

National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare **(NCCAW)**

MINUTES OF NCCAW 35

Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th April 2005

**Menzies Conference Room
The Chifley on Northbourne
102 Northbourne Ave
Canberra ACT 2601
Tel: 02 6249 1411**

PURPOSE:

1. Conduct NCCAW 35 Meeting on 27/28 April 2005.
 2. Conduct NCCAW's Production Working Group & Non-Production Working Group Meetings on 26 April 2005.
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PARTICIPANTS:

Ivan Caple (CHAIR)
Dean Merrilees – DAFF
Peter Thornber - DAFF
Deborah Kelly – SA
Elizabeth Grant – NHMRC
Glenys Oogjes – AA
Hugh Wirth – RSPCA
Jeni Hood – WA
Kevin de Witte – NT
Kevin Doyle – AVA
Matthew Crane - NSW
Mick Middleton – TAS
Pheroze Jungalwalla – TSGA
Ralph Hood – AHA
Rick Symons - QLD

Robert Lee – NFF
Warren Starick - NFF
Stephen Tate – VIC
Cindy Steensby - DEH
David Adams – DAFF
Naomi Hilborn - DAFF
Lyn Traill – DAFF

OBSERVER:

Sandra Riddell – DEH

APOLOGIES:

Robin Vandegraaff - SA
Ross Burton – NSW
Lee-Anne Wahren –
Environment ACT

WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL 2005 NCCAW

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

CHAIR

The Chairman welcomed:

- Jeni Hood, representing Western Australia to this meeting;
- Mathew Crane, representing New South Wales for this meeting;
- Cindy Steensby, representing Department of Environment & Heritage for this meeting;
- Lyn Traill, NCCAW Secretariat from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Aaron Coles, from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry;

- Narelle Clegg, from Australian Quarantine Inspection Service;
- Sandra Riddell, from Department of Environment & Heritage observing the proceedings this meeting.

The Chairman expressed apologies from:

- Robin Vandegraaff, Chair Animal Welfare Working Group (AWWG).
- Ross Burton, NSW Agriculture.
- Lee-Anne Wahren, ACT (Environment ACT, Dept of Urban Services)

The Chair touched on NCCAW's functions as a Committee and reminded members that NCCAW is an advisory body for the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The functions of NCCAW are:

- to assess and advise the Federal Government on the national implications of welfare issues affecting animals;
- to advise on the effectiveness and appropriateness of national codes of practice, policies, guidelines and legislation to safeguard or further the welfare of animals and protect the national interest;
- to liaise with other relevant bodies such as the Animal Welfare Committee, which meets under the auspices of the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand;
- other functions as may be required or conferred on the Committee by the Minister.

NCCAW's future challenges include the implementation of Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS).

AGENDA FOR NCCAW 35:

All members agreed to the draft agenda with additional items including the review of NCCAW under Other Business.

NCCAW 34 MINUTES:

Ivan Caple moved that the record of NCCAW 34 be accepted. This motion was seconded by Hugh Wirth and carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. NCCAW Secretariat to amend functions to reflect the following– NCCAW to liaise with other relevant bodies such as the Animal Welfare Working Group which meets under the auspices of the Primary Industries Standing Committee.
2. Update NCCAW section of DAFF website, including Committee Members; re-ordering Summary of NCCAW proceedings to be in number order.

Minister's response to NCCAW 34 recommendations

A copy of the letter from the Chairman to the Minister to NCCAW 34 and the Minister's response were tabled. It was noted that the Minister had accepted and acted on all the recommendations arising from NCCAW 34.

Action List

The action list drawn up at NCCAW 34 was reviewed. All actions have been completed or progressed.

Other Business

Upcoming review of NCCAW:

- Dean Merrilees advised Committee Members that in the next 6 – 12 months a review of NCCAW will be undertaken. The review would be of membership, ToRs and performance to reflect the growing number of issues arising in the animal welfare arena.

Animals Angels report

- NCCAW viewed images and a report from Animals Angels relating to inspections of Fremantle wharf in February 2005.
- NCCAW is concerned about inconsistent compliance with the Live Export Standards, particularly in the selection of animals for fitness to travel, and land transport arrangements.

ACTION ITEMS:

Animals Angels Report:

NCCAW recommends that Minister Truss be alerted and requested to direct AQIS or other authorities with jurisdiction in WA to take further action to ensure compliance with the Standards. NCCAW members were also told that animals were drafted at the wharf and those not meeting the standards were not exported. As Animals Angels is an international organisation based in Germany, possible trade implications need to be avoided. The information is already available to international audiences accessing the Animal's Angels website <http://www.animals-angels.de>.

Comments on implementation of Rodeo Code across jurisdictions

- TAS – AWAC have advised that rodeos should be regulated under the Welfare Act
- QLD – being promoted
- NT – adopting guidelines under the Act
- WA – adopting guidelines under the Act
- VIC – regulating to reflect NCCAW guidance
- SA – charges being laid against one rodeo organiser
- NSW – fully supported by rodeo organisations.

Formal MOUs with AQIS

Each jurisdiction reported on progress with MOUs re livestock transport. **NSW & QLD** are working together across jurisdictions to achieve positive outcomes.

Animal Welfare Resourcing

Jurisdictions reported on their resourcing and whether animal welfare appeared on their websites.

TAS

Resources are diminishing as staff leave they are not being replaced. Animal Welfare is on their website.

QLD

Animal Welfare has strong support from the Minister. Hoping to employ more staff in 2005. Primary School program has been launched and proving successful. Animal Welfare is on the website.

NT

Potential for things to happen within Animal Welfare. NT is being faced with a re-structure which may be positive. Due for an election June/July 05. Animal Welfare is on the website.

WA

Staff levels are growing with the hope of more staff in the near future. Animal Welfare is on the website.

VIC

A School program being progressed. Education for farmers on codes and welfare in general and effective systems are being progressed. Hugh Wirth, RSPCA noted a positive experience with Minister for the Victorian Government Department. Animal Welfare is on the website.

NSW

Recently combined four departments which created staff redundancies. Currently attempting to regain structure. Animal Welfare is on the website.

SA

No budget increases but no decreases. SA currently gives the RSPCA half a million per year. In October 2004 administrative and executive support of the Dog and Cat Management Board came into the Animal Welfare Unit. Hoping to have two new administration positions in the near future. The Premier and Minister are both interested in animal welfare. Election in March 06. In the near future Animal Welfare will be added to the website.

DAFF

From the Commonwealth perspective there has been a significant increase in staff in the Animal Welfare Unit. Priorities include implementation of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) – there will be 6 million dollars available across five

financial years; the Live Animal Exports minimum standards and the OIE International Guidelines. The Neumann report is out for stakeholder comment and will be presented to PISC 9 in September. The report touches on a range of issues including development of model codes of practice moving to minimum standards, resources and investigation.

3. NCCAW ADMINISTRATION

PETER THORNER

New NCCAW Letterhead

The new NCCAW letterhead was presented to members.

Secure website for NCCAW members

Aaron Coles from the DAFF internet section presented the NCCAW secure website. NCCAW, NPAWG and PAWG members will be provided with a username and password to access this site which will enable the member to compile his or her own information for the upcoming meeting.

As discussed a transitional phase will occur between now and NCCAW 36 to be held 7-9 September 2005. Requests from members to receive folders either in advance of, or for collection at NCCAW 36 will be met for NCCAW36.

Advantages of this secure website include: papers being available for members to access wherever the member is. As it is a web based program; members decide what documents he or she would like to bring to the meeting. Papers can be downloaded to palm pilots; memory sticks; laptops and so on for use by the member at the meeting; and of course not needing to carry the NCCAW folder on flights etc.

Protocols for NCCAW meetings

NCCAW members were reminded about the new booking arrangements for meetings including members arranging his or her own airfares and accommodation as per the DAFF regulations.

Travel allowance procedures were explained, and it was reiterated that the allowance is paid as per the DAFF regulations. It was a requirement that members provided documentation including original receipts (not photocopies) to the DAFF Secretariat for compliance records.

Sitting fees

Approximately 12 months ago the issue of sitting fees for NCCAW members was raised by a number of members. NCCAW members are currently appointed as representatives of their organisations that may be Government or Non Government.

DAFF is currently reviewing the request for sitting fees from NCCAW members. Government members are not be entitled to sitting fees but non government members are. DAFF is currently working through the issue in a step by step process. These steps include determining a rate bench marked as per the Australian Government Remuneration Tribunal (Determination 2004/12). In addition to the sitting fee, travel allowance including airfares, meals during the period of travel, accommodations and taxis will still be paid by DAFF.

When agreed by the Minister, DAFF will formally communicate with NCCAW members regarding the payment arrangements.

ACTION ITEMS:

DAFF to formally contact NCCAW members regarding sitting fees.

4. – 5. CURRENT ISSUES

ALL

Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF) Report

- The Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) Implementation will include a Steering Committee.
- The Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock came into operations on 1 December 2004.
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Campaign – the Australian Government is concerned about the emerging threat of animal rights activists to Australian livestock industries.
- Mulesing appendix to sheep code – PISC / PIMC endorsed the draft appendix in principle. The draft is out for consultation.
- Criminal activities of animal rights extremists – Minister Truss has taken an interest in this issue and DAFF has commissioned a review of current legislation throughout Australia regarding prosecution of activists who break the law.
- QUADS Animal Welfare Working Group will be chaired by the USA for the next 12 months. The QUADS group and OIE will continue to work co-operatively with each other to progress animal welfare guidelines for land transport; sea transport; humane slaughter and slaughter in disease control.

RSPCA Report

- Asian Elephants Import Proposal – The RSPCA is continuing to monitor the situation of the proposed importation of nine Asian elephants from Thailand by Taronga Zoo, Melbourne and Auckland Zoos,.
- Mulesing – Due to recent developments over the mulesing of sheep, the Animal Health Committee of the Primary Industries Standing Council (PISC) is reviewing the Model Code of Practice for the welfare of animals with specific regard to mulesing.
- OIE – RSPCA Australia provided comments on a range of documents relevant to animal welfare that are currently under development by the OIE including: guidelines for humane killing of animals for disease control purposes; guidelines for the humane killing of animals for human consumption; guidelines for the land transport of animals and guidelines for the sea transport of animals.
- Pig Accreditation Standards – Accreditation standards for humane pork production have been developed and RSPCA Australia has begun distributing these to interested producers.
- Code of Practice on the Human Treatment of Crocodiles – Comments from the RSPCA for this code have been incorporated into the current version of the Code which has strengthened the document considerably in terms of animal welfare provisions.
- National Approach to Human Vertebrate Pest Control – In December 2004 the RSPCA finalised the editing process of a discussion paper entitled *A National*

Approach to Humane Vertebrate Pest Control. This discussion paper has been circulated to all relevant Ministers and Government departments.

- Scientific Seminar – The 2005 RSPCA Australia Scientific Seminar focused on aspects of animal welfare and animal cruelty under the title *Cruelty to animals: a human problem*. The program is available from the RSPCA Australia website <http://www.rspca.org.au>
- Million Paws Walk – The annual million paws walk is the RSPCA's predominant national promotional and fundraising event. The Million Paws Walk will be held 15th May 2005. Further information can be obtained from the website - www.millionpawswalk.com.au
- The RSPCA Australia website is being redesigned and rebuilt. The new design will be easier to navigate, will have a broader appeal, and will be easier to maintain and update.
- Egg Labelling – The RSPCA believes that a description of the production method should be displayed in full on egg cartons. This description should be prominently displayed and the standards should be enforceable. PIMIC is yet to endorse the paper.
- WSPA – next campaign will be targeting long distance transport of animals in 2006.
- The RSPCA's National Council has researched achievements over the past 25 years. A review of RSPCA and its functions will be released in the near future.

The Department of the Environment and Heritage Report

- Codes of Practice for the Humane Treatment of Feral Animals – Research into Codes of Practice (COPs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) relates to activities that do not necessarily result in the destruction of the animal (eg radio tracking, trapping etc) but still require the animal to be treated in a humane manner. Work on the research COPs and SOPs project is well underway, with the final report for this project expected by 30th December 2005.
- The Code of Practice for the Humane Shooting of Kangaroos – Review – Public comment for the discussion paper on this issue closed 15th October 2004. Forty-seven submissions were received by the working group for consideration in drafting a revised Code. An initial draft Code was prepared by the WA representative and provided to the rest of the working group. The majority of the working group members have provided comment on the draft. The next step is a face to face meeting to work through outstanding issues. Once the revised draft Code has been developed it will be published on the internet and public comment sought. Once finalised, the Code will be submitted to the National Resource Management Ministerial Council for endorsement.
- DEH has prepared a draft Code of Practice for the Humane Treatment of Wild and Farmed Crocodiles. The Code recommends minimum standards for the humane treatment of crocodiles and is limited to the taking of crocodiles from the wild and farming of crocodiles. It does not cover the public display of crocodiles in zoos and animal parks, which have different requirements.

Animal Health Australia Report

- Awaiting outcomes of the 'Neumann Report'.

NSW Report

- Legislation – Proposed amendments to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (POCTA)* are currently before Parliament. The Bill has passed the Lower House and is awaiting introduction to the Upper House. Animals used in research are regulated under three Acts – *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA)*, *Animal Research Act (ARA)* and *Exhibited Animals Protection Act (EAPA)* all of which are in the process of review, with an expectation that the regulations will be remade by 1 September 2005. Regulatory Impact Statements will be released for comment in May or June 2005.
- A Police sponsored task force is reviewing aspects of the purported linkage between animal cruelty and subsequent acts of human violence. Issues for consideration include possible inclusion of an animal cruelty offence in the *Crimes Act*, a provision for fingerprinting certain offenders, early intervention strategies for young offenders, and improved sharing of information between relevant agencies.

Australian Veterinary Association Report

- AVA AWAC – The AVA Animal Welfare Committee advises the AVA Board and Policy Advisory Council on welfare matters. Members are generally AVA representatives on State and Territory government AWACs and others with specific skills. AVA AWAC provides comment on policies being considered by the AVA Policy Advisory Council and on input into inquiries or investigations.
- AVA Annual Conference, Gold Coast, May 2005 – Convenors of the programs, who are members of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), have been asked to include animal welfare in their programs as part of the routine planning process. The program highlights the importance of animal welfare. AVA AWAC and the AVA Animal Welfare Trust will meet during the Conference.
- AVA PetPEP – is an education program for school children on their relationships with animals and the responsible care of animals. It is conducted in primary schools by veterinary practitioners and their staff.
- Pro Bono Services – The 2002 survey indicated that veterinary practitioners provided pro bono services to the value of \$29.5 million to the community in the treatment of wildlife and stray animals.
- AVA Animal Welfare Policies – AVA policy development processes is transparent and consultative. It involves development of a draft by the proponent or a SIG, Division or committee with expertise and consideration by Policy Advisory Council (PAC). Drafts agreed by PAC are published in the *Australian Veterinary Journal* for members' comments. Revised drafts are reconsidered by PAC and if agreed, the final policy is then ratified by the AVA Board.

Animals Australia Report

- Intensive Pig Farming – AA has continued its involvement in the revision of the national Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs. However AA has officially expressed concerns over APL denying the writing group access to economic reports, thereby, in the view of AA, weakening the review process.
- In December 2004 Animals Australia launched a new national public awareness campaign of the confinement of pregnant and nursing sows to allow consumers to make informed choices on the production methods of the products they are purchasing.

- Savebabe.com – a specific information website www.savebabe.com has been created in support of this issue. Member societies in each state have been active in handing out information leaflets. Information billboards and advertisements have also been placed around Australia and will be ongoing.
- WA cruelty complaint – difficulties have been experienced in addressing unacceptable animal transport practices of animals going to Fremantle for export. A presentation of photos taken by Animals Angels of the incident was shown to members.
- Trade with Saudi – AA has requested that the Federal Government instigate an investigation into the alleged importation of Australian sheep into Saudi Arabia in contravention of the Australian Meat and Livestock Industry (Export of Livestock to Saudi Arabia) Order 2003. A media report from Saudi Arabia supported information collated by Animals Australia over a period of months that Australian sheep had been imported into Saudi during the Haj period through Gulf and Jordanian ports. The export order specifically prohibits Australian exporters, exporting or assisting in the importation of sheep into Saudi.
- Rodeos – Representatives of member groups continue to regularly attend rodeos to document breaches of the code of practice, permit requirements and relevant state animal welfare legislation.
- As a result of evidence provided to them of animal suffering, McDonald's owner/operators in Stanthorpe and Warwick Queensland withdrew their sponsorship of the Warwick Rodeo. Similarly over the past year Telstra has advised that it will no longer sponsor rodeo or relevant events.
- Mulesing – AA has been represented on the writing group appointed by AWWG to draft a Mulesing appendix to the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals* – the sheep. The draft is out for further consultation.
- International Conference – Representatives from AA attended the two day international Animal Sentience Conference – “From Darwin to Dawkins” staged by Compassion in World Farming in March 2005 at the Queen Elizabeth Centre in Westminster, London. Six hundred representatives from animal welfare groups, industry bodies, universities and governments from around the world attended the conference to hear leading researchers and experts in their fields speak.
- Following the conference AA representatives attended a day of workshops and meetings between animal welfare groups working on farm animal issues from the UK, USA, Europe, Middle East, South America and South Africa. The developing interventional cooperation on farm animal welfare issues was a key focus to the meeting.

National Farmers Federation Report

- Wool Industry / PETA Campaign – Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) has launched a landmark legal action against the United States based, animal rights group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) in the Federal Court in Sydney claiming the group has breached the Trade Practices Act.
- The wool industry has announced the practice of mulesing will be phased out by 2010.
- NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act – The NSW Act is currently being reviewed and NSWFA has met with NSW, DPI, RSPCA and AWL to resolve some of their differences over proposed amendments. This group have agreed through discussion and shared understanding, to changes and enhancements to

the Act. The most important item was deemed to be the introduction of Expiation Notices (spot fines). Such notices can be challenged in court thus it is unlikely that inspectors would serve them without assessing the quality of evidence in case of challenge. Additionally standard procedures for enforcement agencies will guide implementation.

- NFF Quarantine Committee Meeting – The revamped NFF Quarantine Committee met in Canberra on the 21st February 2005. Issues discussed involved the structure and scope of the committee; AAWS; formation of a long-term overarching strategy for animal welfare that would not only address animal welfare issues but also the widening rural and urban gap.
- Beak trimming - Research has commenced examining the latest technology in beak trimming now becoming available. Infrared trimming is being used by one hatchery and appears to be successful. Dr Phil Glatz is evaluating this method and a laser method. In addition, he is investigating the incidence of cannibalism in various housing methods around the world.
- NFF is concerned about animal rights groups circulating information within schools and is writing to the relevant State Education Ministers registering their concerns, asking that students be provided with balanced and factual information about animal welfare, farms and nutrition. It is important that young Australians be presented with facts and science.

National Health & Medical Research Council Report

- The Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (the Code) 7th Edition – has been launched in Brisbane, Perth, Hobart, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra. A date for the launch in Sydney has not yet been set.
- The AWC has drafted *Guidelines on the breeding, care and use of genetically modified and cloned animals for scientific purposes*. Comments have been received from the Gene Technology Ethics Committee (GTEC), the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and experts in the field of genetic modification. The comments have been considered and the amended document will go to the next Research Committee meeting for approval for public consultation.
- Xenotransplantation – The Council decided in December 2004 to place a five year moratorium on clinical research into animal to human whole organ transplants, animal cellular therapies and animal external therapies in Australia.
- The document “Minimisation of Pain and Distress in Animals in Research” has been rescinded by Council and is now currently being revised. A working party has been formed and met on 1 September 2004 to discuss the revision. A technical writer has been engaged to edit of the document. An outline plan has been developed and members of the working party have been tasked with providing fact sheets according to their areas of expertise.
- AEC members survey – The AWC have conducted a survey of AEC members. The survey is based on the survey conducted by Animals Australia in 1997 for Category C members, but has been expanded to include all categories of membership including: overview of workload; institutional support; meeting procedures; proposal forms; ethics and decision making; role played by other AEC members; monitoring and miscellaneous. The AWC received over 250 replies. The AWC has not fully considered the results but overall it appears that the AEC system is working well in Australia.

- Statement of Compliance for 2004 – The statements of compliance (with the *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes*) for 2004 were due on 31st March 2005 and findings will be reported at a later meeting.
- The National non-human primate breeding and research facility at Monash – The contract for the construction of the facility has been signed and construction on the building has commenced. It is anticipated that the macaques will be transferred from the University of Melbourne to the new facility by the end of the year.
- AWC membership – has expanded its membership from four to eight members. The new members include: Professor Clive Phillips, (University of Queensland), Dr Catherine Berglund (UNSW), Dr Tim Kuchel (Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, SA) and Ms Katrina Sharman (Voiceless).

Northern Territory Report

- Camel industry – The revision of the Camel MCOP is proceeding to PIMC endorsement, publication is anticipated later in 2005.
- AUSVETPLAN Destruction Manual – is now being considered by AHA for final scientific editing. A separate project is underway to consider the development of a code for the humane management of non-diseased livestock in an emergency.

Queensland Report

- Horses on Palm Island – is an ongoing issues. A further site visit to examine horses was undertaken in November 2004. The DPI&F compliance team inspected approximately 80 horses at various locations on the island. The most common injuries were back lesions primarily caused by overriding. All seized horses have been agisted and treated on a property outside of Townsville and are being re-homed.
- Australia Zoo has donated a million dollars for the establishment a wildlife veterinary hospital. . In the next six months a workshop will be held to discuss the impact of land clearing on wildlife.

South Australia Report

- Legislation – implementation of the amendments to the Dog and Cat Management Act has resulted in a greatly increased workload for the Animal Welfare Unit but is progressing satisfactorily.
- Minor amendments to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2001 are under consideration. The primary effect would be to regulate Codes of Practice endorsed by the Animal Health Committee over recent times.
- The draft discussion paper for the submission concerning the review of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act has been delayed but is likely to be released in the near future.
- The prohibition on tail docking has been in force for a year. To date there has been no applications to the Review Panel for breed exemptions.
- South Australian statistics suggest that reptiles are becoming the pet of the future.

Tasmania Report

- Live sheep exports –

- Although the Livestock Export Standards permit export in winter, it is likely the Tasmanian Government would oppose any proposals to do so from Tasmania. The Tasmanian Government does not promote this trade and would prefer the sheep involved to be value-added locally. The Minister recently announced he was convening a meeting with key industry players to consider alternative marketing strategies for the estimated 50,000 sheep exported from Tasmania each year.
- Review of Animal Welfare Act – the Act is under review as reported to NCCAW34. The original intent was to use AWAC as the consultative forum through its constituent membership. The Minister has announced that the review will include full public consultation, which increases the scope. Under Tasmanian legislation, Regulations lapse after ten years, resulting a compulsory review and re-justification each decade. The Animal Welfare Regulations will lapse at the end of 2005, so are being reviewed at the same time as the Act.
- Tasmanian Devil facial tumour – the disease is present in over 65% of the State and appears to have reduced the wild devil population by between a third to half over the last 10 years. Research is progressing; the overall aim is to obtain enough information to be able to better manage the disease. A detailed progress report on DFT research is available on the DPIWE website at <http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Attachments/JCOK-68T6Je?open>

Victoria Report

- *A Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Laboratory Mice, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits* has been finalised and is to be regulated.
- The proceedings from a series of seminars for veterinary on 'Early Age De-Sexing of Puppies and Kittens' has been sent to all registered practitioners in Victoria.
- The competency standards (under ANTA guidelines) for the training and authorisation of POCTAA inspectors are completed and have been accredited by the Victorian Qualification Authority. The course is now an approved training scheme. Learner Guides for the competencies will be completed during 2005 for the assistance of registered training authorities.

Western Australia

- complaint by Animals Australia re live export of sheep is ongoing.
- Topical issues in WA include : the treatment of animals at WA saleyards, especially Midland; animal transport in general; mulesing; deregulation of egg industry; wild dog control (management strategy by new State Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee); emu and other vertebrate pest control (new State Barrier Fence Committee); intensive farming especially piggeries and use of sow stalls.
- Revision of the *Is it fit to load?* Guide. A guide to the selection of animals fit to transport in WA is in its final stages. The revised edition will include information on the preparation of animals. Discussions regarding the support of the guide by the Meat & Livestock Authority progressing.
- In 2004, 24 scientific establishments were licensed. In 2005 this figure will increase to approximately 164 with the licensing of private schools as required under the Act. Annual licensing is currently in April.
- Staged introduction of full compliance of all schools and colleges, including Tares and agriculture colleges, is on track for 2005.

- All scientific establishments in WA have now signed Statements of Compliance with the *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* as a condition of WA licensing.
- Western Australia Animal Ethics Group (WAAEG) has been reformed. WAAEG comprises of representatives of scientific establishments that use and / or supply animals for scientific purposes. WAAEG provides a forum for discussion and resolution of ethics issues between animal users and state regulatory authority (DLGRD).

6. WSPA'S RESPONSE & FINDING RE: TSUMANI

HUGH WIRTH

The RSPCA provided a report on behalf of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) regarding the Post-Tsunami Report and Future Disaster Relief Policy. Many Aceh residents are subsistence farmers and will need the assistance of animals and veterinary services to rebuild their livelihoods.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Minister Truss to be made aware of the issues for the government's response to this and future disaster relief programs. Minister Truss to request funding from the appropriate Minister for post-tsunami agricultural assistance for Indonesia.

7. DRAFT NCCAW POSITION STATEMENT ON ANIMAL WELFARE LIBERATION & ANIMAL RIGHTS

CHAIR

DRAFT NCCAW POSITION STATEMENT ON ANIMAL WELFARE ANIMAL LIBERATION AND ANIMAL RIGHTS

Animal welfare, as defined in the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy, is a human responsibility towards all animals in Australia and encompasses all aspects of animal health and well being, including proper housing, management, population control and habitat management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, humane handling, and, when necessary, humane euthanasia.

Animal welfare, animal liberation and animal rights are not synonymous terms. Animal liberation and animal rights are philosophical views and personal values characterised by statements by various individuals and groups. NCCAW has considered the philosophical views and personal values of advocates of animal liberation and animal rights in developing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy but has deliberately omitted value statements that are incompatible with the responsible use of animals for human purposes, such as companionship, food, fibre, and research conducted for the benefit of both humans and animals in Australian society.

- Animals Australia does not support this statement.
- National Farmers Federation agree that there is a need to define such issues and suggest basing statement on accurate science-based animal welfare
- Western Australia commented that AAWS is very new and a review of this statement may be required at a later date. The welfare of an animal exists outside of human responsibilities.
- T aquaculture Industry agrees that there is difference between welfare and rights as articulated by the statement.
- RSPCA and supports the document.

- Commonwealth – there is a contemporary change in philosophy in Australia from the ‘5 freedoms’ to a duty of care to ensure animals are appropriately fed, watered, sheltered etc.
- Animal Health Australia supports document.
- New South Wales commented that the statement needed to be inclusive of all groups, and not bring unnecessary attention to others by not including them.
- AVA supports the statement, but noted it does not address wildlife – only animals under human control.
- NSW – would prefer a positive statement stating the position of NCCAW rather than excluding certain philosophies and statements.

ACTION ITEMS:

- NPAWG & PAWG jointly to discuss this issue at the September meeting. Moved, Hugh Wirth seconded Warren Starick.
- All members to consult their organisations regarding their position in relation to this document and report at the combined NPAWG / PAWG meeting in September.

8. DISEASE PREVALENCE & ANIMAL WELFARE CONSIDERATION CHAIR

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

Need a way to capture information of how industries are performing:

- National Farmers Federation – practice benchmarking and best practice to assess performance of businesses and industries. NFF expressed the importance of showcasing Australia’s animal welfare standards as a positive for exports.
- Victoria – the Animal Welfare Science Centre has developed procedures for improved animal management. Pigs are on a pig health program in Victoria.
- Northern Territory – Australian Biosecurity CRC program
- ABARE SURVEY may cover some of the issues requiring resolution with regard to monitoring.
- Animals Australia suggested this issue maybe form part of AAWS.
- Animal Health Australia – surveillance fails to provide positive feedback only negative. Suggest referring to PAWG agenda for next meeting to find a way of positive feedback on how well we are doing in welfare.
- UK & EUROPE recording carcass bruising in abattoirs or wastage of condemned animals when arriving at the abattoirs.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Refer to PAWG for further discussion next meeting.

9. THE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE STRATEGY PETER THORNBUR

DAFF advised NCCAW members that recruitment for the AAWS implementation program within the Animal Welfare Unit will be complete during May 2005.

DAFF are awaiting advice from the Minister’s Office regarding the AAWS Steering Committee to progress the AAWS implementation.

The AAWS Steering Committee will be focusing on:

- Capturing 25 actions into an implementation plan.
- Priorities to be decided.
- Working out where the gaps are in Animal Welfare.
- Working out priorities and time frames for those priorities.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Finalising DAFF's Animal Welfare Unit's recruitment for the AAWS implementation.
- Progressing the AAWS Steering Committee.

10. UPDATE LIVESTOCK EXPORT STANDARDS VERSION 1 PETER THORNER

- Version 1 Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock
- Funded studies arising from development of Australian Standards

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- PIMC endorsed Version 1 of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock on 19 April 2005.
- AQIS will progress the Orders that were engaged for the initial standards to recognise Version 1 standards.
- Version 1 standards will come into effect in mid-late July with a transition period, after which any new exporters seeking a licence will have to comply with the Version 1 standards.
- New Livestock Export Advisory Committee to be commissioned in the near future
- Reporting requirements for stockman and veterinarians on board live export shipments
- Prohibition of the export of sheep from the pastoral zone to the Middle East between May and October.
- Further work will be undertaken for Live export for pigs.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Guidelines will be posted on the webpage in the next few weeks with a separate webpage linking to each Standard.

11. OIE GUIDELINES ON LAND, SEA, HUMANE SLAUGHTER & EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER PETER THORNER

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The Working Group identified under paragraph 5 of the paper future work which may be commissioned, along with a formal work process of OIE which may or may not be agreed. Comments received were amalgamated with Australian comments. It is a work in progress.

12. CONSULTANCY ON THE FUTURE OF MODEL CODES OF PRACTICE

DEAN MERRILEES

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- Model Codes of Practice are tabled at PISC/PIMC for consideration and endorsement then jurisdictions adopt them as they see fit. It is not a regulatory approach. Model Codes are based on science in consideration of community and stakeholder views.
- Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) had requested a consultant be engaged to review existing Codes or Practice. The Neumann Report represents a significant shift in thinking. It is a vehicle for discussion but has not yet been adopted by any jurisdictions.
- It is recommended that the Codes become defined Minimum Standards clearly differentiated from guidance on best practice. The final report is with stakeholders for comment.

13. AUSTRALIAN STANDARD FOR MULESING

STEVE TATE

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The current draft is out for public consultation. Good animal husbandry is a necessity when mulesing sheep. Mulesing should only be carried out on healthy sheep that are of adequate bodyweight. Management systems for autumn or spring lambing differ, and these are not adequately highlighted in the draft out for public consultation.
- 1000 livestock operators to become licensed for mulesing in 2006.
- Short outcome statements and guiding principles may form the front section of a Code, with guidelines forming the subsequent sections. This would clearly differentiate mandatory requirements from recommendations,

14. UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE USE OF 1080

PETER THORNBUR

APVMA intend to release an updated review of the use of 1080 in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS:

DAFF to follow up with APVMA the progress of the review of the use of 1080 and report back to NCCAW 36.

THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2005 NCCAW

15. AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECTOR STOCKTAKE

**CHRIS PARKER
MINISTER'S ADVISOR**

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- The report flags some key drivers for change. The review of agriculture policy will occur over the year, a Reference Group has been appointed by Minister Truss. The document is available on the DAFF web site – www.daff.gov.au.

16. LIVE EXPORT PRESENTATION

**NARELLE CLEGG
AQIS**

OUTCOMES / DECISIONS:

- A presentation on Live Animal Exports was given by Narelle Clegg, AQIS outlining changing practices of AQIS regarding the live export trade.
- It was noted that Version 1 of the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock would be applied from 1 July 2005, and that AQIS is providing presentations to those involved with the preparation of animals for export in Western Australia to facilitate compliance with the new standards.

17. REPORT FROM PRODUCTION ANIMAL WORKING GROUP

Items referred to NCCAW from the PAWG were:

Standards for Slaughter of Intensively Farmed Rabbits:

It is necessary to develop standards to ensure the humane slaughter of rabbits as such standards do not appear to exist at the moment.

ACTION ITEMS:

The Working Group to survey the current situation regarding the intensive rearing of rabbits, their slaughter and current regulations in the different jurisdictions.

Recommend that NCCAW refers the paper on Stunning Requirements of Poultry to the Minister to refer to Animal Welfare Working Group for consideration.

18. REPORT FROM NON-PRODUCTION ANIMAL WORKING GROUP

Items referred to NCCAW from the PAWG were:

Rick Symons tabled the final draft of the National Guidelines for the Welfare of Pet Birds.

- The NPAWG recommends to the NCCAW that the draft Guidelines be adopted as a NCCAW Position Paper.

The working group discussed a paper on electronic collars developed by a working group led by Jeni Hood.

- The paper considered the three types of electronic collar viz. remotely controlled, anti-barking, and boundary confinement.

- The working group was not unanimous in this approach. Two members opposed their use. However, the majority of the working group considered that while the collars are not supported in principle, there may be circumstances where the use of collars may be justified. In addition the collars are on sale and are being used and therefore it is desirable to provide some direction and conditions on their use.

ACTION ITEMS:

- NCCAW recommend that scientific research be undertaken on the animal welfare impacts with the three categories of electronic dog collars.
- NCCAW agreed that the existing position statement be left on the DAFF web site at this stage.

A letter from the Urban Animal Management Advisory Group convener was tabled to which was attached a Position Statement recommending that all States and Territories agree to a uniform grading, recording and information sharing system for dog attacks.

ACTION ITEMS:

- The NPAWG recommends to the NCCAW that the position statement be adopted and be recommended to the Minister for consideration by the PIMC.

19. CORRESPONDENCE/ OTHER BUSINESS

Nil.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 8th & Friday 9th September 2005 with the working groups meeting Wednesday 7th September 2005.