



## 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 20 May 2015 meeting were:

- **Work programme update –**
  - **Farrowing crates** – A NAWAC subcommittee has been reviewing the viability of continued usage of farrowing crates by the pork industry. An economic analysis comparing the economic impact of different farrowing systems is now underway.
  - **Animals in the wild** – The Animal Welfare Act has been updated to clarify that reckless and wilful ill-treatment of a wild animal is an offence, except in the case of 'generally accepted practice'. A workshop has been set up with various stakeholders to help determine the definition of generally accepted practice on 16 and 17 June.
  - **Horses and Donkeys code of welfare** – This code of welfare is in the final stages of post-consultation work.
- **Animal Welfare Amendment Bill: Progress on regulations** – The Animal Welfare Amendment Act (2) was passed in May. The Act provides for regulations to set mandatory animal welfare standards and broadens the range of enforcement tools. The working group that is drafting regulations reported back to the wider Committee on the process so far.
- **Greyhounds** – The impact of the Four Corners report in Australia on live baiting was discussed. NAWAC agreed to continue to work proactively with the New Zealand greyhound racing industry.
- **Presentations** – Kirsty Chidgey, A PhD student from Massey University studying farrowing systems, spoke to NAWAC about different systems in use in New Zealand and their impact on sow and piglet behaviour. Richard Wild, Specialist Adviser Verification, reported to NAWAC on the 2014/15 bobby calf programme undertaken by verification and compliance staff at MPI.
- **Glueboard traps** – Glueboard traps, under regulations released in 2009, have been prohibited from January 2015. Ministerial exemption can be granted, for a limited time, in certain situations where it is in the public interest and there are no viable alternatives. MPI reported back to NAWAC on the number of exemptions granted and the reasons for them.
- **Next meeting** – August 5<sup>th</sup> in Wellington at Pastoral House.

The other agreed meeting date for 2015 is Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.