



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is an independent statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on animal welfare matters. Its functions include recommending codes of welfare for issue, and making recommendations on legislative proposals including regulations relating to surgical procedures and traps and devices, and identifying research needs. It also promotes the development of guidelines for the use of traps and devices, and hunting and killing animals in a wild state.

Key items discussed at the 14 May 2014 meeting were:

- **Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010 amendments -**
 - Dairy cattle calves: The public consultation on the use of blunt force trauma for routine destruction of dairy calves ended on 1 May. The Committee considered the issues raised in the submissions. In light of submissions, as well as a science review, good industry practice and available technology, the proposed amendment was reviewed by NAWAC.
 - Dairy cattle housing: Public consultation on new minimum standards to address housing dairy cattle ended on 3 December 2013. The proposed amendments were discussed by the Committee, which provided guidance for the dairy cattle subcommittee to continue work on this amendment.
- **Systems review** - The systems review subcommittee, tasked with leading changes to the way NAWAC addresses its work priorities in the future, described the progress in their work programme since the last quarterly meeting. As well as this they put forward several new documents for consideration:
 - NAWAC Guideline 12: the prioritisation framework. It was agreed that this new guideline be adopted by NAWAC and posted on the [website](#).
 - NAWAC's work programme: a publicly available copy of NAWAC's work programme (updated every February) will be posted on the website.
 - NAWAC members: Each member should write a short paragraph on their qualifications and expertise that brought them to NAWAC; it was agreed that these will be posted alongside the member list online.
 - The NAWAC annual report: the format may need updating. It was agreed that the subcommittee would put forward a proposal on this at a later meeting
- **Presentation** – Ritchie Dawson (Wellington SPCA Chief Inspector) and Mike Baker (Manager Planning & Intelligence, MPI) each gave a presentation to NAWAC on the compliance side of animal welfare in New Zealand.
- **Tour of the Wellington SPCA** – The meeting was hosted at Wellington SPCA's new building. NAWAC received a tour of the updated facilities.