ by placing the ring or clip through the cartilage at the top of the snout or in the tissue separating the nostrils.

Dentistry

Extracting an animal's tooth is usually a veterinarian-only procedure as it can be **complicated and painful**.

Competent non-veterinarians, such as equine dental technicians, can remove a horse's finger-loose baby tooth, or wolf tooth using pain relief authorised by a veterinarian.

Tooth cutting is a **veterinarian-only** procedure for most animals. Check the relevant guidance.