



Member of the World Cat Congress

Minutes of Executive Council Teleconference meeting held 2nd August 20118

Present: Zena Pigden (Acting Chair)

Annette Dunn, Paul Flanagan, Paddy Smith, Cheryle St Clair-Newman

In attendance: Chris M Lowe (Executive Council Secretary)

Marion Petley (Treasurer)

Absent: Ian Gray (on leave)

Items for Discussion:

1. Monthly maintenance proposal ROCAP

A proposal has been presented by Brendan Woodhouse for the on going maintenance of the NZCF ROCAP database.

Paddy/Annette: "That the proposal as presented be accepted." Carried 5.0

Zena: To contact Brendan and confirm the acceptance – noting that the contract commenced on 1st July 2011. Itemised invoices (around the 14th of the month) to include the support provided that month and the number of hours used. Charge out \$65+GST (for two hours support).

Paul Flanagan IT Portfolio Manager is to be cc'd into all requests for support – to allow him to track what issues are arising. It will not be necessary to await an approval. The contract will have a review date of January 2012.

2. Dispensations:

An anomaly has been highlighted regarding the registration rule to transfer for breeding (payment of fee for certified pedigrees) in that on resignation of a partner from a prefix the rule has no provision to allow the transfer of any cats into the remaining owner/s name without the payment of the specified fee. People in this situation can apply to the EC for dispensation from the requirement to provide certified pedigrees with these transfers (which will normally be granted).

Paddy Smith Registrations Portfolio Manager is to formulate a change to the Registration rules for the November EC meeting.

Zena/Paul: "That dispensation is given to the following breeders Jenni Paul/Rosalie Rainbow, Paddy Smith/Barbara Beatson, Cheryle St Clair-Newman/Diane Davidson to transfer jointly owned cats back to one of the joint owners without having to supply a certified pedigree." Carried 3.0.2 (Paddy/Cheryle)

3. Approve submission re: the temporary housing code:

Discussion: A draft submission has been circulated by Zena to all EC members taking into consideration items that individual EC members have requested. A copy of the approved submission will be attached to the minutes of the teleconference meeting. There are concerns that NZCF Breeders may not have realised that part of the code relates to Breeding of cats so it is important that the membership are circulated.

Paul – highlighted that there are references to the SPCA (Ref: Standard 9) within the document, as a regulatory document an incorporated society cannot be named. In a code of practise only State owned enterprises (funded by the Government) should be named.

Paddy/Annette: “That the NZCF submission with the additional reference to the SPCA be forwarded to Val Ball (NZCF CAC Representative).

Executive Council Secretary to follow-up on the closing date for submissions other than through CAC. A copy of the submission to be circulated with the minutes and a link to be placed on the website – highlighting that “Breeders need to read this.”

If the closing date allows affiliate clubs and members will be circulated for further submissions.

4. Trial of NZCF Show Package

Patches & Pointed will be trialling the NZCF Show Package at their September show – report back to the next EC meeting.

5. Health & Safety Manual

A proposed format had been circulated by the Health & Safety Officer (Sue Mackay) requesting feedback from the EC.

Zena – Executive Council confirmed that Sue Mackay is to continue with the format of the draft for presentation at the November EC meeting. Sue was thanked for her contribution.

6. CATZ INC Letter

Letter circulated regarding a review of NZCF stance relating to non acceptance of Catz Inc. Judges.

Chris Lowe – reported that this matter was touched on during the discussions at the World Cat Congress and suggested it would be a good idea to await the release of the WCC minutes before making a decision.

Further discussion postponed till after WCC minutes are released.

Annette Dunn to initiate discussion with NZCF Judges and report back.

7. Regional and National Annual Awards (2010)

Refer back to Ian Gray Portfolio Manager Shows as there have been a number of enquiries regarding the awards. Regional winners normally get announced when a host club is holding a dinner.

8. Next Executive Council Meeting

Zena – unfortunately the August meeting had to be cancelled as two EC members were unable to attend. The only weekend when all EC members are available in September is 24-25th although not ideal as the EC Secretary is not available we need to make a decision.

Meeting date – Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th September 2011

Venue – to be confirmed (Wellington)

Commencing at 10.00 (as EC members will be flying in on the Saturday)

9. Show Dates

Zena/Annette: “That the application (Wellington & Pedigree Persian) for a 6 ring 2 day show to be held at the Pet Expo 5-6th November 2011 in Wellington be approved.” Carried 5.0

Executive Council Secretary – it is the intention that the Pet Expo will be utilised as an opportunity for Central Region Judges to meet the requirements of attending a Judges Refresher on an annual basis.

Annette – It is the responsibility of the Judges Council to approve this, and two months notice will be applied. This is an excellent idea, with some of the Central Region Judges being utilised to officiate at the show and the others will be involved in public seminars. NZCF is responsible for travel expenses for non officiating judges only (club pays for officiating judges).

10. Judges Advisory Council

Executive Council Secretary – reported that there are a number of Judges who believe that the Judges Council is no longer operational, if this is the case who is to deal with matters pertaining to Judges. Annette confirmed that this is not the case and that the Judges Council is definitely still responsible.

11. National Show 2011

There have been no formal expressions of interest received for the hosting of the 2012 National Show.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.

Chris M Lowe
Executive Council Secretary

ATTACHMENT: NZCF Submission to CAC

Draft code for Temporary Housing of Companion Animals
NZCF Submission

Breeding:

NZCF feels the code should distinguish between hobby breeders for whom cat breeding is their main activity, and other temporary housing facilities which are not particularly appropriate for breeding such as petshops and veterinary clinics.

Currently the code makes no distinction between these and states:

It is strongly recommended that temporary housing facilities not be involved in the breeding of animals. There will be some circumstances where breeding may be inevitable (e.g. fish, pregnant animals, specific breeding establishments), and any progeny should be cared for appropriately. Any establishment with offspring will be considered a temporary housing facility.

This appears to be contradictory – it states that ANY establishment with offspring will be considered a temporary housing facility (and earlier, states that this code applies to breeders). At the same time, it states that recommended temporary housing facilities not be involved in the breeding of animals.

NZCF would contend that a cat breeding establishment is NOT a temporary housing facility since all of the breeding animals are generally long term (even if ultimately rehomed, most spend years at the home of their breeder) or permanent residents. Only the kittens that are intended to be sold are ‘temporary’.

Therefore, breeders ought not to be covered by this code of practice. Provisions which may be completely reasonable and appropriate for facilities such as petshops and veterinary clinics are not appropriate for cat breeders pursuing their hobby, most breeders have their breeding females, and their kittens (who are the only ‘temporary’ residents) in their own homes, not in a purpose built cattery.

NZCF feels that while some of the requirements which apply to breeders in the code are completely appropriate, others are not. Problematic requirements include:

Minimum Standard No. 1 – Responsibilities of Proprietor or Person In Charge

.....At least one person on duty or available at any given time must hold an animal husbandry qualification of NZQA Level 3 (or equivalent or at a higher level) effective

5 years from the date of issue of this code.

For hobby breeders, in most cases there are no staff. Some breeders employ someone to do some of the cattery cleaning for them if they have specific cattery accommodation.

NZCF feels it is unreasonable to require hobby breeders to obtain an animal husbandry qualification and is not likely to make a significant difference to the quality of care provided for their animals which in the vast majority of cases is very high. Moreover, the qualification contains units that have no relevance to breeding cats (ie animal husbandry relating to farm animals.)

Minimum Standard No. 2 – Quality Assurance Systems

- (a) Each temporary housing facility must be monitored through an appropriate and recognised authority.**
- (b) Pet shops, animal welfare centres, shelters, pounds, animal day care centres, animal welfare organisations and breeders must be licensed and audited by an appropriate independent quality assurance system effective 2 years from the date of issue of this code.**

NZCF questions, who is going to license and audit breeders? How will appropriate standards be determined given that the type of accommodation breeders have for their cats, which often live in the home as pets, is completely different from that of the other organisations mentioned (pet shops etc). Will breeders have to have written policies and procedures for themselves? How will this actually improve the care of their animals? What about breeders who have just one or two breeding queens who live as pets in the house? Will they need to be licensed and audited? This seems to be an extraordinary intrusion into people's private lives (breeders do not make money from their hobby, it is purely a hobby) for no proven benefit. We would prefer to see a 'best practice' recommendation (not a minimum standard) that breeders participate in the appropriate accreditation system run by their governing body. The NZCF has a voluntary cattery accreditation scheme which has been developed specifically for our cat breeders. (Even so it is more easily applied to those breeders who have separate cattery accommodation for their breeding cats).

Minimum Standard No. 12 – Treatment Prior to Sale or Rehoming

Dogs and cats must be treated for worms and fleas prior to being sold or rehomed.

NZCF questions whether this is necessary as a blanket requirement. Currently not all breeders feel that it is necessary to treat for fleas if there is no evidence of fleas in their household or on the cat or kitten.

Minimum Standard No. 17 – Housing and Hygiene

.....Temperatures must be maintained at a level that provides for the comfort of the animals (as appropriate to the species). Wall thermometers must be installed in areas best suited to monitor temperature changes.

Floors of internal animal housing areas must be made of an impervious material to assist cleaning and drainage.

NZCF feels it is unreasonable to expect breeders to install thermometers in their own homes (bearing in mind that many breeders keep their cats in their own homes as pets.) It seems excessive even to require this for purpose built cattery accommodation.

NZCF questions whether breeders keeping their breeding cats as pets in their own homes will be required to install impervious flooring throughout? Once again this requirement does not seem to relate to the reality of hobby cat breeding as opposed to other types of activity (boarding cattery, veterinary clinic, pet shop) where a changing population of animals are housed temporarily.

Minimum Standard No. 29 – Rehoming and Sale of Animals

(c) Cats and dogs must be microchipped and vaccinated prior to rehoming or sale.

NZCF feels that the requirement to microchip all cats and kittens prior to rehoming is unreasonable. It imposes a large extra expense (typically \$30-\$50 per animal) on breeders who in many cases will not be able to recoup this cost by increasing the cost of their kittens. NZCF agrees that microchipping of animals is desirable but sees no reason why the onus should fall on breeders do this. Owners can choose to microchip if they wish.

Shows

Minimum Standard No. 1 – Responsibilities of Proprietor or Person In Charge

.....At least one person on duty or available at any given time must hold an animal husbandry qualification of NZQA Level 3 (or equivalent or at a higher level) effective 5 years from the date of issue of this code.

NZCF questions whether this should be a requirement for cat shows. At cat shows owners or their agents are responsible for the welfare of their animals. Generally

shows are run by a small show committee and to require that in every club one person obtains a level 3 qualification in animal husbandry is not reasonable. Clubs have a changing membership as this is just a hobby for people and personal circumstances and interest levels can change. Many clubs will be unable to get anyone in the club to commit the time and energy needed to obtain such a qualification – let alone another person to do the same thing if the first one leaves the club.

Minimum Standard No. 19 – Housing of Cats

Cat cages for animal shows must be a minimum of 600mm x 600mm x 600mm within 2 years from the date of issue of this code.

The NZCF accepts the need for clubs using smaller cages to upgrade to a larger size for some exhibits. However cats and kittens at cat shows range in size from very small (four month old Siamese kitten) to very large (fully adult male Maine Coon. 600mm x 600mm cages are too large for the smallest exhibits and too small for the largest. . It is overkill to put a 4mth old kitten in a 600x600 cage. Kittens can in most cases reasonably be displayed in 450mm x 450mm cages. Persians, Ragdoll, Birmans and all shorthair breeds have no trouble being shown in a 510mm x510mm or 550 x 550mm cage (20 or 22 inch squared) while adult male Maine Coons require a cage that is 800-900mm wide x 600mm deep. In other words there is no ‘one size fits all’ here.

NZCF feels it is unreasonable to require clubs to replace cages that are actually quite suitable for some exhibits. A more reasonable minimum standard would be similar to the IATA (International Air Travel Association) minimum standard for carriers used for air travel. In other words that the cat should be able to stand up, turn around, and lie down naturally. This is considered acceptable for cats travelling internationally for much longer periods (in some cases more than 24 hours) than a cat show day of 8 hours or so.

Nevertheless, even with this change, some clubs will need to purchase larger cages to accommodate some exhibits. It will be difficult for clubs using smaller cages to undertake the expense of replacing their cages within the short space of two years. Replacing 50 cages could easily cost around \$5000. As cat clubs are non profit making bodies, they will need to fundraise to meet this cost. The NZCF suggests that a more realistic and appropriate timeframe would be 5 years.

General Comment: we note one or two references to ‘SPCA inspectors’ in the document (eg in minimum standard 13). We understand that codes of compliance should not refer to bodies which do not have SOE status and suggest that these references are removed or replaced with references only to animal welfare inspectors.

TEMPORARY HOUSING OF COMPANION ANIMALS

Animal Welfare (Temporary Housing of Companion Animals) Code of Welfare 2010

A code of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999

August 2010

National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

C/- Animal Welfare Directorate, Biosecurity New Zealand, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140

Preface

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 came into force on 1 January 2000. It establishes the fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. These obligations are written in general terms. The detail is found in codes of welfare. Codes set out minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of animals. They are developed following an extensive process of public consultation and are reviewed every 10 years, or sooner if necessary.

I recommend that all those who care for animals become familiar with the relevant codes. This is important because failure to meet a minimum standard in a code could lead to legal action being taken.

I issue codes on the recommendation of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The members of this committee collectively possess knowledge and experience in veterinary science; agricultural science; animal science; the commercial use of animals; the care, breeding and management of companion animals; ethical standards and conduct in respect of animals; animal welfare advocacy; the public interest in respect of animals; and environmental and conservation management.

The Animal Welfare (Temporary Housing of Companion Animals) Code of Welfare 2010 is issued by me, by a notice published in the *Gazette* on xx xx xx, under section 75 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. This code comes into force on xx xx xx.

This code is deemed to be a regulation for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989 and is subject to the scrutiny of Parliament's Regulations Review Committee.

Hon David Carter
Minister of Agriculture

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1. Introduction

1.1 What is the purpose of this code of welfare?

Owners and persons in charge of companion animals in a temporary housing facility have a responsibility to understand and meet the welfare needs of the animals in their care. The purpose of this code is to encourage all those responsible for the temporary housing of companion animals to adopt the highest standards of husbandry, care and handling.

The code sets minimum standards for the care and management of companion animals in a temporary housing facility. It includes recommendations for best practice to encourage standards of care better than just the minimum. Advice is given to encourage a high level of welfare. Explanatory material is provided where appropriate.

1.2 Who does this code apply to?

This code applies to all persons responsible for the welfare of companion animals in a temporary housing facility, including animals in breeding establishments, boarding establishments, animal welfare centres and pounds, training establishments, quarantine/isolation facilities and pet shops.

1.3 What animals does this code apply to?

This code applies to *all* companion animals in a temporary housing facility.

NAWAC considers that the minimum standards and recommendations for best practice are generally applicable across all companion animals in a temporary housing facility in all situations. The way in which a minimum standard is achieved, however, may depend on the context in which it is being considered.

1.4 What happens if I do not follow the minimum standards in this code?

Failure to meet a minimum standard in this code may be used as evidence to support a prosecution for an offence under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. A person who is charged with an offence can defend himself or herself by showing that he or she has equalled or exceeded the minimum standards in this code.

The recommendations for best practice in this code have no legal effect and are included to encourage higher standards of animal welfare.

1.5 How does this code relate to other codes of welfare?

This code applies to all companion animals in a temporary housing facility in all situations. Other codes of welfare in existence or under development provide minimum standards and recommendations for best practice in particular circumstances, such as the keeping of dogs or companion cats, or the transport of animals. These should be consulted where appropriate (see Appendix III, "Codes of Welfare", to this code, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry website at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare).

There is other legislation relevant to the holding of companion animals in a temporary housing facility (see Appendix III, "Codes of Welfare", to this code).

2. Characteristics of Temporary Housing Facilities

Introduction

A temporary housing facility is one which:

- receives companion animals which, for whatever reason, require temporary housing from their usual place of keeping
- provides for their immediate needs
- is not limited to but may carry out one or more of the following in relation to such animals:
 - (i) provide temporary accommodation and care
 - (ii) rehome by either sale or adoption
 - (iii) arrange euthanasia of those animals whose welfare needs cannot otherwise be adequately met
 - (iv) reunite the animal with its owner
 - (v) provide specific services for the animal
 - (vi) promote responsible animal ownership by providing advice and educational material.

A temporary housing facility may be owned and managed by a public or private organisation, or by an individual person, a welfare organisation, a government department or a local authority. It may be commercial, non-profit or a charitable organisation.

2.1 Temporary Housing Facilities

For the purposes of this code, temporary housing facilities include (but are not limited to):

- boarding establishments
- pet shops
- animal welfare centres, shelters, pounds
- quarantine/isolation facilities
- animal transportation facilities
- animal day care centres, companion animal sitters, dog walkers
- grooming establishments
- animal shows, expos, events, trials (or similar related activity)
- foster homes, rescue situations
- animal wholesale facilities
- petting zoos
- education facilities
- breeding establishments
- film and TV industry pre-location training facilities and on-location training facilities
- veterinary clinic boarding and holding facilities (note that veterinary hospitals are not to be regarded as temporary housing facilities)

- restaurants holding live animals for consumption.

Irrespective of the nature of the particular temporary housing facility, common requirements apply to each according to their function:

- An animal welfare centre, shelter or pound which provides temporary care for animals must attend to the immediate needs of the animals committed to its care.
- A facility may or may not be capable of providing for the long-term needs of animals, but any limitation in this respect should not prejudice the achievement of the first function identified above.
- A facility should have processes that enable involuntary or accidentally displaced animals to be reunited with their owners or guardians.
- In the interests of its welfare, any animal not rehomed within such a period that the facility is able to provide adequately for its needs should be transferred elsewhere, or euthanased (with due regard to sections 139 and 141 of the Act).

General Information

Temporary housing facilities are defined by reference to their function, and throughout this code are referred to as those establishments which undertake the functions outlined above. They encompass a wide variety of species, functions, industries and activities.

No matter what the form, size or ethos of a temporary housing facility, its overriding duty is to secure the highest possible standard of welfare for the animals in its care. This takes priority over every other consideration. Whether the establishment is non-profit, charitable or operated for profit is irrelevant, as are the motives of those responsible for its operation.

Each and every temporary housing facility is totally accountable for the standard of care that it provides.

2.2 Companion Animals

The term “companion animal” is an all-encompassing phrase given to an entire spectrum of animals with whom interaction and/or companionship is enjoyed by humans, and where responsible guardianship is established and accepted for the animals’ welfare by humans. While it is accepted that this degree of “companionship” will vary by species, the term “companion animal” acknowledges the important role all such animals play in our society.

For the purposes of this code, companion animals include (but are not limited to):

- dogs
- cats
- birds
- rabbits
- guinea pigs
- rats
- mice
- chinchillas
- equids

- reptiles
- fish
- amphibians.

3. Responsibilities of Proprietor or Person in Charge

Introduction

The proprietor or person in charge of a temporary housing facility is responsible for the management and conduct of the establishment and for ensuring compliance with the requirements of this code. In particular, he or she is responsible for:

- the provision of accommodation and equipment which suits the physical, behavioural and social requirements of the animals kept
- the provision of sufficient space for animals to rest, stand, stretch, swim, fly or move about freely as appropriate to the species
- the provision of sufficient quantities of appropriate food and water to maintain good health
- the protection of animals from disease, distress and injury
- encouraging and promoting the training of staff
- supervision of staff
- supervision of the inspection of animals on arrival and daily thereafter
- the provision of prompt veterinary or other appropriate treatment of animals in the event of injury or illness
- maintenance of hygienic premises and the overall health of the animals
- maintenance of comprehensive records for each animal.

Office and facility opening hours should be clearly stated at the entrance to the facility.

Contact and emergency numbers should be clearly visible to members of the public when the office is closed.

Minimum Standard No. 1 – Responsibilities of Proprietor or Person In Charge

- (a) The proprietor or person in charge:**
- (i) must be responsible for the training of staff and other personnel under his or her care and encourage relevant qualifications where appropriate;**
 - (ii) must manage and direct personnel under his or her care and ensure that any untrained staff are supervised at all times;**
 - (iii) must maintain premises to a hygienic and healthy standard for each animal housed; and**
 - (iv) must ensure that animals are cared for by a sufficient number of staff who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with the minimum standards in this code.**
- (b) Specific arrangements must be made for ready access to veterinary services.**
- (c) At least one person on duty or available at any given time must hold an animal husbandry qualification of NZQA Level 3 (or equivalent or at a higher level) effective 5 years from the date of issue of this code.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Staff and other personnel should be closely supervised for a training period until adequate competency has been achieved. In particular, staff should be:
 - (i) knowledgeable of their responsibilities towards animals and competent to carry them out;
 - (ii) knowledgeable of their obligations under this code, and under other relevant codes of welfare and the Act;
 - (iii) knowledgeable and experienced in the care of each species of animal held; and
 - (iv) knowledgeable about when to seek professional advice when required (i.e. veterinary, behavioural, training, hygiene, etc).
- (b) Training records should be kept for each staff member.
- (c) Staff should hold a current first aid certificate.
- (d) Staff health should be protected by the provision of appropriate work clothing, adequate hand washing facilities and tetanus immunisation.
- (e) All staff should complete a formal training programme as appropriate for the field of operation and the species of animals held. Recommended courses include the Certificate in Animal Care (NZQA Level 3), the Certificate in Animal Management (NZQA Level 4), the Certificate in Veterinary Nursing (NZQA Level 4) and the Certificate in Companion Animal Services (NZQA Level 3), or other recognised animal qualifications.
- (f) Boarding establishments where the proprietor or person in charge does not reside on site should be remotely monitored using other reliable methods (i.e. movement sensors, activated if animals are out of their units or unauthorised persons have entered; burglar alarm system, linked to fire department and security firm; smoke alarms; automatic sprinkler system).
- (g) Remotely monitored boarding establishments should not be left unattended for more than 12 hours, and only after the animals have been fed and watered. Remote monitoring should occur at least once in this 12-hour period.

3.1 Quality Management

3.1.1 Quality Assurance Systems

Minimum Standard No. 2 – Quality Assurance Systems

- (a) Each temporary housing facility must be monitored through an appropriate and recognised authority.
- (b) Pet shops, animal welfare centres, shelters, pounds, animal day care centres, animal welfare organisations and breeders must be licensed and audited by an appropriate independent quality assurance system effective 2 years from the date of issue of this code.

Recommended Best Practice

To ensure that the standard of animal welfare and husbandry is maintained, each temporary housing facility should implement a quality assurance system.

General Information

In general, the elements of the quality assurance system should provide for the minimum standards and the recommended best practices in this code.

3.2 Staff Health and Safety

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) In employment situations, proprietors and persons in charge should comply with health and safety regulations in accordance with the relevant legislation.
- (b) Information should be supplied on disease-causing organisms which can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses).
- (c) All personnel working with cats, especially women of childbearing age, should be made aware of the risk of contracting toxoplasmosis due to the potential risk to foetuses.
- (d) All personnel working with birds, especially parrots, should be made aware of the risk of contracting psittacosis.

General Information

Some hazards exist with certain species of animal that are known to harbour disease-causing organisms which can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses). In order to provide for the health of animal handlers in temporary housing facilities, the following safeguards are required for staff:

- adequate hand washing facilities
- suitable protective clothing
- immunisation against tetanus.

3.3 Emergency Procedures

Appropriate firefighting equipment should be readily available (and be made known to staff) and staff trained and practised in its use. Appropriate equipment may include alarm systems, fire sprinklers, hoses and fire extinguishers, and it is a requirement that such equipment be serviced and checked annually. Annual or regular training should be provided for fire drills. Fire alarms, smoke detectors and emergency plans should be visible at all times. Procedures should be in place for the safety of both humans and animals in the event of an emergency, and such provisions should be made known to all staff.

3.4 Assessment on Admittance

Introduction

It is important that the health and welfare status of each animal be established on admittance of the animal to a temporary housing facility.

Such assessment should 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 and that would benefit from isolation.

Minimum Standard No. 3 – Assessment on Admittance

- (a) Every animal, on admittance to a temporary housing facility or situation, must be assessed for overt problems by an experienced or qualified person.**
- (b) Any problems from the assessment must be recorded for each animal.**
- (c) Any incoming animal identified as requiring urgent veterinary treatment must receive prompt veterinary attention.**
- (d) Any incoming animal suspected of having an infectious disease must be isolated on arrival.**

Recommended Best Practice

The assessment on admittance should ideally be undertaken by a veterinarian (and records kept) and should cover the following:

- (i) health (in establishments where applicable, e.g. vaccination records);
- (ii) behavioural issues (which should be clearly noted on the animal's enclosure);
- (iii) moderate or slight injuries (to be given prompt first aid to relieve pain);
- (iv) severe injuries (immediate veterinary attention to be sought to relieve pain or humanely euthanase); and
- (v) acknowledgement of special instructions provided by the owner or person in charge or his or her veterinarian.

Note: For the signs of ill health, refer to section 5.1, "Signs of Ill Health", of this code.

3.5 Record Keeping and Identification

Introduction

Accurate and comprehensive record keeping is vital in temporary housing facilities.

Minimum Standard No. 4 – Record Keeping and Identification

- (a) All animals entering a temporary housing facility must be accurately recorded and identified for the duration of their stay.**
- (b) Details of the owner or person in charge must be accurately recorded, including multiple contact details.**
- (c) Full records of any medical treatment (including euthanasia) while in care must be obtained and retained.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Records should be kept for each animal and be retained for 2 years (to comply with current regulations). The following details should be recorded:
- (i) the animal's name or identification number;
 - (ii) the proprietor's or person in charge's name, address, telephone number(s), email address and other relevant contact details;
 - (iii) a description of the animal (as appropriate by species and associated activity), including species, sex, breed, colour, age, local authority registration and microchip number, any distinguishing features (e.g. tattoo, unusual scarring, whether desexed or not, ear-tags, brands, ear-tipping, leg rings);
 - (iv) dates of worming, worm treatment used and dose rate administered;
 - (v) dates of vaccination, revaccination due dates and matching vaccination certificates;
 - (vi) dates of admission and departure;
 - (vii) any relevant medical condition, dietary information, bathing and grooming requirements;
 - (viii) any medical treatment being given;
 - (ix) contact details of the animal's regular veterinarian;
 - (x) the reason the animal is being temporarily housed;
 - (xi) the animal's condition (including weight) on arrival;
 - (xii) behavioural traits;
 - (xiii) any belongings; and
 - (xiv) a full record of euthanasia and post-mortem results.
- (b) For animals seized under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 or any other appropriate Act, the following additional details should be recorded:
- (i) the name, address and telephone number of the person who seized the animal;
 - (ii) the reason why the animal was seized;
 - (iii) the location where the animal was seized; and
 - (iv) the date and method of disposal, and details as appropriate.

3.6 Animal Safety and Security

Minimum Standard No. 5 – Animal Safety and Security

The proprietor or person in charge must ensure that the manner in which animals are temporarily housed is not detrimental to the welfare, safety and security of the animals.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Animal enclosures should be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury, disease, theft or escape of animals.
- (b) All animal enclosures should be able to be securely fastened or locked.
- (c) If the proprietor or person in charge has left the facility and no other staff are present, an emergency contact number should be displayed and clearly visible on the gate or door of the premises.
- (d) Buildings should be securely lockable, with a secure closing device that cannot be opened by the animals held.
- (e) Any security method should allow for ready access to animals and ready exit of staff and animals from the premises in the event of an emergency.
- (f) Exercise areas should have self-closing and self-locking gates or doors.
- (g) All companion animals should be microchipped (as practicable) for the purpose of identification.
- (h) Enclosures should be locked so that animals are not stolen from pet shops, pounds and animal welfare centres.
- (i) The proprietor or person in charge of any animal that does escape should take reasonable steps to recapture the animal.

3.7 Complaints about Facility Procedures

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Temporary housing facilities should have a complaints procedure which ensures that all complaints are documented.
- (b) All complaints should be properly addressed, with a response communicated to the complainant and a copy kept on file.
- (c) Staff activity resulting in incidents and accidents within the facility should be avoided.

4. Food and Water

4.1 Food and Feeding

Introduction

Animals should receive a daily diet appropriate to the species, in adequate quantities, quality and frequency, and containing adequate nutrients, to meet their requirements for good health and welfare. When considering the amount of food and nutrients animals require, a number of factors need to be taken into account:

- physiological state (e.g. pregnancy, lactation)
- nutritional composition of food
- age
- sex
- desexed or entire (capable of breeding)
- size
- state of health
- quality and adequacy of diet
- developmental stage of the animal (including growth rate)
- previous feeding levels
- feeding frequency
- breed
- level of activity and exercise
- maximum periods of food deprivation (e.g. during transportation)
- introduction of new food.

Given the considerable variation that occurs between animal species, food and nutrient requirements also vary. 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.

Most commercially prepared foods will recommend feeding quantity and frequency for the age or the physiological state (e.g. pregnancy) of the animal on their packaging.

Ideally, the food provided should be either a high-quality, complete and balanced commercial product or a mixture of food sources that together provide all the nutrients required for a healthy animal. Some low-cost brands of animal food, including pet rolls, do not contain all the elements required to maintain good health. Home-made diets may not contain all the nutrients an animal needs.

Some animals enjoy raw or cooked meat, offal, fish and milk, but these should be fed only as part of a balanced diet. Animals (especially infant animals) may have difficulty digesting milk, resulting in diarrhoea or vomiting.

Minimum Standard No. 6 – Food and Feeding

Animals must receive adequate quantities of food and nutrients relative to their species to enable each animal to:

- (i) **maintain good health; and**
- (ii) **meet its physiological demands, including those resulting from pregnancy, lactation, growth, exercise and exposure to cold; and**
- (iii) **avoid metabolic and nutritional disorders.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Dogs and cats that have been weaned should be fed small quantities at regular intervals throughout the day.
- (b) Dogs and cats over the age of 6 months should be fed twice a day.
- (c) All animals should be fed a complete and balanced animal food diet specific to the species:
 - (i) Turtles commonly kept as companion animals, such as the red-eared slider, are omnivorous. They should be fed a diet containing the appropriate percentage of protein and vegetables for the specific species. Whole foods (e.g. small snails, worms, prawns) are most beneficial as the protein component, and a good-quality vitamin and mineral supplement is essential. Some turtles, such as the Snake-Necked, are carnivorous. Eating and digesting in the water and at the preferred optimum temperature zone for the species is essential.
 - (ii) Lizards commonly kept as companion animals include the bearded dragon and the blue-tongued skink. Although both are omnivorous, they have vastly different nutritional requirements. They should be fed a diet containing the appropriate percentage of protein and vegetables for the specific species. Whole foods (e.g. mealworms, wax worms, crickets, small roaches) are most beneficial as the protein component, and a good-quality vitamin and mineral supplement is essential. Prey should be no larger than two-thirds the length of the head of the lizard in order to avoid illness, injury and possible death. Eating and digesting at the preferred optimum temperature zone for the species is essential.
 - (iii) Rabbits and rodents are “hindgut fermenters” like horses, and should have appropriate food available to eat at all times. They should not be fed sugary vegetables (e.g. corn, peas), cereals, breads, the majority of fruits (fresh or dried) or any other carbohydrate-based food.
 - (iv) Rabbits and guinea pigs should be fed free-choice grass hay, plus a small amount of a cubed or pelleted ration supplemented by washed, fresh, dark green leafy vegetables and various other vegetables in moderation. They should not be fed any animal-based products.
 - (v) Rats and mice should be fed a cubed or pelleted ration free-choice, supplemented by washed, fresh, dark green leafy vegetables, various other vegetables and protein in moderation.
 - (vi) Chinchillas are herbivorous rodents and should be fed free-choice grass hay (not alfalfa) and an appropriate pelleted diet in small amounts. They may also have a small amount of green leafy vegetables daily. They should not be fed any animal-based products.

- (vii) Guinea pigs should have washed, fresh, dark green leafy vegetables daily to provide vitamin C.
- (viii) Birds should not be fed a seed-based diet. They should be fed a pelleted diet to prevent common vitamin and mineral deficiencies and nutritional imbalances commonly leading to severe health problems.
- (ix) Fruits and vegetables should also be supplied in appropriate amounts as required for various bird species.
- (x) Birds should not be fed directly off the floor, except where such feeding is a species requirement.
- (xi) Avocado and chocolate are poisonous to birds, and iceberg lettuce can cause diarrhoea.
- (xii) There are some prohibitions to the feeding of meat and offal to dogs. For example, no raw offal or untreated sheep or goat meat should be fed to dogs. For further information, see the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010.
- (xiii) Bones likely to cause health problems for either cats or dogs should not be fed (e.g. cooked bones or raw bones able to be swallowed).
- (xiv) Cats are obligate carnivores, which means that they need a protein-based diet.
- (xv) Prescription diets for certain medical conditions should be fed as instructed by a veterinarian. Caregivers should be made aware of the repercussions of not appropriately feeding the animal.
- (xvi) Aquarium fish should be fed foods of a type and frequency appropriate to the species and life stage. In most cases this will mean being fed twice daily, but juvenile fish especially should be fed more frequently and some large predatory fish can be fed less frequently. Fish with special feeding requirements (such as bottom feeders, herbivores and those that scrape algae from surfaces) should have these needs met by feeding appropriate specialist foods. Catfish of the genus *Ancistrus* should always have submerged bog wood available to them as they need the cellulose contained in the wood to metabolise food. Pond fish housed outdoors should be fed at least daily unless sufficient natural food in the form of insects, algae and plants is available. For goldfish in ponds, food quantities should be reduced when water temperature drops below 10°C, and feeding stopped altogether when water temperature drops below 5°C. Fish should never be overfed to the point where there is uneaten food left in the aquarium or pond after the fish have finished feeding.

General Information

Food should be stored appropriately, with dry food in a rodent-proof container and perishable food (i.e. meat) in a refrigerator.

Where disease is present in an animal, special attention to diet may be required. The animal's appetite may be suppressed, leading even over a short period of time to a possibly inadequate supply of essential nutrients.

If there is any doubt concerning an appropriate feeding regime for animals, independent advice should be sought from those recognised as experts in the field of animal nutrition specific to the species concerned (e.g. veterinarians, veterinary nurses, manufacturers).

For specific information relating to the feeding of cats and dogs, refer to the appropriate code of welfare for each species (i.e. the Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007 and the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010 respectively).

4.2 Food Preparation

Introduction

Good hygiene standards are important in order to minimise the incidence of disease in animals.

Minimum Standard No. 7 – Food Preparation

Food and water bowls or bottles must be washed regularly to prevent contamination that may pose a threat to the health and welfare of the animal.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Water bowls or bottles should be washed daily.
- (b) Food bowls should be washed with hot soapy water or antibacterial agent and then rinsed and dried after each feed.
- (c) Food leftovers should not be re-offered, and all food scraps should be removed and disposed of.
- (d) Feeding bowls should ideally be made of stainless steel.
- (e) Processed food should be obtained from reputable manufacturers or suppliers.
- (f) The temporary housing facility should be able to feed special diets, especially when required for medical reasons.
- (g) Changes in diet can cause scouring, as can certain foods. Care should be taken to avoid this and therefore all staff should be made aware of causes.
- (h) Food should be prepared hygienically in a separate area away from the animals and should be stored appropriately in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
- (i) Food storage areas should be able to hold a minimum of five days' requirements under peak conditions.
- (j) Hot and cold water should be available in sufficient quantities to enable the area and feeding utensils to be thoroughly cleaned.
- (k) Containers should be of easily cleanable shapes and made of durable material. They should be rinsed and dried in a manner that will not spread infectious diseases (e.g. air-drying or with a disposable paper towel). Care should be taken to clean around food containers daily to remove small pieces of discarded food that may harbour saliva and infectious agents.

4.3 Water

Introduction

Water is an essential daily requirement for the proper functioning of the whole body, and accordingly a suitable container of fresh water should be available at all times.

Minimum Standard No. 8 – Water

Animals must have continuous access to clean and fresh water that is palatable, not harmful to health and available in sufficient quantities to maintain vital bodily functions.

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 must 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 canned food or pet rolls.

It should be noted that 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 should 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, resulting in possible diarrhoea.

5. Health

5.1 Signs of Ill Health

Introduction

Health and welfare are closely associated, and proprietors or persons in charge have total responsibility to prevent ill health in the animals in their care and to seek appropriate treatment and treat the animals accordingly. The health and welfare of animals should be checked regularly, and those animals showing ill health should be isolated immediately. Animals that have been in contact with the ill animal should also be closely monitored to ensure that, if the illness is due to an infectious agent, this has not been passed on to other animals.

Those responsible for the care of animals in temporary housing facilities should be experienced at recognising the signs of good health, ill health and injury, and must contact a veterinarian as appropriate.

The signs of ill health may include (but are not limited to):

- abnormal dullness or lethargy, abnormal agitation or excitement, or fitting (seizures)
- an increase or a decrease in thirst and/or appetite
- vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- persistent bleeding from an orifice (e.g. mouth, nose or anus)
- traces of blood in urine and faecal material
- bleeding that continues for more than 2 minutes from a skin wound
- straining to pass urine or faeces
- persistent sneezing, persistent coughing or persistent abnormal breathing
- lameness, unsteady gait, or inability to stand or walk
- significant weight loss or weight gain
- swellings (especially eyes in turtles)
- overgrown beak (in birds), nails or claws
- paleness or redness of gums
- failure to groom
- persistent scratching or biting of skin, or persistent shaking of the head
- areas of hairlessness or feather loss
- fungal infections (in turtles)
- unusual smell from ears or mouth
- weeping and/or inflamed eyes
- discharge from nose
- encrustations on ears or nose
- abnormal posture
- disorientation

- change in colour and consistency of shell (in turtles)
- excessive scratching
- variation in core body temperature
- abnormal levels of salivation, dribbling, drooling or wet patches around the mouth and/or eyes (especially in rabbits and rodents)
- unusual smell or discharge from the vagina
- sudden loss of fur
- presence of cysts or tumours
- notable changes in eating and drinking
- changes in movement or behaviour
- shimmying, gasping at surface, scratching and lethargy (in fish)
- scale discolouring (in reptiles).

Minimum Standard No. 9 – Signs of Ill Health

- (a) Animals which are observed by the proprietor or person in charge to be showing:
- (i) signs of pain, suffering and distress; or
 - (ii) signs of continuous ill health; or
 - (iii) signs of *rapidly* deteriorating health
- must urgently receive veterinary attention or be brought to the attention of an animal welfare inspector under the Act (e.g. an SPCA inspector) or, if required, be humanely euthanased in accordance with the Act.
- (b) Animals in a temporary housing facility must be visually assessed for signs of ill health or injury at least once a day.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Every effort should be made to contact the proprietor or person in charge if there is any concern about the health of an animal. If it is not possible to contact the proprietor or person in charge, veterinary attention should immediately be sought.
- (b) Each animal should be checked at least once daily to monitor its health and comfort.
- (c) All staff should have a basic knowledge in diagnosing general problems (e.g. dehydration, hypersalivation).
- (d) Each temporary housing facility should have an arrangement with a veterinarian or veterinary clinic whereby a veterinarian is available on an emergency response 24-hour basis. A veterinarian should attend to any problem of a non-urgent nature within 12 – 24 hours of it being noticed.
- (e) Early care and preventive techniques for managing minor problems should be known to and readily used by all staff.

- (f) In the event of any health problem, records (including signs of ill health and veterinary records) should be retained and passed to the proprietor or person in charge.
- (g) Medication prescribed for a specific animal should not be given to another animal.

5.2 Diseases Related to Diet

General Information

A number of specific diseases in animals are caused through inappropriate diet. Even where a proprietor or person in charge is feeding a nutritionally balanced diet, food sensitivities can occur that result in skin disease (especially scratching or dermatitis) or in vomiting and diarrhoea. Veterinary advice and investigation are usually needed to diagnose the problem and treat the animal.

More species-specific information on the causes of diseases related to diet can be found in related codes of welfare (i.e. the Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007 and the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010).

5.3 Contagious Diseases

Introduction

There are a number of contagious or infectious diseases that can be avoided through vaccination. All temporary housing facilities are considered high-risk situations for the spread of contagious diseases, and vaccination is an important means of controlling these diseases.

Minimum Standard No. 10 – Contagious Diseases

- (a) Dogs and cats entering a temporary housing facility must be fully vaccinated based on best practice veterinary advice or to the requirements of the particular temporary housing facility.**
- (b) Vaccination certificates must accompany each animal entering a temporary housing facility stating clearly the full details of the veterinarian and the veterinary clinic including the veterinarian's signature.**
- (c) Vaccination certificates must show the date on which the vaccine was administered and the recommended date(s) for revaccination.**

General Information

Cats are most commonly vaccinated against a number of respiratory diseases (feline panleukopaemia virus (a parvovirus), feline rhinotracheitis virus and feline calicivirus (FCV)), collectively known as “cat flu”. Vaccines are also available against feline leukaemia virus (FLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and chlamydia, and their use should be discussed with a veterinarian.

Dogs are commonly vaccinated against parvovirus, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and canine cough.

Veterinary advice is required for young animals regarding a suitable vaccination programme.

Puppies and kittens should be vaccinated against the following diseases at least 8 days prior to sale or rehoming:

PUPPIES:

- Canine distemper
- Infectious canine hepatitis
- Canine parvovirus.

KITTENS:

- Feline infectious enteritis
- Feline respiratory disease (cat flu).

Minimum Standard No. 11 – Sale or Rehoming of Sick, Injured or Diseased Animals

No animal suspected or known to be sick, injured or diseased must be sold or rehomed without full disclosure to and acceptance by the new owner.

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) All animals should be free of external parasites, and puppies and kittens should have been treated for internal worms in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the anthelmintic used for the treatment.
- (c) New owners should be given literature about 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) All animals sold or rehomed from a pound or animal welfare centre should be desexed.
- (f) Animals that are aggressive, antisocial or pregnant, and animals with known vices such as excessive barking or fence jumping (dogs), should not be made available for sale or rehoming.

5.4 Parasitic Diseases

Introduction

Both internal and external parasites depend on companion animals for part of their life cycle. In small numbers they may cause minimal distress to an animal, but if their numbers increase they may cause significant discomfort. A high parasite load may compromise the welfare of the animal. Individual animals may also develop hypersensitivity to parasites and show extreme irritation, even with a very low parasite burden.

External parasites that live on the skin of companion animals include fleas, mites and lice. Fleas and mites are common, especially in warmer areas. Excessive grooming, scratching, fur loss, scabs or scales may indicate their presence. Actual fleas may not be seen. If fleas or “flea dirt” (black coils that turn red when moistened with water) are seen in the coat, specific treatment purchased from a veterinarian or pet shop is recommended if signs of irritation from fleas, lice or mites are detected. If left untreated, severe skin disease or internal disease may result.

Internal parasites, such as intestinal worms, are common and require regular monitoring and treatment. These parasites are particularly prevalent in young animals. Loss of body weight, a prominent belly (puppies or kittens), dry coat, diarrhoea, scooting and regular licking at the anus (cats and dogs) are signs that may indicate the presence of worms. Tapeworms may also occur and these are detected by segments like “grains of rice” in the faeces. These are the result of ingesting fleas, which are the host of the tapeworm.

Minimum Standard No. 12 – Treatment Prior to Sale or Rehoming

Dogs and cats must be treated for worms and fleas prior to being sold or rehomed.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) An appropriate flea and worm treatment programme for the species involved is recommended.
- (b) Cats and dogs should be dewormed every 2 weeks up to the age of 12 weeks, then once a month for 6 months and thereafter every 3 months.
- (c) Generally, animals should be wormed with a broad-spectrum product for maintenance and defleaed as appropriate to the species. If a problem occurs with parasites, a specific diagnosis should be sought by a veterinarian and treated effectively.

5.5 Skin Diseases

General Information

Skin diseases may cause considerable stress and distress to animals. Dermatitis is a common problem in animals, and there are many causes including allergies, parasitic diseases, infections, nutritional imbalances and hormonal disorders. As few of these conditions are resolved without appropriate treatment, veterinary advice should be sought so that stress to the animal may be minimised.

Ringworm is a fungal disease to which young animals (especially cats and dogs) are particularly susceptible. The fungus does not usually cause the animal any discomfort and is not associated with scratching or licking at affected areas in uncomplicated cases. The first sign of infection in the animal may be the appearance of small circular bald areas (lesions), which may appear on any part of the body including the head. However, since the fungus is infectious to humans (particularly children), the first sign may be the appearance of the disease in the proprietor’s or person in charge’s family. Quarantine or isolation is recommended for infected animals. Care must be taken regarding the cleaning of quarantine/isolation areas. Advice from a veterinarian should be sought regarding how long the animal should remain in quarantine/isolation. Diagnosis and effective oral treatment of

animals is available through veterinarians. Humans should seek the advice of a pharmacist or general practitioner.

Ringworm is a highly contagious disease, and complete and proper disinfection of the household, clothing and bedding is required with bleach and the animal immediately isolated.

If foster homes receive cats with ringworm, it is recommended that the cat be isolated in a small area of the home. Given the infectious nature of the disease, a suitable lengthy period should elapse before further animals are introduced to the same home.

Animals entering a temporary housing facility can be "lamped" to identify ringworm. This is a very crude method of using UV light for detection of ringworm, and it may only detect a small percentage of cases. To do this effectively it should be done in a dark room. The lamp has to heat up for 5 minutes, and the inside of the hair shaft has to glow. Further diagnosis by a veterinarian is required to effectively detect a ringworm infection. This is an infectious disease and can mimic other dermatitis. Isolation of the infected animal is vital, and an appropriate cleaning regime should be implemented and an appropriate time period elapse before other animals enter the facility.

Abscesses are a frequent result of wounds caused by fighting that become infected. Such abscesses are very painful and may also result in the spread of potentially life-threatening infection through the body. Home treatment of abscesses is not recommended, and veterinary assistance should be sought.

Animals with minimal hair covering, pale skin or light fur on the nose or ears should be protected from the threat of skin cancer by keeping them out of direct sunlight at peak hours. Animal-specific sunscreen should be applied.

5.6 Zoonoses

Introduction

Some diseases are zoonotic, meaning that they are transmissible between animal species, including humans (e.g. ringworm, roundworm, sarcoptic mange (scabies), leptospirosis, giardia, psittacosis, toxoplasmosis, salmonella and campylobacter).

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) All staff of temporary housing facilities should take the opportunity to help new owners understand any risk in animal ownership of transmissible diseases and direct them to where advice can be obtained (e.g. a veterinarian).
- (b) Veterinary treatment should be sought and appropriate treatment provided to the animal.
- (c) The affected animal should be isolated.

5.7 Injured Animals

Introduction

Proprietors and persons in charge of animals have a responsibility to protect the animals in their care from injury and, where injury has occurred, to seek veterinary treatment.

Minimum Standard No. 13 – Injured Animals

Owned animals under the care of a temporary housing facility which are observed by the proprietor or person in charge to be injured must receive urgent veterinary attention or be brought to the attention of an animal welfare inspector under the Act (e.g. an SPCA inspector).

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) A veterinarian should examine injured animals.
- (b) A veterinary report on the extent of the injury should be obtained and, if euthanasia is performed, a necropsy report as appropriate should be obtained. Full records should be kept by the temporary housing facility detailing the procedure and full veterinary records.
- (c) Proprietors or persons in charge of animals in temporary housing facilities should attend regular NZQA accredited animal first aid courses.
- (d) A veterinarian should be consulted if the animal shows any of the signs listed in section 5.1, “Signs of Ill Health”, of this code.
- (e) Every temporary housing facility should have animal first aid kits (with expiry dates regularly checked and equipment replaced as required) containing the following:

BASIC FIRST AID KIT:

- bandages (crepe, veterinarian-wrap)
- saline solution (0.9%)
- scissors (curved)
- tweezers
- tape
- thermometer
- K-Y Jelly
- gauze swabs
- emergency blanket
- ordinary blanket (for carrying animals)
- penlight
- protective gloves
- pen and paper (record keeping)
- dressings (Telfa pads)
- cotton wool and buds.

RECOMMENDED EXTRAS:

- muzzle
- pliers (side cutters)

- nail clippers
- syringes
- heat pack.

5.8 Breeding

General Information

It is strongly recommended that temporary housing facilities not be involved in the breeding of animals. There will be some circumstances where breeding may be inevitable (e.g. fish, pregnant animals, specific breeding establishments), and any progeny should be cared for appropriately. Any establishment with offspring will be considered a temporary housing facility.

5.9 Grooming

Introduction

The neglect of coats, horns, hooves, beaks, teeth and claws has the potential to cause considerable distress and suffering to animals, including associated health problems. Examples include irritation from matted fur; fly strike; constipation; inability to eat; abscesses of the anus; fungal, bacterial or parasitic infections of the body and feet; urine scalding; and hair constricting toes or feet. Injuries can be caused through inexperienced or careless clipping of animals.

Minimum Standard No. 14 – Grooming

- (a) **The coat of long-haired animals must be groomed and/or clipped at a frequency that will prevent pain and distress due to matting.**
- (b) **Claws, horns, teeth and beaks which grow in a manner that is likely to cause pain or distress, including to penetrate the skin, the footpads and/or hooves, must be maintained in a manner to prevent this.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Only experienced and knowledgeable people should clip animals' fur or feathers, in order to prevent injury. Knowledge of safe practice for the breed and the anatomy of the animal is important. Long-haired animals should be professionally groomed at least once a month.
- (b) Beaks should not normally need to be trimmed or shaped unless overgrown. Likely causes of overgrowth are inappropriate diet, husbandry or previous trauma.

5.10 Exercise

Introduction

Exercise is extremely important for the physical and mental health of animals. Animals should have the opportunity for exercise to allow them to urinate and defecate, to give them contact with humans and, if appropriate, with other animals, to allow muscular activity, and to monitor their gait and behaviour. Refer to section 6, "Housing and Hygiene", of this code for specifications on enclosure sizes.

Minimum Standard No. 15 – Exercise

- (a) Animals must be allowed daily exercise sufficient to maintain their health and well-being.
- (b) Caged animals must have sufficient room to enable them to stretch and move around freely. They must be provided with appropriate areas for feeding and toileting within the enclosure, and be given the opportunity to engage in stimulated play and exercise daily.
- (c) Dogs in temporary housing facilities must be exercised for two 15-minute periods each day. If dogs are exercised together, they must be compatible and be under direct supervision at all times.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Any puppy that is fully vaccinated should be exercised as appropriate.
- (b) Ideally, dogs should be allowed at least 30 minutes twice daily off the lead or chain or out of the run, with freedom to explore their immediate environment, as appropriate to the age and condition of the dog.
- (c) Shelter from the elements should be provided where animals remain in exercise yards for prolonged periods.
- (d) Where, in the case of grassed exercise areas, the surface becomes trodden and muddy during winter, appropriate repairs and maintenance should be carried out as soon as possible. Areas such as gateways and paths that are prone to heavy traffic should be constructed in a permanent type of surface (e.g. concrete).
- (e) Group-exercised animals should be directly supervised at all times, and only animals of a similar size and/or temperament should be exercised together.
- (f) Written permission should be obtained from owners if the temporary housing facility (e.g. boarding kennels) intends to exercise the animal with conspecifics (animals of the same species).
- (g) Dogs should be evaluated for compatibility, and separated if undesirable behaviour occurs.
- (h) No more than 10 small dogs, 8 medium-sized dogs, 6 large dogs and 4 extra-large dogs should be exercised together (within their size range), with only 1 entire (capable of breeding) animal per group at the maximum.

5.11 Behaviour

Introduction

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.

The intelligence of animals means that they need stimulation, otherwise they become bored and frustrated and 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 include:

- Adding 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 should 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 it.

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

Minimum Standard No. 16 – Behaviour

Electronic training devices must not be used in a way that compromises the welfare of the animal, and must only be used under the supervision of qualified and experienced persons and with the written consent of the owner and only as a last resort.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Animals should be appropriately trained and managed so that they can be maintained under safe control by the proprietor or person in charge.
- (b) Advice should be sought at the early stages of behavioural problems.
- (c) Animals should never be punished by physical means for inappropriate behaviour.
- (d) Juvenile animals should be properly socialised to minimise the development of subsequent behavioural problems.
- (e) If an animal's behaviour has been modified, or if any behavioural problems or unusual behaviours are observed, this should be brought to the attention of the proprietor or person in charge.

6. Housing and Hygiene

6.1 Housing

Introduction

A temporary housing facility must 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 should provide protection from weather (wind, rain, sun and extremes of climate), vermin and harassment by other animals.

Each animal species held within the facility has special needs and requirements that should be taken into account when designing and constructing facilities to hold, display and separate animals.

Note that size and accommodation requirements vary with species.

Minimum Standard No. 17 – Housing and Hygiene

- (a) Animals must have sufficient space to rest, stand, stretch, swim, fly or move freely about (as appropriate to the species).**
- (b) Animals must be provided with ventilated, sheltered, dry and draught-free sleeping quarters (excluding aquatic animals).**
- (c) Animals must be able to urinate and defecate away from sleeping and feeding areas.**
- (d) Temperatures must be maintained at a level that provides for the comfort of the animals (as appropriate to the species). Wall thermometers must be installed in areas best suited to monitor temperature changes.**
- (e) Floors of internal animal housing areas must be made of an impervious material to assist cleaning and drainage.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Different species should be housed separately at all times, except for compatible individuals. Consideration should also be given to behaviour and disease, in addition to the housing of same-sex or multiple individuals.
- (b) If entire (capable of breeding), special consideration should be given to the sex of the animal, to prevent unwanted breeding.
- (c) Multiple thermometers should be used in individual fish and reptile enclosures to monitor various zones of temperature.
- (d) Environmental variables such as air temperature and water quality should be regularly monitored as often as is required to detect changes in the environment before they become harmful to the animals.
- (e) Adequate dry, clean bedding (preferably raised off the ground) should be used at all times. Wind barriers and adequate ventilation should also be provided.

- (f) Sufficient bedding should be provided where appropriate, and should be changed and cleaned regularly. Bedding should be increased to ensure adequate warmth in cooler temperatures.
- (g) Accommodation should aim to promote normal behaviour within the social group and to reduce boredom, aggression and stereotypic behaviour.
- (h) Materials should be selected for ease of maintenance and cleaning, durability and non-toxicity.
- (i) Wooden floors, walls, framework and doors should be sealed with a non-toxic sealant. Corners and cracks in joints should also be sealed to avoid the introduction of bacteria and viruses.
- (j) Enclosures should be located out of draughts and have adequate shade when exposed to direct sunlight.
- (k) Special care should be given to animals in enclosures in close proximity to windows where sunlight can result in higher temperatures.
- (l) All housing should be maintained in good condition, with particular attention paid to eliminating sharp or exposed edges or broken wires.
- (m) Emergency evacuation procedures (in case of fire or flooding) should be in place and be subject to annual simulated evacuation. Staff should be well acquainted with procedures.
- (n) Emergency warning devices (including smoke alarms, fire detectors, fire extinguishers, emergency telephone numbers and exits) should be clearly marked and maintained.

6.2 Location and Construction

Introduction

When temporary housing facilities are being constructed or renovated, professional advice should be sought from people who have experience in building in animal industries. Local authority building regulations need to be adhered to.

Recommended Best Practice

The proprietor or person in charge should ensure that consideration is given to the following factors when animal accommodation is designed, constructed or renovated:

- (i) physical requirements of the animals (e.g. exercise, shelter from wind and weather, feeding and drinking, adequate and safe heating); and
- (ii) servicing of accommodation by animal staff, including aspects of cleaning and drainage; feeding, drinking and bathing areas; waste disposal; access; and prevention of escape.

6.3 Joint Facilities

Introduction

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 should 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, boarded animals should be attended to first and a change of outer garments and footwear should be undertaken. Particular attention should be given to human hygiene to reduce disease transmission, and facilities for hand washing should be readily available.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Temporary housing facilities should be located away from sources of pollution and noise that are likely to cause injury or stress to animals.
- (b) Temporary housing facilities should be soundly constructed to ensure suitable temperature, humidity and ventilation controls appropriate to the species kept.
- (c) The internal surfaces with which animals have contact should be constructed of impervious, solid, washable materials. Joints and corners should be properly sealed.

6.4 Special Requirements for Dogs

| Minimum Standard No. 18 – Housing of Dogs | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| (a) All night boxes must be phased out over 2 years from the date of issue of this code. | | | |
| (b) Kennel sizes for boarding dogs must be no less than: | | | |
| Size of dog | Kennel only / enclosure (per dog) | Plus run (per dog) | Exercise area (per dog) |
| Small (<7kg) | 900mm x 700mm (or square equivalent) | 700mm x 1m (or square equivalent) | 3m x 2m (add 1m each way for each additional dog) |
| Medium (7 – 20kg) | 1.2m x 800mm (or square equivalent) | 800mm x 1.2m (or square equivalent) | 3m x 3m (add 1m each way for each additional dog) |
| Large (21 – 40kg) | 1.2m x 1.5m (or square equivalent) | 1.2m x 1.4m (or square equivalent) | 4m x 4m (add 1m each way for each additional dog) |
| Extra large (>40kg) | 1.2m x 2m | 1.2m x 2.4m | 5m x 5m (add 1m each way for each additional dog) |

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Dogs should not be tethered in a way that has the potential to cause injury or distress.
- (b) Locks and latches on doors should not be able to be opened by dogs.
- (c) Where fencing is used to contain dogs, it should be a minimum height of 1.2m for dogs less than 7kg and 1.8m for larger dogs, with an additional 400mm of wire facing inwards at a 45° angle or 2 wire strands 200mm apart. If the fence is 2m or over, no additional features need to be utilised.
- (d) In kennel facilities, owned dogs should only be housed communally at the written request of the owner.
- (e) Enrichment toys should be provided.

- (f) Kennels should be separated by solid partitions (walls) or solid and wire dividers (walls with wire dividers), and should be constructed so that the animals cannot have physical or visual contact with each other.
- (g) Where dividers are used, they should be of sufficient strength to contain animals and should not exceed 50mm square.
- (h) If wire mesh is used, a maximum of 50mm by 50mm square is recommended.
- (i) The base of all fencing should be securely fixed to the ground to prevent escape.
- (j) Special care should be taken when accommodating dogs prone to escape.

General Information

For more detailed information on housing dogs, refer to the Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010.

6.5 Special Requirements for Cats

| Minimum Standard No. 19 – Housing of Cats | | |
|--|---|--|
| (a) All full-time communal cattery facilities must be phased out over 2 years from the date of issue of this code. | | |
| (b) Cat cages for animal shows must be a minimum of 600mm x 600mm x 600mm within 2 years from the date of issue of this code. | | |
| (c) Cage sizes for boarding cats must be no less than: | | |
| Type of housing | Night box only (per cat) | Exercise area |
| Individual cattery (designed so that each unit has a solid partition and cats do not mix with each other) | 800mm x 800mm x 700mm (or cubic equivalent) | 1.8m x 2.4m x 800mm (not used for more than 1 cat) |
| Semi-communal cattery (cats housed individually at night and during feeding) | 800mm x 800mm x 700mm (or cubic equivalent) | 1.2 cubic m (per cat) |

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Cats housed indoors should have access to sunlight and shade.
- (b) 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 cats from escaping.
- (c) Door handles should be designed so that cats cannot open the door.
- (d) Toys (rotated regularly) and scratch items are recommended to enrich the environment of caged cats.

- (e) Shelving or tiered platforms should be provided.
- (f) Cats in semi-communal areas should be readily and accurately identified.
- (g) There should be a distance of at least 2m between facing units or, if less, a solid door or entrance to each unit.
- (h) The maximum netting size, mesh size or bar width for cats should be 30mm. The maximum netting size, mesh size or bar width for kittens should be 25mm.
- (i) Cats that attend animal shows should be housed in cages of no less than 800mm x 800mm x 800mm (or cubic equivalent).

General Information

Where cats eat, sleep and defecate in a full-time communal situation, this hinders the monitoring of individual animals such as food and water intake and toileting habits.

Cats from family units can be housed and exercised together, but each cat needs the amount of space identified in the minimum standard.

For more detailed information on housing cats, see the Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007.

6.6 Special Requirements for Birds

Minimum Standard No. 20 – Housing of Birds

Birds from different sources must be kept separate (by a distance of at least 2m or separated by a solid partition) and hygiene measures put in place to avoid disease transmission.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) All birds should be housed 2m apart or separated with a solid partition.
- (b) Separate bird rooms should be provided where possible.
- (c) An extraction fan system should be provided where birds are housed, to remove as much feather, dander and dust as possible from the premises. This will reduce the likelihood of transmission of psittacosis and other communicable diseases (circovirus, mycoplasma, etc). All dust should be dampened down before entering for cleaning, to reduce the likelihood of disease transmission caused by airborne dander.
- (d) Cleaning should be done with non-toxic, minimally odoured substances, and enclosures should be rinsed thoroughly and dried.
- (e) Care with the use of air fresheners, aerosol pest controls and cleaning products should be taken around birds as they have extremely sensitive respiratory tracts.
- (f) Sufficient perches, roosting areas, and feed and water stations should be provided to meet the needs of all the birds in a cage or aviary.

- (g) Perches should be of varying diameter, construction and material appropriate to the species held, and should be placed to ensure the well-being of the birds and the prevention of food and water contamination.
- (h) Sandpaper-covered perches should not be used as they can damage birds' feet.
- (i) Floors in cages and aviaries should be covered with a suitable non-toxic disposable material, which can readily be removed and replaced to maintain hygiene standards.
- (j) Some wire cages and toys (e.g. lead clappers in bells) can be zinc or lead coated, which is poisonous to birds and should be avoided.
- (k) Bedding should be provided where appropriate.
- (l) Birds should have access to sunlight, and should have adequate ventilation and appropriate temperature control.
- (m) As there are numerous species of birds, the size of enclosure (length, width and height) and its construction (materials and flooring) should be appropriate to the species held.

6.7 Special Requirements for Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Chinchillas, Rats and Mice

Minimum Standard No. 21 – Housing of Chinchillas

- (a) **Dust baths must be provided.**
- (b) **After cleaning, enclosures must be thoroughly dried before the animals are returned to them.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rats and mice should be housed in a secure enclosure, and should be provided with sleeping and hiding areas.
- (b) Rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rats and mice should be provided with suitable toys, bedding, platforms and litter trays.
- (c) Enclosures should be designed to ensure the well-being of the species of animal held, to prevent escape and/or access by unauthorised persons or other animals.
- (d) Enclosures should be designed to minimise draughts, heat up to 24 °C (especially for rabbits and chinchillas), disease transmission, stress and exposure to bright lights.
- (e) Appropriate gauge wire should be used to prevent leg injuries.
- (f) Enclosures for animals on display should allow them plenty of room to move around, and should include areas for them to rest without disturbance.
- (g) Nest boxes should be provided for breeding females and litters.
- (h) Litters of less than one week of age should not be disturbed at all if possible.
- (i) Adult rabbits should not be housed together unless desexed and compatible.

- (j) Adult bucks (non-desexed male rabbits) and boars (non-desexed male guinea pigs) should not be housed together.
- (k) Rabbits should be housed in minimum-sized enclosures (refer to Table 1) only if they are given access to exercise outside of their enclosure on a daily basis.
- (l) Rabbits, guinea pigs and chinchillas should have supervised and/or predator-proof access to exercise out of their enclosure on a daily basis, to prevent health and behavioural problems.
- (m) Rabbits should have an enclosure not less than 4 times their body size, and should have the ability to stand up and stretch.
- (n) Enclosures for rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rats and mice should be no smaller than the minimum sizes recommended in Table 1.

Table 1: Recommended minimum enclosure sizes for rabbits, guinea pigs, chinchillas, rats and mice

| Species | Minimum floor area (sq cm) | Minimum length (cm) | Minimum width (cm) | Minimum height (cm) | Maximum animals | Increased floor area for each additional animal (sq cm) |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| Small rabbits (< 2kg) | 4,356 | 66 | 66 | 35 | 2 | 1,500 |
| Medium rabbits (2kg – 3.6kg) | 5,280 | 80 | 66 | 45 | 2 | 2,000 |
| Large rabbits (> 3.6 kg) | 6,138 | 93 | 66 | 50 | 2 | 2,500 |
| Guinea pigs | 6,916 | 91 | 76 | 26 | 2 | 2,600 |
| Chinchillas | 6,400 | 80 | 80 | 105 | 2 | For up to 2 more: 1,000 and an additional 26cm in height |
| Rats | 3,600 | 60 | 60 | 80 | 2 | 900 |
| Mice | 676 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 4 | 100 |

6.8 Special Requirements for Fish

Minimum Standard No. 22 – Housing of Fish

- (a) Fish showing signs of illness must be attended to immediately and, where necessary, separated from other fish to prevent the spread of disease.
- (b) All fish tanks and goldfish bowls must have a filtration system.
- (c) All aquariums must have a water volume of 4 litres or greater, regardless of the species or number of fish kept in them.

- (d) Males of the betta species must not be kept together.
- (e) Water temperature must be maintained at a level appropriate to the species being held.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Fish tanks should be protected from environmental extremes.
- (b) Water changes should be adequate to maintain good water quality in relation to population density. Replacing 25% of the water in the aquarium each fortnight is the normal minimum requirement using water of appropriate quality.
- (c) Water chemistry should be checked regularly, and appropriate measures taken to correct any imbalances.
- (d) Filtration equipment should be adequate for the species and population densities, and effective at all times.
- (e) Any dead aquatic animal should be disposed of in a manner that will not be the cause of a disease being filtered into natural waterways.
- (f) Fish should only be housed with other species and individuals that are compatible.
- (g) Water quality for fish should be no less than the minimums and no greater than the maximums recommended in Table 2.

Table 2: Recommended water quality for fish

| | Dissolved oxygen (minimum) | Free ammonia (maximum) | Nitrite (maximum) | Nitrate (maximum) | pH (minimum) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Cold water fish | 6mg/litre | 0.00mg/litre | 0.0mg/litre | 50mg/litre | Appropriate to species |
| Tropical fish | 6mg/litre | 0.00mg/litre | 0.0mg/litre | 50mg/litre | Appropriate to species |
| Tropical marine species | 5.5mg/litre | 0.00mg/litre | 0.0mg/litre | 40mg/litre | 8.1 |

General Information

Larger aquariums are easier to maintain water quality in and provide more room for the fish.

6.9 Special Requirements for Reptiles and Amphibians

Introduction

Reptiles and amphibians cannot all be assumed to have the same requirements for heat, UV light, food and water.

Minimum Standard No. 23 – Housing of Reptiles

- (a) Natural light (not filtered by glass or plastic) or artificial UV lighting must be provided to reptiles.
- (b) Where artificial UV lighting is provided, it must be regularly replaced in order to retain the quality of the UV rays.
- (c) Turtles must be provided with a swimming area of a depth at least 1.5 times their body length, at the appropriate temperature, with rocks or platforms to prevent drowning and to allow dry access to heat and light.
- (d) Enclosure temperatures must be maintained at a level appropriate to the species being held.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Turtles should be fed in a separate tank to the one in which they are housed.
- (b) Water temperature should be appropriate to the age and species of turtle.
- (c) Reptile and amphibian enclosures should be secure from escape and be lockable and tamper-proof.
- (d) Reptiles and amphibians should be protected from excessive noise and vibration where possible.
- (e) Water filtration should be provided to prevent the build-up of wastes and be sufficient to maintain good water quality.
- (f) Heaters and filters in reptile and amphibian enclosures should be protected to avoid breakage by, or injury to, the reptile or amphibian.

General Information

All reptiles require external sources of heat to maintain their body temperature. The temperature requirements vary between species. Up-to-date information can be sourced from “Preferred Optimum Temperature Zone” (POTZ).

Reptiles and amphibians need substrates appropriate to the species. Sand and small stones can cause blocked intestines.

6.10 Hygiene

Introduction

Good hygiene standards are essential to enhance well-being and minimise disease.

Minimum Standard No. 24 – Hygiene

- (a) Housing and exercise areas must be cleaned and maintained for animal health and disease control.

- (b) All waste (including droppings, litter material and food waste) must be removed to prevent contamination that may pose a threat to the health and welfare of the animal.**
- (c) Water quality must be maintained at levels appropriate to the species.**
- (d) Dead animals must be removed and disposed of promptly in accordance with the requirements of local authorities.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Faeces should be removed at least daily (or more often as required) from housing and exercise areas to prevent possible contamination.
- (b) Cleaning and disinfecting agents should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness.
- (c) Manufacturers' instructions for the use of these agents should be followed, since too strong a solution may be toxic to animals and too weak may be ineffective.
- (d) After cleaning, animal housing areas should be rinsed and left as dry as possible prior to animals being returned to them.
- (e) As some pesticides (e.g. rodent poisons) and some herbicides are toxic to companion animals, they should be used with extreme caution. If chemicals or poisons are used, they should only be used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and be inaccessible to the animals. All animals should be completely excluded from that part of the facility until the poison programme is complete.
- (f) Sufficient numbers of litter trays should be provided and cleaned regularly as appropriate to the species.
- (g) Effective drainage is essential for hygiene.
- (h) Phenol and products containing phenol are highly toxic to cats and chinchillas, and should not be used.
- (i) Birds, reptiles and amphibians have extremely sensitive respiratory systems, which can be severely damaged by artificial odours (e.g. smoking, cleaning products, air fresheners, incense, Teflon pans).

6.11 Noise Control

Minimum Standard No. 25 – Noise Control

Electronic collars must not be used to control barking.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) The owner's permission in writing is recommended for the use of no-bark collars (e.g. citronella collars) or hush muzzles for dogs. Their use is strongly discouraged, and should only be undertaken if the proprietor or person in charge of the temporary housing facility has exhausted all other means of quietening the dog (e.g. taking it to an exercise area, spending time with it, providing a stuffed Kong or cannon bone).
- (b) The date and length of time such collars are used should be recorded in each case.
- (c) It is preferable to manage dogs in small compatible groups, with minimal visual contact with other groups.
- (d) Situations where dogs pass by kennelled dogs on their way to or from exercise should be avoided if possible.
- (e) Separate (and particularly sound-proof) accommodation should be available for very noisy dogs.
- (f) Buildings should be used as buffers between exercise runs and neighbours.
- (g) Materials known to reduce noise should be used where possible in a temporary housing facility.
- (h) Temporary housing facilities should be aware of, and adhere to, local authority regulations on noise control.

6.12 Temperature and Ventilation

Minimum Standard No. 26 – Temperature and Ventilation

- (a) **All accommodation must be adequately ventilated to provide constant fresh air.**
- (b) **Provision must be made to ensure an appropriate ambient temperature range for the species, to maintain normal body temperature.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Very old and very young animals may be more sensitive than others to changes in temperature and may require the provision of heating or cooling devices.
- (b) Animals in aqueous environments should be provided with temperature, salinity, oxygenation and pH that is appropriate to the species; water which is free of harmful pollutants; and enclosures which are durable, watertight, non-porous, non-abrasive, non-toxic and easily cleaned.

6.13 Lighting

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) The duration and intensity of internal lighting should be as close as possible to natural conditions.
- (b) Lighting should be available and sufficient to enable thorough inspection of all animals and housing areas.

- (c) Care should be taken to ensure that lights do not cause excessive heat for the animals.
- (d) Care should be taken when using heat lamps and devices. These should be stable and inaccessible to the animal, and the animal should be able to move in and out of the heat.
- (e) Lighting should be installed safely and securely, and be inaccessible to animals.
- (f) UV lighting is essential for reptiles, birds and some amphibians. Where UV lighting is used, bulbs should be changed regularly to retain UV rays.

6.14 Special Requirements for Pet Shops

Introduction

Animals require a secluded, darkened sleeping area.

Minimum Standard No. 27 – Pet Shops

Animals kept in shop windows at night must be hidden from public view.

6.15 Quarantine/Isolation

Introduction

Good health is essential and contributes to good animal welfare. 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, isolation or segregation of incoming animals for a period of time is necessary. All animals placed in quarantine/isolation facilities due to suspected infectious diseases should be seen promptly by a veterinarian.

Minimum Standard No. 28 – Quarantine/Isolation

Quarantine/isolation facilities must be immediately available, and must be used when any animal is suspected of carrying a contagious disease.

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) 10% of the carrying capacity of the temporary housing facility should be suitable for use as a quarantine/isolation area and be available at all times.
- (b) All temporary housing facilities holding any cats and dogs that have not been vaccinated should keep them isolated from animals which have been vaccinated, if such information is known.
- (c) A quarantine/isolation area should ideally be a separate building located away from the main accommodation buildings.

- (d) If a separate building is not possible, access to and from the quarantine/isolation area should be separate from other entry/exit points used by other animals.
- (e) The quarantine/isolation area should have its own drainage, ventilation and water supply systems.
- (f) Suitable overgarments and footwear should be available at entry/exit points, and should be worn while inside the quarantine/isolation area.
- (g) There should be provision for all equipment used within the quarantine/isolation area (e.g. food bowls, waste buckets, carry cages, towels, brushes, leads, nets) to remain in the quarantine/isolation area or be disinfected before leaving the area.
- (h) All animals confined in quarantine/isolation areas should be under veterinary supervision, and full health records should be maintained at all times.
- (i) Staff should be trained in managing sick animals in quarantine/isolation.
- (j) Appropriate footbaths/pads and hand washing facilities should be used at all entry/exit points or disposable shoe coverings worn or footwear kept in the quarantine/isolation area.

7. Rehoming and Sale of Animals

Introduction

Temporary housing facilities which receive displaced animals should have policies and procedures in place for returning animals to their original owner; and for the rehoming of animals in the event that the original owner cannot be found, provided the animal is suitable for rehoming.

All temporary housing facilities should endeavour to find a permanent home for companion animals, provided they are suitable for rehoming. The establishment should have a policy for rehoming or selling animals, encompassing criteria to be taken into account in selecting a new owner. These should include consideration of the suitability of the environment to which the animal will be rehomed, the ability of the proposed new owner to provide for the animal's needs, and the likely social needs of both animal and owner.

Temperament evaluation is also important in matching potential new owners to individual animals, to ensure owner/animal compatibility. All establishments that rehome or sell animals should evaluate the temperament of the animals in their care to ascertain their likely suitability for rehoming.

There should be a policy to cover after-care of rehomed or sold animals, including a transfer of full veterinary and other relevant records on request. The primary objective of the policy should be to protect the welfare of the animal by ensuring, as far as possible, that its needs are met in the new home. It is strongly recommended that all animals be vaccinated, desexed and microchipped before rehoming.

Minimum Standard No. 29 – Rehoming and Sale of Animals

- (a) Animals rehomed or sold from pounds and animal welfare organisations must be desexed prior to rehoming or sale.**
- (b) Cats and dogs must be microchipped and vaccinated prior to rehoming or sale.**
- (c) Animals must not knowingly be rehomed or sold with genetic and health problems without full disclosure to the new owner.**
- (d) Animals offered for rehoming or sale must be no less than:**

| Species | Age |
|----------------|------------|
| Dogs | 8 weeks |
| Cats | 8 weeks |
| Rabbits | 8 weeks |
| Guinea pigs | 6 weeks |
| Mice | 4 weeks |
| Rats | 4 weeks |
| Chinchillas | 10 weeks |

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) All temporary housing facilities which rehome or sell animals should have a policy in place encompassing criteria to be taken into consideration when selecting a new owner.
- (b) Current vaccination certificates signed by a veterinarian should be passed on to new owners of dogs and cats.
- (c) No animal suspected of being sick, injured or diseased should be sold or rehomed.
- (d) Pet shops, breeders and other animal traders should actively encourage the desexing, microchipping and vaccinating of animals by providing comprehensive written material to the new owner.
- (e) Pet shops, breeders and other animal traders should obtain as much knowledge as possible regarding the genetics of health problems (e.g. breed issues) and inform the new owner of these.
- (f) If an animal is not acceptable to a purchaser for health, genetic or behavioural reasons that are supported by a written statement from a veterinarian within 7 days of purchase, the proprietor or person in charge should take the animal back (with the exception of accidents).
- (g) At the time of purchase, the purchaser should receive appropriate written information concerning the care of the animal purchased, including information promoting the desexing of cats and dogs.
- (h) Juvenile birds should be self-sufficient beyond the required care given to them by their caregivers and should be fully feathered (moult permitting).
- (i) No animals should be sold to anyone under the age of 16.
- (j) Pet shops, breeders and other animal traders may impose reasonable conditions on the sale of any animal, such as a requirement for proof that the animal will be properly housed or for the new owner to demonstrate adequate understanding of the care the animal requires.
- (k) Pet shops, breeders and other animal traders may refuse to sell or supply an animal or any other goods to a person without disclosing the reasons for that decision, provided the reason for the refusal does not breach any of the grounds of discrimination in the Human Rights Act 1993.

8. Transportation

Introduction

Section 22 of the Act requires that any person in charge of a vehicle must ensure that any animal carried in that vehicle is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation, and its welfare is attended to.

Minimum Standard No. 30 – Transportation

- (a) While being transported in a vehicle, animals must be caged or carried in a secure manner suitable to the species.**
- (b) Animals being transported must have sufficient space to stand, turn around and rest normally.**
- (c) There must be adequate provision for ventilation in both the carrier and the vehicle.**
- (d) Animals must not be held in vehicles without adequate ventilation and shade for any length of time that will compromise the welfare of the animal.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) Animals should be transported in a way which prevents injury to themselves and to the human passengers in the vehicle.
- (b) Animals should not be carried in the closed boot of a vehicle unless this is the most appropriate manner in which to transport an injured animal over a short distance.
- (c) Animals should not be left inside a vehicle when the weather or length of time in the vehicle could lead to the animal overheating or becoming hypothermic.
- (d) Containers in which animals are transported should be clearly labelled.
- (e) Any vehicle specially designed (or regularly used) for transporting animals should have the following design features:
 - (i) non-slip floors;
 - (ii) easy access;
 - (iii) animals prevented from interfering with the driver while he or she is driving;
 - (iv) protecting those within from extremes of temperature, wind and sun;
 - (v) safeguards preventing the unauthorised release of animals; and
 - (vi) easy to clean and disinfect.

9. Euthanasia

Introduction

Where treatment to restore the health of an animal is impractical or unsuccessful, animals should be humanely destroyed (euthanased). Euthanasia is the induction of a painless and rapid death, and should be performed so as to ensure minimal suffering of 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 (see Appendix II, "Legislative Requirements", to this code).

Minimum Standard No. 31 – Euthanasia

- (a) When an animal is euthanased, this must be carried out in such a way as to ensure that death occurs quickly.**
- (b) Animals must not be killed by drowning or freezing.**
- (c) In boarding establishments, if euthanasia is required or an animal dies then a necropsy must be undertaken to ascertain the reason or cause of death and a report provided to the animal's owner.**

Recommended Best Practice

- (a) All efforts to locate the animal's owner or person in charge should be made prior to euthanasia.
- (b) Animals should be euthanased by a veterinarian or, where they are clearly suffering extreme and unacceptable pain and a veterinarian is not immediately available, by a warranted inspector under the Act (e.g. animal welfare inspector).
- (c) Freezing or flushing fish down the toilet is strongly not recommended. The recommended methods of euthanasia of fish are iki, cranial ablation and aqueous anaesthetic (e.g. clove oil).

General Information

The Act provides for the euthanasia of a severely injured or sick animal by a veterinarian, *without the permission of the owner*, where delay in finding the owner would cause unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress to the animal. A warranted inspector or auxiliary officer under the Act (e.g. an SPCA inspector or auxiliary officer) may also perform this task; however, it is preferable that euthanasia be performed by a veterinarian if immediately available.

Appendix I: Interpretation and Definitions

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| 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 this 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 paragraph (c) of this definition, any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage. |
| animal day care centre | An establishment that caters to 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. |
| animal trader | A person who deals with animals at a commercial level. |
| animal welfare organisation | A registered organisation or group of individuals who attend to the welfare of animals in need, often in a voluntary capacity. |
| 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 | 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. |

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| breeder | A person registered or licensed as an animal breeder holding a current prefix with any of the recognised animal organisations, who keeps animals temporarily for the purpose of breeding and any offspring for the purpose of sale. Anyone who willingly or unwillingly has animals that reproduce. |
| companion animal | Any animal that is kept primarily for a relationship with humans. |
| electronic training device | A device designed for the purpose of training or disciplining animals, primarily dogs, through a process involving electric shock treatment. Includes electronic collars. |
| enclosure | Designed specifically to enclose animals (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.” |
| 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. |

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| quarantine/isolation facility | A facility where animals that are sick or are suspected of illness are held separately from other animals for the purposes of treatment, assessment or preventing the spread of disease. May also refer to the separate housing of animals newly acquired or imported or awaiting export. |
| 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 | To transfer 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. |
| temporary | Lasting only for a limited period of time and not permanently. |
| temporary housing facility | As defined in section 2 of this code. |
| veterinarian | A person who is registered under the Veterinarians Act 2005 and holds a current practising certificate. |

Appendix II: Legislative Requirements

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) imposes obligations on every person who owns or is in charge of an animal. This code has been issued pursuant to section 75 of the Act and will provide guidance on how to comply with the legislative requirements. However, 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 in the Act.

A copy of the Act is accessible at www.legislation.govt.nz.

A "Guide to the Animal Welfare Act 1999" is accessible at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare.

Contents of Codes

Section 69 of the Act provides that a code of welfare may relate to one or more of the following:

- a species of animal
- animals used for purposes specified in the code
- animal establishments of a kind specified in the code
- types of entertainment specified in the code (being types of entertainment in which animals are used)
- the transport of animals
- the procedures and equipment used in the management, care or killing of animals or in the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals.

In deciding to issue a code of welfare, the Minister must be satisfied as to the following matters set out in section 73(1) of the Act:

- that the proposed standards are the minimum necessary to ensure that the purposes of the Act will be met; and
- that the recommendations for best practice (if any) are appropriate.

Despite the provisions of section 73(1), section 73(3) of the Act allows NAWAC, in exceptional circumstances, to recommend minimum standards and recommendations for best practice that do not fully meet the obligations of:

- section 10 or section 11 – obligations in relation to physical, health and behavioural needs of animals
- section 12(c) – killing an animal
- section 21(1)(b) – restriction on performance of surgical procedures
- section 22(2) – providing comfortable and secure accommodation for the transport of animals
- section 23(1) and (2) – transport of animals
- section 29(a) – ill-treating an animal.

In making a recommendation under section 73(3), section 73(4) requires NAWAC to have regard to:

- the feasibility and practicality of effecting a transition from current practices to new practices and any adverse effects that may result from such a transition
- the requirements of religious practices or cultural practices or both
- the economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.

This code provides for the physical, health and behavioural needs (as defined in section 4 of the Act) of animals. These needs include:

- proper and sufficient food and water
- adequate shelter

- opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour
- physical handling in a manner which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease,

being a need which, in each case, is appropriate to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal.

This code also takes account of:

- good practice
- scientific knowledge
- available technology.

“Significant surgical procedures”, including “controlled” or “restricted” surgical procedures, are defined and covered by the Act. They are not covered separately by this code.

Legal Obligations of Owners and Persons in Charge of Animals under the Act

“Owner” and “person in charge” are defined in Appendix I, “Interpretation and Definitions”, to this code.

Under the Act, the “owner” of an animal or the “person in charge” is responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare. It should be noted that the “owner” is not always identical with the “person in charge”, which may change according to the particular circumstances (e.g. when responsibility for the animal is assumed by a person(s) who is not the owner (e.g. in boarding kennels) or who is under the instruction of a trainer).

The owner or person in charge of an animal has *overall* responsibility for the welfare of the animal(s) in his or her care. The legal obligations set out below are not an exhaustive list of the obligations in the Act.

The owner or person in charge of an animal must:

- (i) ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge
- (ii) where practicable, ensure that an animal which is ill or injured receives treatment that will alleviate any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal or that it is killed humanely.

The owner or person in charge of an animal must not without reasonable excuse:

- (i) keep an animal alive when it is in such a condition that it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- (ii) sell, attempt to sell or offer for sale, otherwise than for the express purpose of being killed, an animal, when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- (iii) desert an animal in circumstances in which no provision is made to meet its physical, health and behavioural needs.

No person may:

- (i) ill-treat an animal
- (ii) release an animal that has been kept in captivity, in circumstances in which the animal is likely to suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress

- (iii) perform any significant surgical procedure on an animal unless that person is a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or, in the case of a controlled surgical procedure, a person approved by a veterinarian
- (iv) perform on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure (as defined by the Act) in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- (v) kill an animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

It is an offence under section 31 of the Act to allow animals to participate in fighting ventures or to aid in providing animals for such ventures.

Regulations Review Committee of Parliament and Process for Complaints

Codes of welfare are deemed to be regulations for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989. As such, they are subject to the scrutiny of the Regulations Review Committee of Parliament.

Any person or organisation aggrieved at the operation of a code of welfare has the right to make a complaint to the Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

This is a parliamentary select committee charged with examining regulations against a set of criteria and drawing to the attention of the House of Representatives any regulation that does not meet the criteria.

Grounds for reporting to the House include:

- the regulation trespasses unduly on personal rights and freedoms; or
- the regulation is not made in accordance with the general objects and intentions of the statute under which it is made; or
- the regulation was not made in compliance with the particular notice and consultation procedures prescribed by statute.

Any person or organisation wishing to make a complaint should refer to the publication *Making a Complaint to the Regulations Review Committee*, which can be obtained from the website www.parliament.govt.nz, or by writing to Clerk of the Committee, Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

Strict Liability and Defences

Strict Liability

In the prosecution of certain offences under the Act committed after 19 December 2002, evidence that a relevant code of welfare was in existence at the time of the alleged offence and that a relevant minimum standard established by that code was not complied with is rebuttable evidence that the person charged with the offence failed to comply with, or contravened, the provision of the Act to which the offence relates. (See sections 13(1A), 24(1) and 30(1A) of the Act, as amended by the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2002.)

Defences

It is a defence in the prosecution of certain offences under the Act if the defendant proves that there was in existence at the time of the alleged offence a relevant code of welfare and that the minimum standards established by the code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. (See sections 13(2)(c), 24(2)(b) and 30(2)(c) of the Act.)

If a defendant in a prosecution intends to rely on the defence under section 13(2)(c) or section 30(2)(c), the defendant must, within seven days after the service of the summons, or within such further time as the Court may allow, deliver to the prosecutor a written notice. The notice must state that the defendant intends to rely

on section 13(2) or section 30(2) as the case may be, and must specify the relevant code of welfare that was in existence at the time of the alleged offence, and the facts which show that the minimum standards established by that code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. This notice may be dispensed with if the Court gives leave. (See sections 13(3) and 30(3) of the Act.)

The strict liability provisions and the defence of equalling or exceeding the minimum standards established by a code of welfare apply to the following offences.

Failing to Provide

Section 12(a): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 10 (which provides that the owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge).

Suffering Animals

Section 12(b): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails, in the case of an animal that is ill or injured, to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 11 (which provides that the owner of an animal that is ill or injured, and every person in charge of such an animal, must, where practicable, ensure that the animal receives treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal).

Section 12(c): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, kills the animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Surgical Procedures

Section 21(1)(b): A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, acts in contravention of or fails to comply with section 15(4) (which provides that no person may, in performing on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure, perform that surgical procedure in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress).

Transport

Section 22(2): A person commits an offence who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any provision of section 22(1) (which provides that every person in charge of a vehicle or an aircraft, and the master of or, if there is no master, the person in charge of, a ship, being a vehicle, aircraft or ship in or on which an animal is being transported, must ensure that the welfare of the animal is properly attended to, and that, in particular, the animal is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation and is supplied with proper and sufficient food and water).

Section 23(1): A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, confines or transports an animal in a manner or position that causes the animal unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Section 23(2): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or the person in charge of, an animal, permits that animal, without reasonable excuse, to be driven or led on a road, or to be ridden, or to be transported in or on a vehicle, an aircraft, or a ship, while the condition or health of the animal is such as to render it unfit to be so driven, led, ridden or transported.

Ill-treatment

Section 29(a): A person commits an offence who ill-treats an animal.

Inspection of Premises

Section 127(1): Inspectors appointed under the Act have the power to enter any land or premises (with the exception of dwellings and marae), or any vehicle, aircraft or vessel, at any reasonable time, for the purpose of inspecting any animal.

Inspectors include officers of MAF Compliance and Enforcement Group, inspectors from approved organisations (e.g. Royal New Zealand SPCA, AWINZ) appointed by the Minister, and the Police.

Appendix III: Codes of Welfare

Process for Code Development

The Act established the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) and provided for the issue of codes of welfare with legal effect. One of the responsibilities of NAWAC is to advise the Minister of Agriculture (the Minister) on the content of codes of welfare following a process of public consultation.

A draft code may be developed by anyone, including NAWAC or the Minister. It is then submitted to NAWAC. Provided the draft meets criteria in the Act for clarity and compliance with the purposes of the Act, and provided representatives of persons likely to be affected by the code have been adequately consulted, NAWAC publicly notifies the code and calls for submissions. NAWAC is then responsible for recommending the form and content of the code to the Minister after having regard to the submissions received, good practice and scientific knowledge, available technology and any other relevant matters.

NAWAC may recommend standards that do not fully meet the obligations in the Act if certain criteria specified in the Act are met.

The Minister issues the code by notice in the *Gazette*.

This draft code was developed by a group designated through the New Zealand Companion Animal Council and including representatives from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), the Companion Animal Society of the New Zealand Veterinary Association, the Auckland Veterinary Society, the New Zealand Kennel Club (NZKC), Federated Farmers, the New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). In addition to these organisations, the draft code has been reviewed by representatives of animal welfare organisations, cat colony management groups, breeders, local authorities and veterinarians. NAWAC publicly notified the draft code of welfare on xx xx 2011.

Revision of the Code

This code is based on the knowledge and technology available at the time of publication, and may need to be varied in the light of future advances and knowledge. In any event, this code will be reviewed no later than xx xx xx (being 10 years from the date on which this code was issued by the Minister).

Comments on this code are always welcome and should be addressed to The Secretary, National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, PO Box 2526, Wellington or animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz.

Further information can be obtained from the website: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare.

Codes of Welfare

- Animal Welfare (Broiler Chickens: Fully Housed) Code of Welfare 2003
- Animal Welfare (Rodeos) Code of Welfare 2003
- Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Zoos) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Circuses) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007
- Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007
- Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010

- Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010

Codes of Welfare Under Development

- Animal Welfare (Sheep and Beef) Code of Welfare
- Animal Welfare (Transport) Code of Welfare
- Animal Welfare (Goats) Code of Welfare

Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards

- Sea Transport of Sheep from New Zealand, September 1991
- Welfare of Sheep, July 1996
- Welfare of Deer During the Removal of Antlers, July 1992, amended August 1994, August 1997
- Welfare of Horses, February 1993
- Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments, August 1993
- Sale of Companion Animals, September 1994
- Welfare of Animals Transported within New Zealand, November 1994, amended June 1996, August 1998
- Welfare of Animals at Saleyards, May 1995
- Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock, December 1996
- Welfare of Dogs, May 1998
- Welfare of Ostrich and Emu, September 1999

Guidelines

- Welfare of Stock from which Blood is Harvested for Commercial and Research Purposes, March 2009
- Welfare of Yearling Fallow Deer During the Use of Rubber Rings to Prevent Antler/Pedicle Growth, September 1997
- Welfare of Red and Wapiti Yearling Stags During the Use of Rubber Rings to Induce Analgesia for the Removal of Spiker Velvet, September 1998

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| <p>Codes and Guidelines may be obtained from:</p> <p><i>Executive Co-ordinator Animal Welfare MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry PO Box 2526 WELLINGTON 6140 Tel: 04 894 0366 email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz</i></p> | <p>Or can be inspected at:</p> <p><i>Animal Welfare Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Pastoral House Reception Level 10 25 The Terrace WELLINGTON 6011</i></p> |
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Codes and Guidelines are available on MAF's website.

The web page address is: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare