



Welfare Pulse

Animal welfare in New Zealand and around the world

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How do you export a giraffe to Australia? Jelani's story

Have you ever wondered how animals are transported to zoos in different countries? What's involved in moving an animal the size of a giraffe? Tineke Joustra from Auckland Zoo exported Jelani, a male giraffe born at Auckland Zoo in March 2010, to Werribee Open Range Zoo in Melbourne, Australia as part of an international breeding programme for giraffes in captivity.

Considering giraffes grow an average of 2 cm a month in their second year, there is a real need to transfer giraffes before they become too tall for a crate. Jelani was estimated to reach 3.5 metres in height by July 2011, and has the potential to reach over 5 metres when fully grown!

Firstly a crate was purpose built in line with International Air Transport Association guidelines for moving animals by air. Because the voyage was by boat, the size of the crate was able to be increased from the recommended size to allow Jelani a little more space to move around during his long journey. Once the building of the crate had commenced, the next step was to find someone who was willing to transport Jelani by ship.

It stepped Maersk shipping. The Master of the *JPO Scorpius* was more than happy to have Jelani on-board his vessel's journey from Auckland to Melbourne in September. It was official; Jelani was off to a new home in Australia!

The crate in which Jelani would be transported, was received at the zoo in July 2011 and crate training commenced. Jelani quickly became comfortable being in the crate, gradually showing fewer signs of stress, and began to eat whilst in the crate. At 3.5 metres tall, Jelani's route to the Auckland port by road was carefully planned to avoid low bridges and overhead lines.

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To ensure that Jelani did not transfer any diseases to Australia during his journey, he was placed in quarantine in the zoo for 30 days prior to beginning his journey. The quarantine area, inspected and approved by a veterinarian from AsureQuality, also contained other giraffes, zebra and ostriches providing familiar companions.

Finally on 5 September, Jelani was coaxed into his crate early in the morning, and lifted onto a truck. At this point, Jelani was reasonably calm showing only minor signs of stress; a testament to the crate training undertaken prior to the journey. Following his four-hour journey by road, he arrived safely at port and was loaded onto the vessel. By late afternoon, Jelani's crate was in place on the ship, the final paperwork was completed and the ship departed. During the four-day journey to Australia, Jelani was fed the same diet that he received in the zoo. Giraffes obtain most of water from their diet, so only a small amount (20 litres) of water was carried on board to meet his requirements.

Jelani was accompanied on his journey by a zoo keeper, who tended to his day-to-day needs, and a veterinarian. Jelani travelled well throughout his journey and experienced calm weather for three of the four days. On the last day, the weather turned much colder and additional plywood was placed around the crate to prevent cold air from entering, ensuring Jelani remained warm.



Jelani arrived at Melbourne on Friday 9 September in good health after having travelled well during his five-day journey. From Melbourne port Jelani's crate was loaded onto a truck and driven to Werribee Open Range Zoo where he was gradually introduced to his new social companions. Jelani now lives with five other giraffes, Kona, Thembi, Amani, Harold and Ajali, and is the youngster in the group. He adapted well to the new lifestyle, even receiving a **pedicure** for his overgrown hooves a few months after arrival.

Tineke Joustra
Registrar
Auckland Zoo
tineke.joustra@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Roger Poland, Senior Adviser in the Animal Welfare Team at the Ministry for Primary Industries worked with Tineke to ensure that Jelani's export met the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Animals being exported from New Zealand require an animal welfare export certificate (AWEC), as set out in the Animal Welfare Act 1999. This ensures the welfare of animals is provided for during transport, so that they travel in safety and arrive in good health.

Roger assesses each AWEC application on its merits, on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the relevant factors under the Animal Welfare Act. Roger then makes a recommendation to the Ministry's Director-General as to whether an AWEC should be granted. If granted, the applicant will be provided with an "In-Principle" AWEC which specifies, in writing, conditions that must be met in order to export the animal. In Jelani's case, the crate was built to International Air Transport Association specifications, the journey by sea was carefully planned, and Jelani himself was fit and healthy for the journey and so the application was approved.

A MPI Verification Services Veterinarian will again assess the animal and its transport arrangements on the day of export and, should it meet requirements, will issue the final AWEC. For more information about the welfare of animals during export, please see the Ministry for Primary Industries [website](#).

A new method for measuring lamb survival



Merino lamb behind wire mesh barrier during barrier test.



Successful Merino lamb that reached and nuzzled the model ewe.

Dead lambs reduce income and mean ewes and lambs probably suffered. Improvements in lamb survival can be made through a variety of management practices and genetic selection.

Lamb vigour provides an indicator of the likelihood that a lamb will survive. It can be measured in many ways, including the time it takes for a lamb to stand and suckle after birth, or a vigour score based on the general activity and vitality of the lamb. My PhD focused on novel approaches – finding a behavioural measure that could be used on the lamb a few hours after birth to negate the need for intense birth observations.

The ability of the lamb to follow and maintain contact with the ewe in the early stages of life is essential to its subsequent survival. This is particularly important in the Merino breed where ewes are renowned for being poor mothers. To measure the ability of lambs to follow and maintain contact with the ewe, I put lambs behind a wire mesh barrier and timed them to move past the barrier towards a model of a ewe emitting pre-recorded bleats. Following the experiment the lambs were placed back with their mums. There was a high correlation between a lamb's performance in this test and time to suckle and vigour score, the more conventional measures of lamb vigour.

Breeds known to differ in lamb vigour and survival (Suffolk and Scottish Blackface), also showed differences in their performance in this test, with Scottish Blackface lambs performing the test faster and more often than Suffolk lambs. Sire differences within the Merino breed were also seen in the performance of the test suggesting that this may be useful as an indirect selection criterion for lamb survival. Cold exposure reduced the ability of lambs to perform the test, with most cold exposed lambs being unable to move past the barrier. As lambs got older they were more likely to be able to perform the test so doing the test at an earlier age (e.g. 4–6 hours rather than 12 hours or older) is more useful in determining differences in lamb vigour.

This behavioural test is useful as a measure of early vigour in lambs and is quicker and easier to measure than time to suckle. It may also be more useful than time to suckle as it provides a measure of the vigour of the lamb that is unrelated to the ewe's mothering ability.

Rachelle Hergenhan
Associate Lecturer (Sheep and Wool)
University of New England
rhergen4@une.edu.au



Codes of welfare – update on consultation, development and review since issue 14

Codes of welfare are issued by the Minister for Primary Industries under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Codes outline minimum standards for care and handling of animals and establish best practices to encourage high standards of animal care.

Issued

- **Llamas and Alpacas**

Recommended to the Minister

- Rodeos

In post-consultation process

- Equines

Under development

- Dairy Housing
- Temporary Housing of Companion Animals

A complete list of the codes of welfare can be found on our [website](#).

Cheryl O'Connor
Manager Codes of Welfare
Ministry for Primary Industries
cheryl.oconnor@mpi.govt.nz

Overweight dogs – is it that we can't help ourselves?

Food is an important part of human society. It is associated with sharing, making people feel welcome and showing that we care. Similar associations with food may also be used when humans are relating to their canine companions, who may be considered as an equal, and part of the family.

Humans may give food as a show of affection for their dog, which in turn makes them feel good about themselves and of course, as dogs generally value food rewards, the dogs are also quick to show their appreciation.

As the dog learns that food is on offer, it will display whatever behaviours are required to obtain the desired reward. In this way positive reinforcement is unwittingly handed out by the owner which encourages further 'begging', with the dog persisting with the behaviour until rewarded. Many people get a lot of pleasure from interpreting this behaviour as 'love' shown by the dog and will actively encourage a repeat performance. This develops into a cycle that encourages overfeeding and leads to obesity.

Overfeeding behaviour such as this can often be contributed to a lack of understanding of canine behaviour by the



Jay is a five year old speyed female who is approximately 8 kg overweight, or condition score 4.5 – obese. She should be condition score 3.

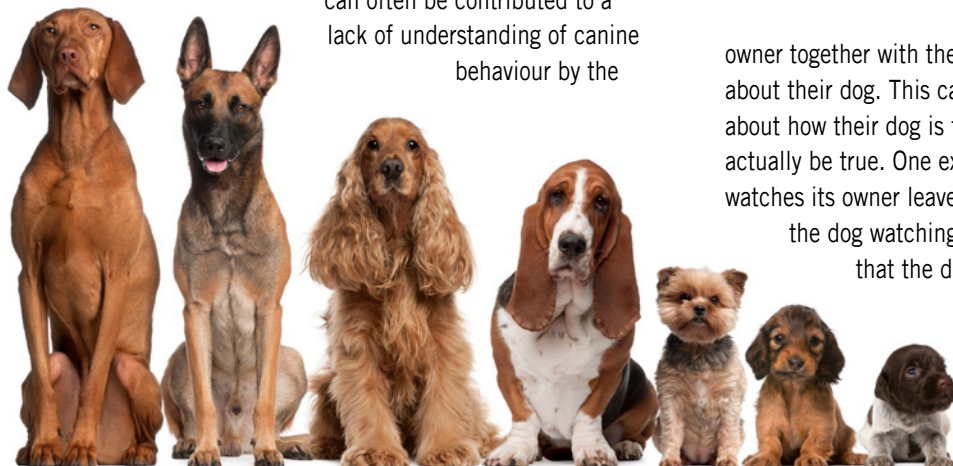
owner together with the tendency to over-anthropomorphise about their dog. This can lead to the owner making assumptions about how their dog is feeling or what it is thinking that may not actually be true. One example of this is the situation where a dog watches its owner leave for work for the day. The owner can see the dog watching as they walk away and take this to mean that the dog is lonely and upset at being left behind. The owner therefore provides food to the dog as they leave to placate their own guilt for leaving. Another example of misunderstanding dog

behaviour is the performance of submission behaviour by the dog, which is often shown by the dog to the owner, which is again misinterpreted as attention seeking behaviour by the owner and diverted by offering food to the dog.

Therefore owners often believe that they can make their dog happy by feeding it and in fact, if told by a veterinarian that the dog is obese and the dog will have a shorter life as a result, owners will often argue that a short, happy life is better than a longer, 'unhappy' life. The idea that food equals happiness is only reinforced by the dog who readily eats what is offered and will come back for more, wagging its tail and showing the recognised signs of 'happiness'.

Obesity is an increasing problem in our dog population and has serious welfare effects on these animals. These effects include heart disease, diabetes, joint and lameness problems, skin disease as well as many other problems. To tackle the obesity problem, the human values involved with the provision of food need to be recognised and addressed to enable any chance of successful control of the weight of their pets. Educating owners as early as possible in their dog's life that food is not the only reward available, and introducing alternative rewards such as the provision of a favourite toy or the instigating of play behaviour between owner and dog, can help in preventing owners developing overfeeding habits with their dogs. Successful treatment involves understanding the dynamics between the owner and the dog, and working with them to obtain the desired outcome; a good conditioned, healthy and happy dog.

Hawke's Bay veterinarian Karen Phillips (BVSc, MANZCVS Pharmacology and Animal Welfare) is a member of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the Australian College of Veterinary Sciences Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law Chapter. Contact nawac@mpi.govt.nz



Early Response Service helps address dairy cattle welfare

By Nita Harding and Anna Irwin, DairyNZ, and Brent Spencer, Fonterra.

DairyNZ has developed and implemented a programme of on-farm support to deal with potential animal welfare issues.

The Early Response Service was set up more than two years ago with the support of all the milk processing companies, and is an agreement between DairyNZ and the relevant milk processing company to facilitate the provision of technical expertise to farmers experiencing challenging times. This approach recognises that animal welfare concerns are often the result of complex underlying issues and that these issues have to be addressed in parallel with managing animal welfare.

Anyone (rural professional, member of the public) with a concern about a dairy farm can refer the farm for assessment by contacting DairyNZ on **0800 4 DairyNZ (0800 4 324 7969)**. The source of the referral is kept confidential.

The involvement of DairyNZ and the milk company provides an independent view of the on-farm situation and helps the farmer work through options to get things back on track. The first visit to the farmer aims to build a rapport and establish an action plan that helps both the farmer and the animals. Often the end result is an on-going relationship between the farmer and a team of rural professionals to the long term benefit of the farm business and the animals that are part of that business.

Dairy companies are an important component of the Dairy Industry's Animal Welfare Early Response Process. For Fonterra, this begins when a referral is

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Case study

In February 2011, a referral from a concerned member of the local community related to cows in less than ideal condition.

The first visit was to understand the farmer's concerns, as well as assessing pasture condition, farm management and cow condition. The farm was heading towards a feed surplus, however, pasture management and herd management were lacking. For example, cow body condition score was low—average 3.6 (on a scale of 1–10), there were milk quality and mastitis issues, and health concerns regarding some individual cows. The action plan was:

- engage the services of a farm consultant;
- employ a contractor to repair fences and power supply;
- discuss some specific animal health concerns with the farmer's veterinarian and set up a plan to improve reproduction and address mastitis;
- arrange a visit by a DairyNZ environment specialist to discuss required effluent system upgrades;
- arrange a visit by the Rural Support Trust to give support to the farmer and his wife.

With the farmer's agreement DairyNZ arranged for a trusted farm consultant to start a programme of monthly visits which carried on for the remainder of the season.

The farm was revisited by DairyNZ, along with the farmer's veterinarian, in early spring. Animal health and management had significantly improved. The farmer agreed for the veterinarian to continue a programme aimed at improving reproductive performance and cow body condition on-farm. With trusted rural professionals on-farm, visits by DairyNZ were no longer necessary, and the farmer was more confident and positive.



made from a member of the public, through farmers, industry professionals, or from DairyNZ.

Regional Food Safety Managers are responsible for managing animal welfare issues within their region. Once a referral is made, they decide on the next steps; this depends greatly on the nature of the referral. Any deliberate acts of cruelty are referred immediately to the Ministry for Primary Industries. However, in many instances, the DairyNZ Animal Husbandry Extension Specialist is contacted and a time arranged to visit the supplier's property.

Fonterra and DairyNZ carry out all initial visits jointly; the supplier is made fully aware of the reason for the visit and their responsibilities. Fonterra's Terms and Conditions of supply contain strict animal welfare conditions which include the ability

to suspend milk collection if the suppliers do not take measures to remedy the situation or follow an agreed management plan. The well-being of the animals is paramount and this is supported further by legislation provided under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Farming can be challenging, and during times of financial stress, adverse climatic conditions or personal issues, circumstances may occur that impact on animal welfare. The Early Response Service provides a struggling supplier with much needed support and guidance in the areas that it is required, and it must be done as early as possible to avoid animal suffering.

Nita Harding

Development Team Leader for Animal Husbandry and Welfare, DairyNZ

Nita.Harding@dairynz.co.nz



Anna Irwin, DairyNZ Animal Husbandry Extension Specialist, speaking with a farmer.

24th New Zealand Companion Animal Conference 2013

The 24th New Zealand Companion Animal Conference is this year dedicated to the theme 'Animal Welfare Matters'. This is also the title of the paper recently released for public consultation by the Ministry for Primary Industries. The paper provides an overview of the future directions of animal welfare standards in New Zealand and coincides with the review of the Animal Welfare Act. The New Zealand Companion Animal Conference is a timely opportunity to consider the reforms and whether they will ensure the ultimate protection of all animals in New Zealand.

The conference has a proud history of making a difference in the arena of animal welfare with the assistance of selected inspirational and informative international and local speakers. This year's conference will include Joyce D'Silva (UK), Antoine F Goetschel (Switzerland), William Gomaa (USA), Ian Robertson and Jeffrey Masson, along with politicians, lawyers, welfarists and other guests, providing a lively debate on important animal welfare issues.

The conference will be held 7–8 October 2013 at the Stamford Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand.

For more information on the 24th New Zealand Companion Animal Conference 2013 visit

www.nzcac.org.nz

On the road again

Following a successful tour of the regions in 2012 to seek feedback on the revised “Fitness of Live-stock for Transport Veterinary Declaration” and the welfare requirements for transporting stock generally, the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) hit the road again in 2013.

This time they were joined by DairyNZ and Fonterra on the series of road shows around New Zealand. The purpose was to discuss how veterinarians, DairyNZ and Fonterra can work together to improve farm productivity and profitability and animal health and welfare. Over 500 veterinarians and industry staff attended 14 road shows during April and May 2013. As well as vets, Fonterra, and DairyNZ staff, representatives from several other milk companies (namely Westland, Synlait and Open Country), the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Livestock Improvement Corporation attended and presented at the road shows.

The NZVA presentation focused on the purpose of the road shows, the environment in which these events were taking place and the governments’ economic growth agenda for the agri sector. Highlighted was the important role that veterinarians will play in growing the agricultural sector, and the NZVA dairy strategy.

The NZVA dairy strategy was defined. In summary, the strategy states “that a series of national, industry wide targets are developed around reproduction, mastitis, lameness and nutrition, which include co-ordinated national implementation, communication and marketing plans, and which involve the collection and collation of data to measure progress and achieve annual targets over the next five years”. Additionally “by 2017 incremental improvements in dairy farm productivity, sustainability and competitiveness have occurred that are directly attributable to farmers actively seeking and paying for animal husbandry advisory services”.

The need for consistent delivery of veterinary services by

veterinarians and veterinary businesses up and down the country was discussed and a proposal for a National Veterinary Quality Management/Quality Assurance Programme was put forward.

The presentation also discussed the need for a greater focus on non-technical skills by veterinarians as part of continuing professional development programmes, to enable veterinarians to more effectively engage with their farmer clients, define the value proposition, and effect farmer change.

The DairyNZ presentation discussed the dairy industry strategy which is currently being reviewed. The strategy ‘Making dairy farming work for everyone’ has two components: being competitive and responsible.

The industry vision for animal welfare was described in detail:

- All animals on dairy farms in New Zealand are cared to at least the minimum standards in the Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010.
- All farmers are working towards higher standards of husbandry, supported by knowledgeable rural professionals.
- Targets for reproduction, mastitis, cow body condition and lameness are met.



DairyNZ highlighted the need to work with the veterinary profession and other rural professionals to achieve this vision. Fonterra gave an overview of the international environment in which the co-operative is operating.

As part of Fonterra’s wider Sustainability Strategy, the Animal Welfare Strategy covers 3 key areas:

- **Development of Global Fonterra Positions and policies.**
- **Measurement and reporting of outcomes:** Aligning with the key metrics to ensure we can track our own performance as well as benchmark our business globally. These include lameness, antibiotic use, lifetime yield and longevity of animals, mastitis, cow fertility.
- **Transparency and partnerships:** Ensuring there is good visibility of our strategy and performance with customers and non-government organisations to show we are making good progress on our strategy and that it is being endorsed and verified.

The road shows achieved their purpose and built both on knowledge and understanding between the veterinary profession and dairy industry. It is anticipated that the increased

understanding of each other’s role will help to pave steps in achieving a successful industry, building linkages and networks between people and encouraging feedback to be provided on national strategies. It is hoped that these important steps will play an integral part in encouraging partnerships between the two professions to advance animal welfare in the dairy industry.

Richard Wild
NZVA Board
nzva@vets.org.nz

Present at the Ashburton road show were (left to right): Lorna Humm (NZVA Regional Branch Convener), David Williams (Synlait), Andy Goodwin (Fonterra), Richard Wild (NZVA Board), Nita Harding (DairyNZ), Trish McIntosh (NZVA Dairy Cattle branch) and Peter Hyde (MPI).

Countdown to prohibition of glueboard traps for rodents

Improved rodent control includes better animal welfare

There are many good reasons to control rats and mice. Rodents invade our built habitats, damage infrastructure and treat our crops and stored foods as attractive, easy snacks.

Some diseases that rodents carry are bad news for humans, just as the rodents we have inadvertently transported around the globe are bad news for native wildlife unused to competition and predation from such adaptable invaders (see sidebar).

“Build a better mousetrap and the world will beat a path to your door” is a famous misquote, but goes some way to explaining the wide variety of live-capture and kill traps available for rodent

control. ‘Better’ has traditionally focused on how efficiently rodents are caught, rather than the welfare of captured rodents. In particular, there is international and domestic concern about the humaneness of glueboard traps. These consist of a flat cardboard or plastic base coated with layer of non-drying, highly adhesive glue that entraps and holds live rodents that come into contact with it. People who use glue boards then have to dispose of the live rodents.

In 2000, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) recommended to the then Minister of Agriculture that the importation, sale and use of this type of trap for rodent control be prohibited in New Zealand. This took account of the distress exhibited by rodents caught on glueboards and the types of injuries they could incur before death. NAWAC also considered that a number of potentially more humane alternatives were available. Glueboards have high potential to cause an inhumane death, given the likelihood of an extended period of time between rodent capture and death, the degree of pain and distress while they remain trapped, and the possibility of inhumane disposal of live rodents stuck to traps.

After consultation with the public and glueboard suppliers and users in 2008, the Government imposed restrictions on the use of glueboard traps to catch rodents in New Zealand, from 1 January 2010. There is a phase-out timeline to total prohibition on the use and sale of glueboards from 1 January 2015.

Between now and that date glueboard traps can only be used by:

- Commercial pest control operators.
- Food production premises (places where food is manufactured, prepared, packaged or stored, but not including retail premises).

“Giant killer mice” on Gough Island

Introduced by humans to this remote island in the South Atlantic Ocean about 150 years ago, house mice on Gough Island today are unusually large (up to 50 percent bigger than normal) and kill seabird chicks. This predation is threatening the survival of endangered ground or burrow-nesting species of albatross and petrels on the island, in one of their most important breeding habitats.

- Department of Conservation staff and contractors for managing the risk of pest invasion on pest-free offshore islands.
- Boat operators in vicinity of pest-free offshore islands.

From 2015, rodent management in these situations must be achieved without the use of glueboard traps. Now is the time for pest control practitioners to be proactive and lend their expertise to selecting and defining best practice from the available range of alternatives to glueboards, including snap traps and other kill-traps, curiosity live-traps, non-toxic baits and deterrents. MPI is supporting this effort by commissioning a review of rodent control methods used around the world and holding a workshop, to inform decisions on alternatives.

For more information on glueboard trap regulation, see the Ministry for Primary Industries [website](#).

Penny Fisher

Research Capability Leader

Wildlife Ecology and Management Team, Landcare Research

fisherp@landcareresearch.co.nz



Wild rat. By Reg McKenna, Wikimedia Commons.

“Ag Gag” Laws in the United States

In recent years many American states have considered or passed laws that aim to limit covert video-recording on agricultural properties such as farms or slaughter houses exposing or alleging mistreatment of animals. Supporters call these “agriculture operation interference” laws and opponents call them “ag gag” laws. To the best of my knowledge no neutral term to describe them exists in general usage, perhaps because there is a distinct lack of ‘middle ground’ or ‘compromise’ options being discussed.

In the United States most animal issues are regulated at the state level and there is now a patchwork of current and pending legislation on covert filming falling into three main categories:

- Thirteen states have laws that allow manufacturers to sue for punitive damages if a person libels their product, and many do not require malicious intent and/or place the burden of proof on the accused party.
- Three laws dating from the 1990s make it illegal to enter a farm to film without consent (North Dakota), or to film for the purpose of causing damage (Kansas) or defamation (Montana). More recently enacted laws make it illegal to gain access or employment under false pretenses (Iowa, Utah).
- Missouri requires that film showing offences to be turned over to authorities within 24-hours. Similar bills have come close to passing in other states, such as Tennessee where a 24-hour bill passed the house and senate but was vetoed by the Governor.

It could easily be argued that trespasses, false presences and secret filming are not good things in themselves. But there have always been extenuating circumstances where this kind of tactic was seen as justified such as investigative reporting and whistleblowing. In both cases the steps taken to collect the evidence are



Emily Patterson-Kane.

seen as necessary to expose practices that are illegal or that the public/consumer has a right to know about.

Laws of these types have been used in suits against *60 Minutes* (1990) and *ABC News* shows (1992, 2012) after reporters investigated food production and processing practices that might disgust or endanger consumers. And the Utah act was used in February of 2012 to bring charges against a private citizen who took smartphone footage of a slaughter plant, but was dropped when it was shown she may have been standing in a publically accessible area at the time.

Given that the cost of legal defense can be extraordinarily high, even if the defendant ultimately wins the case, it is not surprising that most exposes are now carried out by large, financially stable animal activist groups. But at the same time these groups do not have the same traditional public mandate of the existing employee

turned whistleblower, journalist or bystander. In fact much of the public discussion about this important issue is drowned out by the reposts between industry groups and advocacy groups locked in a polarized debate.

In my opinion, the general necessity for selectively tolerating non-destructive but sometimes deceptive collection of on-farm video is to be seen in the outcomes. Secretly collected video has led to multiple convictions for aggravated misdemeanor and felony animal cruelty, and in 2008 the United States' largest meat recall occurred after a plant was found to be processing collapsed and potentially sick animals. In fact the majority of undercover films released over the last five years seem to me to contain least some apparent infractions, predominately physical abuse or improper killing methods. That suggests that no matter how emotive and selectively edited the videos may be, the film is generally only collected (or possibly only released) when a plausible justification exists.

While the potential loss of workplace privacy may be painful for people working in agriculture (I am sure I would not want a fake colleague filming me for months to collect the most damning possible snippets), a catastrophic loss of public trust will ultimately cost the industry more – paving the way for Federal regulation of on-farm practices with the attendant loss of freedom and increased regulatory requirements. I would argue that with privacy versus suppression-of-investigation decisions, we need to retain as much judicial discretion as possible, and in many cases go for the lesser evil. Because, for animal agriculture, the passing of aggressive protective bills could prove to be a very Pyrrhic victory.

Emily Patterson-Kane
Animal Welfare Scientist
American Veterinary Medical Association
ekane@avma.org

A focus on animal welfare at Massey celebrations

"If we are to meet the Government's Economic Growth Agenda target of doubling primary industry export receipts by 2025, we need to be able to assure consumers of our products that our animals are farmed to the best animal welfare standards. Vets have a key role to play in enabling these assurances," said Professor Frazer Allan, Head of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences at Massey University. He was speaking on the future of the profession during the university's July celebration of 50 years of veterinary education.

This strong focus on animal welfare as a concept was not always there. "It wasn't called animal welfare and my perception was that it wasn't emphasised," remembers Boyd Jones, member of the first class graduating in 1968. "We were there to learn to care for animals, but there were no ethics committees and research just happened. Attitudes very much depended on the thinking of the individual".

The appointment of Professor David Blackmore to the Chair of Veterinary Public Health and Meat Hygiene in the early 1970s brought a focus on humane slaughter of meat animals, and subsequently, of whales. In terms of research using animals, exempted from the provisions of the Animals Protection Act 1960, an in-house system was set up at Massey in the late seventies whereby any experiments involving animals had to be approved by the head of department. Following the adoption of the Animal Protection (Codes of Ethical Conduct) Regulations 1987, it was Professor Bob Jolly who wrote the Massey code and was the first Chair of the university's animal ethics committee.



With a growing awareness of animal welfare issues in the academic, farming and wider community, an initiative led by Professor David Mellor and supported by MAF saw the establishment of the AGMARDT Chair in Animal Welfare Science in 1994. Held initially by Professor Neville Gregory, at the time this was the only such chair in the southern hemisphere and only the third in the world. An ever-increasing emphasis on animal welfare within the university's veterinary department resulted, in 1998, in the formation of the Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre (AWSBC). This evolved from the Animal Welfare Research Group which David Mellor had led from 1992 in the former Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Now co-directed by Professors Mellor and Stafford, the Centre's prestige was recognised when it became the first World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Collaborating Centre in New Zealand and, at that time, the only one in the world fully dedicated to animal welfare. Its expansion in 2009 to include welfare centres at AgResearch and three Australian institutions is a tribute to the quality of the animal welfare research and scholarship at Massey and its Australasian partners.

Massey's recognition of the importance of animal welfare was reflected in its awarding of Honorary Bachelors of Veterinary Science degrees – three of the thirteen overseas trained veterinarians that have made major contributions to animal welfare in New Zealand are:

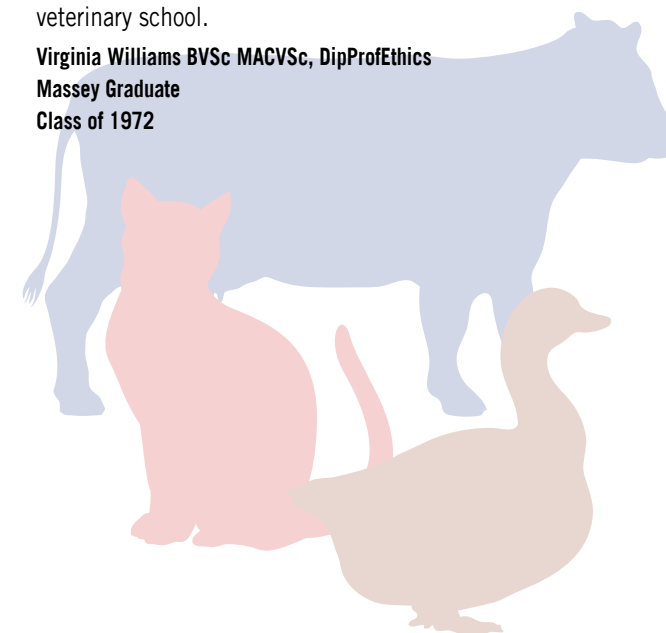
- David Bayvel, who, as Director of Animal Welfare within the then Ministry of Agriculture, oversaw the development of much of New Zealand's animal welfare infrastructure as well as

the ground-breaking Animal Welfare Act 1999. He was also instrumental in encouraging the OIE to include animal welfare within its remit and chaired the Animal Welfare Working Group until last year.

- Catherine Smith, active in many aspects of the profession including two terms as president of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA), was the Association's first Animal Welfare Coordinator, and as such was a dedicated champion for the role of the profession as guardians of animal welfare.
- Richard Wild, who leads the development of the operational animal welfare strategy within the MPI Verification Services, was also instrumental, as President of the NZVA, in the development of the association's Animal Welfare Strategy.

See the [Massey University website](#) for more information about the veterinary school.

Virginia Williams BVSc MACVSc, DipProfEthics
Massey Graduate
Class of 1972



Across our desks

A selection of interesting items from journals which have crossed our desks.

Immunocastration of pigs

Immunocastration of pigs using a vaccination, rather than performing surgical castration, was undertaken to assess its effects on the behaviour of male pigs in a commercial setting. It was found that the vaccination reduced unwanted sexual and aggressive behaviours, but did not affect the activity levels of the pigs overall, and could be used to improve pig welfare throughout the growing period.

Brewster, V and Nevel, A. (2013). *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 145 (1), 32-36

Risk assessment of the welfare of sheep following mulesing

Assessment of the welfare of sheep over their lifetime was examined following surgical mulesing, mulesing using a plastic clip or being left non mulesed. Sheep subjected to mulesing had the highest welfare challenge in year one as a result of the procedure, but after five years, the highest welfare challenge was for those sheep that had not been mulesed and which were subject to an increased risk of flystrike. To ensure animal welfare over a lifetime however, less invasive techniques, such as genetic selection for sheep with less wrinkle on their hindquarters, in combination with the use of insecticides, should be employed.

Fisher, A.D. et al. (2013). *Animal Welfare* 22, 267-275

Preference of cattle for a feedlot or pasture

Public perception is such that the welfare of cattle is better in extensive systems, where cattle are given access to pasture to graze, rather than intensive, management systems. Beef cattle that were given the choice of pasture or a feedlot were found to spend 75 percent of their time at pasture, indicating a preference for this environment, but returned to the feedlot to meet their nutritional needs.

Lee, C. et al. (2013). *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 145, 53-59

Classifying dogs' facial expressions from photographs

The ability of humans to identify dogs' facial expressions from photographs taken under behaviourally defined conditions was examined. It was found that people both experienced and inexperienced with dogs were able to read the dog's emotions from the photographs. People experienced with dogs were better at identifying behaviourally defined situations than inexperienced people, but were less accurate at reading aggressiveness in the dog's facial expressions.

Bloom, T. and Friendman, H. (2013). *Behavioural Processes*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.beproc.2013.02.010>

David Bayvel wins College Prize

The **Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS)** held its annual Science Week on the Gold Coast in July, with the prestigious College Prize being awarded to Dr David Bayvel, Chief Veterinary Adviser for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). David was nominated for the prize by the Animal Welfare Chapter, with his testimonial reading as follows:

It would not be understating the impact of David's contribution and leadership to say it has changed the way animal welfare, as not only a moral and philosophical issue but also as a strategic marketing issue, is viewed, both in this part of the world and internationally. Additionally, his passion for the subject has been instrumental in raising its profile within a veterinary profession that was, initially at least, a little slow to take ownership of the issue.

It was in 1989, when he was appointed to New Zealand's then Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) as the National Manager, Animal Welfare, that his career in this field began – and continues, despite his retirement from MAF (now the Ministry for Primary Industries) at the end of 2011. David was appointed to his position with WSPA in July 2012 and continues his involvement in animal welfare.

Internationally, it was through David's position as chair of an international ad-hoc expert group that he was able to encourage the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), which up to that point had consistently excluded animal welfare from its brief, to embrace the concept. This led to the establishment of the OIE Animal Welfare Working Group, chaired by David from its formation in 2002 until his appointment to WSPA.

Animal welfare research has hugely benefited from another of David's projects – his liaison between Massey's Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre and the OIE contributed to the Centre being recognised as an OIE Collaborating Centre in 2007. The collaborating centre has grown from there to include a further four institutes across Australasia.

For his contribution to veterinary science in the field of animal welfare science and policy, David Bayvel is a most deserving recipient of the College Prize.

Auckland Island pigs, zebrafish and mannequins

Every year the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee hold a meeting outside of Wellington, enabling the committee to meet local Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) members. In May 2013, the Committee spent three days in Auckland visiting four AECs. These AECs demonstrated the breadth of activity that occurs in the research, testing and teaching sector, ranging from human medical research to conservation medicine.

Living Cell Technologies is a biotechnology company pioneering innovative therapies for the treatment of human diabetes and neurological diseases. Researchers use pigs derived from the Auckland Island pig herd to provide cells for the production of these therapies.

University of Auckland medical scientists use sheep and zebra fish as disease models to investigate prenatal brain injury and inflammatory diseases, respectively. See the University's Youtube video [Can fish help us understand human disease?](#) for a look at the zebra fish laboratory and an explanation of the role they play in medical research.

The Small Animal Teaching Unit at the UNITEC Institute of Technology demonstrated the use of small companion animals in the education of students with interest in careers involving animal care and husbandry. A past winner of the NAEAC Three Rs award, the use of animal mannequins in teaching has allowed UNITEC to improve student training and ethical awareness, as well as reduce and replace animal use in teaching.

The Committee was also hosted by the [New Zealand Centre for Conservation Medicine](#) at Auckland Zoo. The Centre has a purpose built facility that serves as the Zoo's veterinary hospital, a national wildlife referral centre and an international hub that supports research and education focused on conservation medicine.

Karen Booth
NAEAC member
naeac@mpi.govt.nz



NAEAC members Justine Stewart and Peter Larsen check the heart rate of a model dog at UNITEC.



The rabbit enclosure at UNITEC's small animal unit contains nesting material and houses for the animals to burrow and hide in.

NAEAC Appointment

The Minister for Primary Industries, Hon Nathan Guy, recently appointed Mr Stephen Cairns to the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. Stephen was nominated by Local Government New Zealand and provides a lay perspective on the committee.



Born and raised in rural Southland, Mr Cairns has extensive experience in governance and stakeholder management of medium and large organisations having been a former Chairman of the Otago Regional Council and Environmental Portfolio spokesperson for Local Government New Zealand. He also chaired the Regional Affairs Committee which is the collective organisation representing all of New Zealand's regional councils and unitary authorities.

Mr Cairns has a Bachelor of Commerce from Lincoln University and a Diploma for Graduates in Regional and Resource planning from the University of Otago.

A keen equestrian, fisherman and hunter, Mr Cairns enjoys these outdoor pursuits as a balance to a busy professional career as Strategic Development Manager for a large Australasian construction firm.

Mr Cairns was also formerly the Chairman of the Forbury Park Trotting Club and a master's games bronze medallist in the equestrian one day event which encompasses dressage, show jumping and cross country.

He replaces Ian Buchanan who resigned from the committee to take up a position as Commissioner for the Environment Court.

Welcome to Animal Mosaic!

“Animal Mosaic is a great interdisciplinary hub of information that I often point students towards when they are researching topics” – Dr Nik Taylor Ph.D – Senior Lecturer, Sociology Flinders University

The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) has recently developed an exciting new platform for professionals in the animal welfare field around the globe to network, collaborate and share information on animal welfare. Powered by WSPA, Animal Mosaic is the “one-stop-shop” for animal welfare resources.

Animal Mosaic has sections on current animal welfare-related news, education, animal welfare legislation and features a multitude of resources on diverse topics such as companion animals and animals in entertainment. Animal Mosaic hosts a global professional community where members join to participate in debates on animal welfare, promote their work and share their knowledge and expertise. The community is free to join and is an excellent independent forum to share resources and promote animal welfare on a wider scale.

Animal Mosaic is also home to the Sentience Mosaic platform, dedicated to promoting the science of animal sentience. Here you can hear academics and notable experts in the field share their experiences on how sentience has impacted their research or work and participate in innovative live debates and discussions from leading academics around the world. The Virtual Disaster Platform is another unique platform within Animal Mosaic. This is a space for co-ordinated disaster



relief and real-time information exchange during disasters, ultimately enabling more effective emergency action for animals and the communities that rely on them.

In March this year, Dr Nik Taylor, Senior Lecturer of Sociology at Flinders University and Dr Tania Signal, Senior Lecturer of Psychology at the Central Queensland University participated in an online debate in Sentience Mosaic on animal sentience contested in human/animal interactions. Following the debate, Dr Taylor is looking into integrating Animal Mosaic into her students assessments.

To see what Animal Mosaic can bring to your work and knowledge, check out the link at www.animalmosaic.org!

For more information on Animal Mosaic and to sign up to our newsletter, please get in contact with Kate Turner-Mann at WSPA on kateturnermann@wspa-asiapacific.org

To find out more on Dr Nik Taylor, head to <http://www.flinders.edu.au/people/nik.taylor>



Linking animal abuse and family violence – support for veterinarians

A correlation between animal abuse, family violence and other forms of community violence has been established. Child and animal protection professionals have recognized this link, noting that abuse of both children and animals is connected in a self-perpetuating cycle of violence. When animals in a home are abused or neglected, it is a warning sign that others in the household may not be safe. – American Humane Association

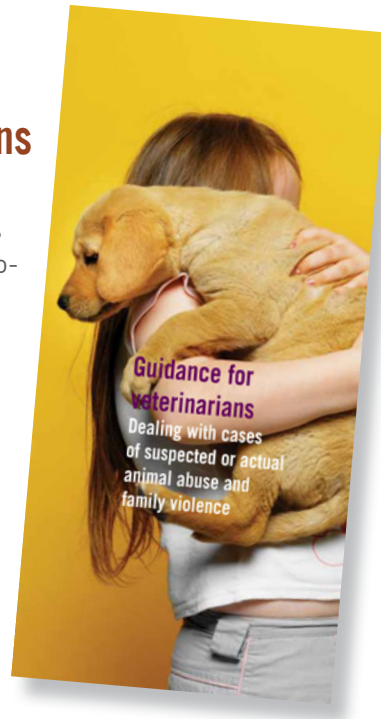
Guidance for Veterinarians; Dealing with cases of suspected or actual animal abuse and family violence provides guidance for vets dealing with cases of suspected or actual animal abuse and family violence. It has been published by the Veterinary Council of New Zealand and the Ministry for Primary Industries, and written in collaboration with the New Zealand Veterinary Association, the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Rural Women New Zealand, International Animal Law, and the Ministry for Social Development.

These guidelines have been developed to assist vets to respond safely and responsibly when animal abuse or family violence are suspected or identified, and to set practice policies and protocols for their clinics to follow in such cases. Vets are not responsible for establishing or confirming abuse, violence or offending; but it is their responsibility to report cases of suspected abuse or violence to those who have the legal power to investigate.

Despite the relative rarity with which situations of deliberate animal abuse and associated family violence are suspected, they do occur. Raising veterinarians' awareness of such issues, interfacing as they do with both animals and their owners, provides a unique opportunity to assist in reducing violence in New Zealand society.

A copy of *Guidance for Veterinarians; Dealing with cases of suspected or actual animal abuse and family violence* was sent to every vet clinic in the country, and the RNZSPCA.

To request a copy please contact the Veterinary Council of New Zealand on vet@vetcouncil.org.nz. The document can be viewed on our [website](#).



Codes of ethical conduct – approvals, notifications and terminations since issue 14

All organisations involved in the use of live animals for research, testing or teaching are required to adhere to an approved code of ethical conduct.

Codes of ethical conduct approved:

- Lincoln University

Notifications to MPI of arrangements to use an existing code of ethical conduct:

- Aloe Vera N Z Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)
- Aoraki Polytechnic (to use Lincoln University's code – renewal, arrangement expired)
- Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (to use Lincoln University's code – renewal, arrangement expired)
- Connovation Ltd (to use Lincoln University's code – renewal, arrangement expired)
- Cropmark Seeds Ltd (to use Lincoln University's code – renewal, arrangement expired)
- CuroNZ Ltd (to use AgResearch Ltd's code)
- PGG Wrightson Seeds Ltd (to use Lincoln University's code – renewal, arrangement expired)
- Synlait Milk Ltd (to use Lincoln University's code

– renewal, arrangement expired)

- VetLearn (to use Estendart Ltd's code)
- West Coast Vets Ltd (to use Lincoln University's code)
- Zoetis New Zealand Ltd (to use Estendart Ltd's code)

Codes of ethical conduct revoked or expired or arrangements terminated or lapsed:

- Ancrum Consultancies
- ImmunoEthical Associates (NZ) Ltd
- Pest Control Research Ltd
- Pest-Tech Ltd
- Rotorua District Veterinary Club
- The New Zealand Merino Company Ltd

Minor amendments to codes of ethical conduct notified to MPI:

- Alleva Animal Health Ltd

Linda Carsons

Principal Adviser

Ministry for Primary Industries

linda.carsons@mpi.govt.nz

Welfare Pulse

Welfare Pulse is published four times a year by the Ministry for Primary Industries. It is of special relevance to those with an interest in domestic and international animal welfare developments.

The articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect Government policy. For enquiries about specific articles, refer to the contact listed at the end of each article.

For general enquiries contact:
Welfare Pulse

Animal Welfare Standards

Ministry for Primary Industries

PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Tel: 64-4-894 0100

Email: animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

Animal welfare complaints: 0800 00 83 33

Photo competition

Here is your opportunity to showcase animals and animal welfare by submitting a photo to Welfare Pulse! The theme is 'people and animals' and can be a pet, production animal or an animal in the wild. The best photo, chosen by the editorial team, will be published in each issue.

Send your high-resolution image to animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz. Photographers must be the sole author of the entries and hold all intellectual property rights to them. Photos must be submitted with a title, date shot, location and caption.

Entries for the December issue of *Welfare Pulse* close 4 November 2013.

Your feedback

We look forward to hearing your views on *Welfare Pulse* and welcome your comment on what you would like to see more of, less of, or something new that we have yet to cover.

Please send your feedback to us by emailing animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz

General subscriptions

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To unsubscribe from email alerts regarding *Welfare Pulse* please [click here](#) or follow the link provided at the bottom of the alert.



Winner of the photo competition for the September issue is Bernice Mangnall, a veterinarian at Selwyn Rakaia Vet Services. The photo is a close up of koi carp swarming to the surface of the pool to be fed, taken at the Garden of Contentment, Yu Yuan Gardens in Shanghai.