

Framework for action on animal welfare in New Zealand

Context

- Two independent advisory committees.
- A national Animal Welfare Strategy – Care of animals, reputation for integrity.
- Regulation development and implementation – improving clarity and enforceability of our codes.
- *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* outreach programme.
- An animal welfare system improvement work programme.

Where to

New Zealand will be world leading in animal welfare

Independent Voice

An independent voice to ensure advice on animal welfare is future-thinking, timely, trusted and well-informed.

Explore options to establish a voice for animals that is independent of the government, for example, a commissioner for animals.

Establish a cross-party animal welfare working group within Parliament.

Ensure that independent advisory committees are supported in their role as an independent voice, including ensuring that their membership is appropriately representative.

Transparency

Everyone knows what and why decisions are made, and has opportunities to participate in setting standards for the future of animal welfare.

Identify animal welfare information collected by MPI that can be reported and make it publically available. Encourage stakeholders to do the same.

Ensure greater participation of all interest groups, including the advocacy perspective, in standard setting.

Challenge industry to better engage with animal advocacy groups and understand their concerns.

Ensure independent advisory committees focus on more effective engagement with the public, including well-advertised public committee meetings.

Strengthening Codes

Codes are focused on lifting standards beyond the minimum, they are understood, and they are underpinned by effective monitoring and compliance.

Understand why people offend and why offending is not always reported.

Review the use of animals in entertainment.

Continued focus on breeding standards for companion animals.

Review the *Safeguarding our Animals, Safeguarding our Reputation* programme to ensure effective education, monitoring, and compliance.

Codes of Welfare

- promote best practice within codes, for example through education and recognising good operators; and
- ensure positive welfare is considered when developing codes of welfare and regulatory proposals.

Regulations

- deliver regulations relating to the care and humane treatment of animals, including the Implementation Programme for Animal Welfare Regulations, and monitoring and evaluating the impact of the regulations; and
- deliver regulations that minimise the impact associated with surgical and painful husbandry procedures.

Use of animals in researching, testing and teaching

- review the operation of research, testing, and teaching in the Animal Welfare Act 1999; and
- lift the prestige and awareness of the 3R's Awards – supporting work that promotes the replacement, reduction, and refinement of animals used in research, testing, and teaching.

Capacity Building

People in charge of animals believe animal welfare matters, and have the skills and capacity to meet animal welfare standards.

Bring the focus back to good animal husbandry, and ensure sufficient capacity across government and all animal sectors to ensure this.

Develop partnerships within communities by linking in with local animal welfare groups to extend education and enforcement capacity.

Ensure local and central government are well placed to meet their responsibilities for animal welfare in emergencies (adverse events and natural disasters).

What we can do

Ensure additional resources and support are available to improve animal welfare outcomes, including in relation to:

- establishing a dedicated Animal Health and Welfare unit within MPI;
- ensuring clear accountability for the Animal Welfare System within the MPI Senior Leadership Team;
- the development and implementation of requirements and regulations;
- monitoring and verification activities;
- education and promotion of voluntary compliance;
- animal welfare emergency response;
- increased recognition of high performance and good practice in animal welfare.

Resourcing