



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COVERSHEET

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

FOI reference: 24-114

Information to be published	Status
1. Access application	Published
2. Decision notice	Published
3. Schedule	Published
4. Documents	Not Applicable
5. Additional information identified	Not Applicable
6. Fees	Waived
7. Processing time (in working days)	38 Days
8. Decision made by Ombudsman	Not applicable
9. Additional information identified by Ombudsman	Not Applicable
10. Decision made by ACAT	Not applicable

11. Additional information identified by ACAT	Not applicable
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**From:** [TCCS\\_FreedomOfInformation](#)  
**To:** [CMTEDD FOI](#)  
**Cc:** [Maguire, Madeline](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Freedom of Information request  
**Date:** Wednesday, 7 August 2024 11:41:00 AM

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Hi Emma,

Thank you for providing the below application. TCCS accept full transfer of this application as of today.

Kind regards,

Sam

**Samantha Irons | A/g Director**

Phone: 02 6207 9242 | Email: [TCCS.FOI@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS.FOI@act.gov.au)

**Information Access | Procurement, Legal and Information Access | Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | ACT Government**

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

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**From:** CMTEDD FOI <[CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 5, 2024 10:59 AM  
**To:** TCCS\_FreedomOfInformation <[TCCS.FOI@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS.FOI@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Irons, Samantha <[Samantha.Irons@act.gov.au](mailto:Samantha.Irons@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information request

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Sam

As discussed at WhOG, this is the one that we are wondering if it an FOI for TCCS?

Thanks

Emma

**Emma Hotham (she/her) | Director, Freedom of Information**

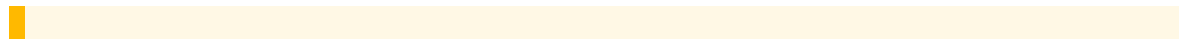
Phone: 02 6207 0811 | [emma.hotham@act.gov.au](mailto:emma.hotham@act.gov.au)

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | **ACT Government**

Level 1, 220 London Circuit, Canberra City | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

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**From:** [no-reply@act.gov.au](mailto:no-reply@act.gov.au) <[no-reply@act.gov.au](mailto:no-reply@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 4, 2024 4:56 PM  
**To:** CMTEDD FOI <[CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au](mailto:CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Freedom of Information request



**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Please find online enquiry details below. Please ensure this enquiry is responded to within fourteen working days.

#### Your details

**All fields are optional, however an email address OR full postal address must be provided for us to process your request. An email address and telephone contact number will assist us to contact you quickly if we need to discuss your request.**

Title: [REDACTED]  
First Name: [REDACTED]  
Last Name: [REDACTED]  
Business/Organisation: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED]  
Suburb: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
State/Territory: [REDACTED]  
Phone/mobile: [REDACTED]  
Email address: [REDACTED]

#### Request for information

**(Please provide as much detail as possible, for example subject matter and relevant dates, and also provide details of documents that you are not interested in.)**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2016 I want to access the following document/s (\*required field):

\* Copies of all Minutes from the meetings of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee for the period between 1st January 2022 and 1st August 2024. \* Copies of submissions to the consultations to the following Codes of Practice were received: 1) Animal Welfare (Welfare of Horses in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024. 2) Animal Welfare (Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024. 3) Animal Welfare (Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024 4) Animal Welfare (Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024 5) Animal Welfare (Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024

I do not want to access the following documents in relation to my request::

Thank you.  
Freedom of Information Coordinator

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Freedom of Information Request - Reference 24-114**

I refer to your application for access to government information received under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016 (the Act)*. Your application was received by Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) on 7 August 2024 by transfer from the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. It is my understanding that you are seeking the following government information:

- *“Copies of all Minutes from the meetings of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee for the period between 1st January 2022 and 1st August 2024.*
- *Copies of submissions to the consultations to the following Codes of Practice were received:*
  - 1) *Animal Welfare (Welfare of Horses in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024.*
  - 2) *Animal Welfare (Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024.*
  - 3) *Animal Welfare (Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024*
  - 4) *Animal Welfare (Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024*
  - 5) *Animal Welfare (Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice in the ACT) Mandatory Code of Practice 2024”.*

### **Timeframes**

In accordance with section 40 of the FOI Act, a decision on your application was due on 18 September 2024. I thank you for agreeing to an extension until 2 October 2024.

### **Authority**

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the FOI Act.

### **Decision on access**

In accordance with the FOI Act, a search of TCCS records has been completed. This search identified 40 records as relevant to your application. Upon reviewing the information within the relevant records, and applying the public interest test under section 17 of the FOI Act, I have decided to provide you with:

- Full access to 23 records;
- Partial access to 17 records.

The reasons for my decision are provided below under the heading 'statement of reasons.'

The relevant records are listed in the schedule at [Attachment A](#). A copy of the report with deletions applied to the information I have found to be contrary to the public interest is at [Attachment B](#).

### **Statement of Reasons**

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act.
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request.
- the Human Rights Act 2004.

The FOI Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. This means that information should be disclosed unless doing so would be contrary to the public interest. As an Information Officer, I must decide where, on balance, public interest lies in the disclosure of government information.

Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the steps for completing the public interest test. As part of this process, I must identify all relevant factors in schedule 1 of the FOI Act. If schedule one applies to some or all of the information, it is deemed contrary to the public interest. If no factor in schedule 1 is found relevant, I must then consider the factors listed in schedule 2 of the FOI Act.

### **Schedule 1**

- Schedule 1.2 - Information subject to legal professional privilege.

In reviewing the records relevant to your application, I have identified information that is subject to legal professional privilege. I find that schedule 1.2 is applicable to this information and disclosure is deemed to be contrary to the public interest.

### **Schedule 2**

#### ***Factors favouring disclosure in the public interest (Schedule 2, Section 2.1)***

- Schedule 2.1(a)(viii) - reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.

#### ***Factors favouring non-disclosure (Schedule 2, Section 2.2)***

- Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) - prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the *Human Rights Act 2016*.

In reviewing the remaining information within scope of your application, I have identified information that is likely to provide background or contextual information that informed a government decision and information which provides context to government decisions. I have placed significant weight on this factor. I also acknowledge that the pro-disclosure bias requires the public interest test to be approached on the basis that there are not simply empty scales in equilibrium, waiting for arguments to be put on each side. Rather, the scales are loaded in favour of disclosure.

In reviewing the relevant records, I have also identified personal information of third parties, such as names and contact phone numbers. I have considered that the information relating to third parties has been provided to TCCS with the expectation that the information is handled in accordance with [published privacy statements and policies](#). I have considered that the information is not readily available to the public, and the disclosure of this information is likely to prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

In this instance, I have attributed significant weight to an individual's right to privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*. I have also considered that the non-disclosure of this information is unlikely to diminish the factors favouring disclosure. I find, on balance, that the disclosure of personal information to be, on balance, contrary to the public interest. I have also found that the factors

favouring disclosure can be satisfied by the deletion of information which is contrary to the public interest. A copy of the information with redactions is enclosed at [Attachment B](#).

### **Charges**

In accordance with the *Freedom of Information (Fees) Determination 2018* a fee may apply to applications where the total number of pages disclosed exceed 50 pages. In this instance, I have decided to waive the fee of \$78.05.

### **Online publishing – disclosure log**

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, TCCS maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log (published [here](#)). In accordance with section 28, a copy of my decision and information disclosed to you will be published in 3 – 10 business days. Your personal information will be removed from these copies prior to publication.

### **Ombudsman review**

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek an Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the FOI Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in TCCS' disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman. If you wish to request a review of my decision, you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman  
GPO Box 442  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Via email: [actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au](mailto:actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au)

### **ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review**

Under section 84 of the FOI Act, if a decision is made under section 82 on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal  
GPO Box 370  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601  
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740  
[www.acat.act.gov.au](http://www.acat.act.gov.au)

If you have any queries concerning the directorate's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact the TCCS FOI team on (02) 6207 2987 or email to [tccs.foi@act.gov.au](mailto:tccs.foi@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Lisa Johnson  
Information Officer

30 September 2024

## ATTACHMENT A - ACCESS APPLICATION SCHEDULE, FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

**Reference Number: 24-114**

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: [https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/about-us/freedom\\_of\\_information/disclosure-log](https://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/about-us/freedom_of_information/disclosure-log)

### Factors favouring non-disclosure:

Schedule 1.2 – Information subsection to legal professional privilege;

Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) - prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the *Human Rights Act 2016*.

Reference number	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral	Open Access release status
1	1-3	20220110 - AWAC Minutes	10 January 2022	Full access	Not applicable	Decision to be published on the <a href="#">TCCS Disclosure Log</a> .
2	4-7	20220204 - AWAC Minutes	4 February 2022	Full access	Not applicable	
3	8-11	20220304 - AWAC Minutes	4 March 2022	Full access	Not applicable	
4	12-16	20220401 - AWAC Minutes	1 April 2022	Full access	Not applicable	
5	17-22	20220506 - AWAC Minutes	6 May 2022	Partial access	Schedule 1.2	
6	23-26	20220603 - AWAC Minutes	3 June 2022	Full access	Not applicable	

<b>7</b>	<b>27-30</b>	20220708 - AWAC Minutes (A47730423)	8 July 2022	Full access	Not applicable
<b>8</b>	<b>31-35</b>	20220805 - AWAC Minutes (A47730433)	5 August 2022	Partial access	Schedule 1.2
<b>9</b>	<b>36-41</b>	20220902 - AWAC Minutes (A47730470)	2 September 2022	Full access	Not applicable
<b>10</b>	<b>42-45</b>	20221014 - AWAC Minutes (A47730476)	14 October 2022	Full access	Not applicable
<b>11</b>	<b>46-50</b>	20221104 - AWAC Minutes (A47730499)	4 November 2022	Full access	Not applicable
<b>12</b>	<b>51-55</b>	20221202 - AWAC Minutes (A47730510)	2 December 2022	Partial access	Schedule 1.2
<b>13</b>	<b>56-59</b>	20230203 - AWAC Minutes (A47730527)	3 February 2023	Full access	Not applicable
<b>14</b>	<b>60-63</b>	20230303 - AWAC Minutes (A47730543)	3 March 2023	Partial access	Schedule 1.2
<b>15</b>	<b>64-66</b>	20230406 - AWAC Minutes (A47730587)	6 April 2023	Full access	Not applicable
<b>16</b>	<b>67-70</b>	20230505 - AWAC Minutes (A47730557)	5 May 2023	Full access	Not applicable
<b>17</b>	<b>71-75</b>	20230602 - AWAC Minutes (A47730592)	2 June 2023	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)
<b>18</b>	<b>76-79</b>	20230714 - AWAC Minutes (A47730593)	14 July 2023	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

19	80-83	20230804 - AWAC Minutes (A47730641)	4 August 2023	Full access	Not applicable
20	84-88	20230901 - AWAC Minutes (A47730661)	1 September 2023	Full access	Not applicable
21	89-92	20231013 - AWAC Minutes (A47730684)	13 October 2023	Full access	Not applicable
22	93-96	20231103 - AWAC Minutes (A47730704)	3 November 2023	Full access	Not applicable
23	97-101	20231201 - AWAC Minutes (A47730739)	1 December 2023	Full access	Not applicable
24	102-106	20240209 - AWAC Minutes	9 February 2024	Full access	Not applicable
25	107-111	20240308 - AWAC Minutes	8 March 2024	Full access	Not applicable
26	112-117	20240412 - AWAC Minutes (A47730820)	12 April 2024	Full access	Not applicable
27	118-126	20240510 - AWAC Minutes	10 May 2024	Full access	Not applicable
28	127-135	20240614 - AWAC Minutes	14 June 2024	Partial access	Schedule 1.2
29	136-145	20240712 - AWAC Minutes	12 July 2024	Partial access	Schedule 1.2
30	146-147	20221106 - Email - Consultation - Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses	6 November 2022	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)
31	148 - 166	20221106 - Email - Consultation - Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses - Attachment	6 November 2021	Full access	Not applicable Note, part of this attachment included a copy of the <a href="#">Australian Animal</a>

					<a href="#">Welfare Standards and Guidelines</a>	
<b>32</b>	<b>167 - 168</b>	20220617 - Email - Consultation - ACT Equestrian Association RE Commencement of consultation on the Code ...	17 June 2022	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	
<b>33</b>	<b>169 – 170</b>	20220617 - Email - Consultation - ACT Equestrian Association RE Commencement of consultation on the Code ... - Attachment: ACTEA Code of Practice Comments	17 June 2022	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	
<b>34</b>	<b>171 - 202</b>	20220617 - Email - Consultation - ACT Equestrian Association RE Commencement of consultation on the Code ... - Attachment: ACTEA ACTEA Annotated Code...	17 June 2022	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)  Note, part of this attachment included a copy of the <a href="#">Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines</a>	
<b>35</b>	<b>203</b>	20220609 - Email - Consultation - Code of conduct proposal	9 June 2022	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	
<b>36</b>	<b>204</b>	20220630 - Email - Consultation - AVA Submission on the Draft Code ...	30 June 2022	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	
<b>37</b>	<b>205 - 235</b>	37. 20220630 - Email - Consultation - AVA Submission on the Draft Code ...Attachment	30 June 2022	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	
<b>38</b>	<b>236 - 239</b>	20230929 - Email - Consultation - RE_ AVA Submission_ Consultation on the Small Mammal...	29 September 2023	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	

<b>39</b>	<b>240 - 265</b>	20230929 - Email - Consultation - RE_AVA Submission_ Consultation on the Small Mammal...Attachment	29 September 2023	Partial access	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	
<b>40</b>	<b>266</b>	20230803 - Email - Consultation - Conservator of Flora and Fauna COMMENTS - Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT	3 August 2023	Full access	Not applicable	

**Total number of documents disclosed: 40**

## AWAC Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	10 January 2022
<b>Location:</b>	Teleconference
<b>Prepared By:</b>	AWAC Secretariat

### Attendance

Members	
Ms Genevieve Butler	Category A, a chair who is not affiliated with an animal welfare or animal user group
Dr Wendy Townsend	Category B as a person employed by the ACT Government who is an 'Authorised Officer' under the Animal Welfare Act 1992
Ms Michelle Robertson	Category C, a person nominated by the RSPCA ACT
Dr Melanie Latter	Category D, nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr John Guth	Category E, nominated by the ACT Rural Lessees Association
Dr Suzanne Fowler	Category F a person with experience in teaching and research activities involving animals and as a person nominated by an ACT tertiary institution
Ms Emma Davies	Category G, nominated by a community-based organisation involved in animal welfare
Ms Margaret Peachey	Category H a person nominated by a community-based organisation involved in native wildlife matters
Ms Judith Woolley	Category I, nominated by an organisation involved in the commercial use of companion animals
Mr Wayne Slattery	Category J, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals
Apologies	
	Dr Wendy Townsend, Dr John Guth

## Meeting Discussions and Actions

1.

- Members discussed the KPIs
- Mr Slattery, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals, provided comments. Suggested that there is some overlap in relation to quarterly reports given stewards already prepare monthly reports.
- Traceability is still exhibiting problems and requires further development. Currently random checks are being carried out. Responsibility is currently on trainers to track.
- Who is the organisation that has responsibility for enforcing these KPIs”?
- Members would like to see the broader MOU.
- Members would like to see the Horse Code of Practice reflected in the KPIs.
- Members wanted the KPIs to be more specific, particularly in relation to traceability.
- Ms Robertson referenced the Thoroughbred welfare report. The recommendations in this report could inform the further development of KPIs if only for aspirational purposes.
- Broadly, the Committee would like to know who regulates this process and who is responsible for reviewing?
- Members agreed to include reference to relevant code of practice.
- Members expressed concern in relation to self-reporting elements.
- Members would like to see an element of independence to the reporting.
- Members believe that the government needs to be able to monitor against these KPIs in a proactive way.
- The MOU in full is required for AWAC Members to provide meaningful input into these KPIs. Context is required.

Meeting Discussions and <b>Actions</b>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members were curious as to the Auditing process.</li><li>• Members requested an addition to the monitoring of retirement until death.</li><li>• Any breaches of animal welfare need to be reported within 7 days.</li></ul>

# AWAC Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	4 February 2022 - 12 PM
<b>Location:</b>	Teleconference
<b>Prepared By:</b>	AWAC Secretariat

## Attendance

Members	
Ms Genevieve Butler	Category A, a chair who is not affiliated with an animal welfare or animal user group
Ms Michelle Robertson	Category C, a person nominated by the RSPCA ACT
Dr Melanie Latter	Category D, nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr John Guth	Category E, nominated by the ACT Rural Lessees Association
Dr Suzanne Fowler	Category F a person with experience in teaching and research activities involving animals and as a person nominated by an ACT tertiary institution
Ms Emma Davies	Category G, nominated by a community-based organisation involved in animal welfare
Ms Margaret Peachey	Category H a person nominated by a community-based organisation involved in native wildlife matters
Ms Judith Woolley	Category I, nominated by an organisation involved in the commercial use of companion animals
Mr Wayne Slattery	Category J, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals
Apologies	
Dr Wendy Townsend	Category B as a person employed by the ACT Government who is an 'Authorised Officer' under the Animal Welfare Act 1992
Guests	
Ms Robyn Hakelis	Legislation, Policy & Programs
Ms Kate E. Smith	Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Meeting Discussions and Actions		
1.	Governance	<p>The website needs to be updated with information on AWAC, the old information was deleted last year.</p> <p>ACTION - Chair and Secretariat will draft documents on AWAC for the website update and circulate to members.</p> <p>Follow-up to the request for funding submitted in July 2021 to be dropped.</p>
2.	Audit	<p>Members seek clarity on the expectations of the confidentiality form because every member represents an organisation and may consult with it.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Members will wait for the forms to be forwarded to the committee and will discuss whether they are fit for purpose.</p>
3.	Horse Racing KPIs	<p>Guests Ms Hakelis and Ms Smith from JACS joined the meeting.</p> <p>Ms Hakelis thanked the committee for the helpful input into the KPIs and informed the committee that the MoU between the ACT government and the Canberra Racing Club and the Canberra Harness Racing Club will be signed by the end of June with a government endorsement in March.</p> <p>The KPIs are locked in and aligned with the MoU, however there is a little flexibility.</p> <p>Canberra Racing Club and Canberra Harness Racing Club have received the KPIs which include the comments from AWAC and have been asked to return them by end of February.</p> <p>Members expressed concerns about self-reporting and asked if there is any potential for a formal monitoring program and asked about the funding provided to the industry. Ms Hakelis said that the details on funding are commercial in confidence and potential costs associated with inspectors are not included in this allocation. Ms Robertson stated that RSPCA runs an inspectorate funded by the ACT government and could incorporate the racehorse industry.</p> <p>Members request that the wording of the MoU includes the life of the horses from birth to end of life and to include language around traceability.</p>

Meeting Discussions and Actions		
		<p>Members request spelling out the compliance requirements in the KPIs.</p> <p>The Committee wants to see tangible improvements.</p> <p>The Committee has drafted a new version of the Horse Welfare Code of Practice in June 2021 but it has not been approved yet.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Ms Smith will provide an updated draft of the KPIs. The MoU should be reflecting <i>the code of practice in place</i> in order to capture the amended CoP when approved.</p> <p>Ms Hakelis will follow-up the progress of the Horse Welfare Code of Practice.</p> <p>ACTION: Chair and Secretariat will check with Erin Barker the status of the Code of Practice submission and discuss inviting Minister Steel to a committee meeting.</p>
4.	Work Plan 2022-2024	<p>ACTION: The Chair will update the work plan and will circulate</p> <p>Members suggested to include in the letter for the Minister a request for update on the advice provided last year and ask for feedback.</p>
5.	Cats TRAP NEUTER RELEASE	<p>ACTION Ms Robertson to draft a letter to the Minister on AWAC position referencing RSPCA, AVA (Dr Latter to share AVA's position) and the Senate enquiry.</p> <p>Establishment of a sub-committee (Ms Robertson and Ms Peachy).</p>
6.	Small Mammals Code of Practice	<p>Members will discuss the Small Mammals Code of Practice during the April meeting.</p> <p>Ms Peachy provided comments, Dr Fowler to run a version check before the April meeting.</p>
7.	Dogs Code of Practice	<p>Members will discuss the Dogs Code of Practice during the March committee meeting</p>
8.	Ministerial briefing	<p>Minister request for a joint brief from TCCS and JACS in December 2021 on the ACT Equine Welfare Report, but AWAC didn't receive any documents to review.</p> <p>ACTION Secretariat to follow-up whether AWAC is to provide comments.</p>

## Meeting Discussions and **Actions**

9.	Next meeting time, date and location	Next meeting will be on Friday 4 March at 12:00 on webex
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# AWAC Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	4 March 2022 - 12 PM
<b>Location:</b>	WebEx
<b>Prepared By:</b>	AWAC Secretariat

## Attendance

Members	
Ms. Genevieve Butler	Category A, a chair who is not affiliated with an animal welfare or animal user group
Ms. Michelle Robertson	Category C, a person nominated by the RSPCA ACT
Dr Melanie Latter	Category D, nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr John Guth	Category E, nominated by the ACT Rural Lessees Association
Dr Suzanne Fowler	Category F a person with experience in teaching and research activities involving animals and as a person nominated by an ACT tertiary institution
Ms. Margaret Peachey	Category H a person nominated by a community-based organisation involved in native wildlife matters
Ms. Judith Woolley	Category I, nominated by an organisation involved in the commercial use of companion animals
Mr. Wayne Slattery	Category J, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals
Apologies	
Dr Wendy Townsend	Category B as a person employed by the ACT Government who is an 'Authorised Officer' under the Animal Welfare Act 1992
Ms. Emma Davies	Category G, nominated by a community-based organisation involved in animal welfare

Meeting Discussions and Actions		
1.	Governance	<p>Chair had a telcon with Animal Welfare Authority Craig Jordan.</p> <p>Ms. Barker is drafting procedures for AWAC and its communication with the Minister.</p> <p>Documents prepared by AWAC should return to AWAC before implementation.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Welfare (Welfare of Poultry: Non-Commercial) Code of Practice 2010 needs reviewing, looking for a volunteer to take this project on.</li> <li>• Equine welfare report should be circulated to AWAC. Secretariat to follow-up.</li> <li>• Pet food regulation has no national standards, the lead agency is EPSDD. Ms. Woolley interested in contributing to the discussion if it's too late for AWAC position statement.</li> <li>• Netting for fruit trees in residential areas: Ms. Peachy is already working on this and will circulate information to members.</li> <li>• Members to email Ms. Woolley comments on the Welfare of Dogs Code of Practice. Final draft to be circulated no later than 25 March 2022.</li> </ul> <p>VOTING AT THE APRIL MEETING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members to let the Chair know who they consulted for each Code of Practice they worked on.</li> </ul>
2.	Horse Racing KPIs	<p>Chair circulated a letter to JACS following up the discussion on the KPIs.</p> <p>ACTION: Chair to send the letter to JACS and copy the Animal Welfare Authority Craig Jordan.</p>
3.	Whipping in the racehorse industry	<p>Racing is the 4<sup>th</sup> biggest industry in Australia.</p> <p>Mr. Slattery (WS) : RSPCA McGreevy's report (The use of whips in Thoroughbred racing in Australia) is biased, and its scientific method has been questioned. The report didn't address individual horses.</p>

## Meeting Discussions and Actions

The longevity of the horse's career hasn't been considered.

It is overreaching to say that whipping is cruel.

Whipping is the most enforced rule, the whips are padded and are used for encouragement.

Rule 132 says that if a spectator thinks the whip rule is breached, the stewards will investigate it.

Record keeping for 400 rides (approximately 12 months), if a jockey is breaching the whip rule more than once, the second offence carries a larger penalty.

Using the whip allows for a better outcome for the horses working past their racing career, the focus should be the longevity. The longer the horse races the better it is cared for.

Female jockeys have risen through the ranks thanks to the whipping rule because they're less strong with hands and heels.

John Guth (JG): Changing the rules will mean re-training the whole industry.

(WS) In the past two years ago there has been a bonus of 100k dollars in Victoria to win a race without a whip. Nobody won it.

Young horses in training need the whip.

There is an opportunity in the ACT to encourage alternatives: free racing, bonus for no use of the whip.

(JG) A no whip rule would increase breeding of "difficult" horses which will be harder to rehome after racing.

(WS) Pony clubs need to keep the use of the whip because children don't have the strength to guide the horse.

Melanie Latter (ML): There should be a "phase-out" period allowing for adjustments to be made. Science shows that whipping is painful and there is an ethical dimension to it: punishment should not be treated as normal, it is a form of abuse.

Within the Animal Veterinary Association, most vets who work in horse training support the use of the whip, but the vast majority of vets who don't work with horses and a few equine vets are opposed to whipping.

Suzanne Fowler (SF): a phase out of whipping is inevitable. There's a core level of science that is undeniable: it is painful for a horse to be whipped, and whipping is aversive training.

Meeting Discussions and Actions		
		<p>(WS) A realistic timeframe for phasing out would be 10 years.</p> <p>Michelle Robertson (MR): AWAC has the responsibility to push boundaries and further animal welfare.</p> <p>ACTION: Mr. Slattery to provide comments by Tuesday 8 March.</p> <p>Chair to collate members positions into majority view and dissenting views and send a letter with AWAC position to Minister Steel.</p> <p>Members to give their final position after reviewing Mr. Slattery's email.</p> <p>Michelle Robertson to check whether the RSPCA funded the report (The use of whips in Thoroughbred racing in Australia) circulated to the members ahead of the meeting.</p>
4.	Cats TRAP NEUTER RELEASE	<p>ACTION from February meeting</p> <p>Ms. Robertson to draft a letter to the Minister on AWAC position referencing RSPCA, AVA (Dr Latter to share AVA's position) and the Senate enquiry.</p>
5.	Small Mammals Code of Practice	<p>Members will discuss the Small Mammals Code of Practice during the April meeting. Dr Fowler and Ms. Peachy working on it.</p>
6.	'Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT'	<p>Member will provide Ms Woolley with comments on the code of Practice and voting will happen at the April meeting.</p>
7.	Next meeting time, date, and location	<p>Next meeting will be on Friday 1 April at 11:00 at the ACT government building in Dickson.</p> <p>Craig Jordan, Lisa Johnson, and Erin Barker to attend the next meeting.</p> <p>Secretariat to provide details regarding parking and lunch arrangement.</p> <p>ACTION: Committee members to inform Secretariat of dietary requirements.</p>

## AWAC Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	1 April 2022 – 11 AM
<b>Location:</b>	ACT government building, Dickson
<b>Prepared By:</b>	AWAC Secretariat

### Attendance

Members	
Ms. Genevieve Butler	Category A, a chair who is not affiliated with an animal welfare or animal user group
Dr Melanie Latter	Category D, nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr John Guth	Category E, nominated by the ACT Rural Lessees Association
Dr Suzanne Fowler	Category F, a person with experience in teaching and research activities involving animals and as a person nominated by an ACT tertiary institution
Ms. Margaret Peachey	Category H, a person nominated by a community-based organisation involved in native wildlife matters
Ms. Judith Woolley	Category I, nominated by an organisation involved in the commercial use of companion animals
Mr. Wayne Slattery	Category J, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals
Mr. Bruce Hancocks	Category K, a person nominated by the government body with responsibility for wildlife and/or feral animal matters in the ACT.
Apologies	
Dr Wendy Townsend	Category B, a person employed by the ACT Government who is an 'Authorised Officer' under the Animal Welfare Act 1992
Ms. Michelle Robertson	Category C, a person nominated by the RSPCA ACT

1	Governance	<p>Members accepted the minutes from March meeting.</p> <p>Craig Jordan (CJ) updated the committee on his role, the new RSPCA location, cat registration and cat containment plan.</p> <p>Chair stated that the committee well-placed to provide strategic advice to the Minister, as per its functions in the legislative framework.</p> <p>Governance papers: Members received the governance documents two days ahead of the meeting.</p> <p><u>AWAC Charter document:</u> members requested more flexibility on the timings (i.e. meeting papers to be submitted 14 days before next committee meeting is too early) Charter 4.10.2 meeting papers to be changed to 8 days or “as agreed by the Chair”</p> <p>Lisa Johnson (LJ) updated the committee on the role of Boards and Committee and audit recommendations: conflict of interest and confidentiality documents. Erin Barker (EB): conflict of interest will be built into the agenda of the meeting.</p> <p>Suzie Fowler (SF) sought clarity on sharing info outside the committee to get advice on subject matter experts. Melanie Latter (ML) is a member of several committees.</p> <p><u>Memorandum of Understanding</u> Boards and Committee will take over Secretariat services date TBA and provide oversight of communication with the Minister’s Office. MOU para 6.5 to include the Animal Welfare Authority as an attendee at AWAC meetings. Members will discuss out of session the role of the Animal Welfare Officer within the committee.</p> <p><u>Communication correspondence</u> The Minister is to be provided with a 12 month progress review (rather than 6 months).</p> <p><u>Codes of Practice</u></p>
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	<p>EB: the codes of practice submitted by AWAC are being put forward to the Minister.</p> <p>CJ: Boards and Committee will facilitate consultation for the codes of practice. After consultation if there is controversy, the code will go back to AWAC for consideration.</p> <p>ML the codes of practice need to be an opportunity for raising awareness in the community.</p> <p>GB highlighted the importance of communicating about the small mammals' code of practice, the first in Australia. CJ confirmed that the TCCS communication team will be able to assist and track impact through google analytics. LJ committee can include a communication component into the code of practice correspondence.</p> <p>LJ a summary of the AWAC committee minutes should be published on the website monthly.</p> <p>GB the code of practice Welfare of Horses in the ACT needs amending in the intro part which is an historical outline of use of horses. CJ to modify substantively what has been submitted already it would need to be the subject of a Ministerial brief.</p> <p><u>Communication strategy for codes of practice</u></p> <p>Committee members suggested communication channels for the work of AWAC: radio, tv, information directly supplied to vet clinic and stores.</p> <p>Margaret Peachy (MP) stores selling small mammals should be obliged to give the code of practice to clients.</p> <p><u>Funding</u></p> <p>Members highlighted the need to remunerate experts to review the small mammal's code.</p> <p>The workload of members exceeds what is covered by the sitting fee.</p> <p>ACTION: Secretariat to share with members the link to the cat containment plan.</p> <p>Members to sign confidentiality and conflict of interest document and return to Secretariat.</p> <p>Members will review governance documents and discuss at the next meeting.</p> <p>EB will update the committee on the status of</p>
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		<p>consultation of each code of practice. EB will include in the Minister briefs AWAC's wish for the Codes to be an educational tool in the community.</p> <p>Chair to report to the Minister once a year on the progress of AWAC.</p> <p>Secretariat to seek Michelle Robertson's advice on communication strategy for the code of practice "Management of Animals in Pounds, Shelters and Rescue Establishments".</p> <p>GB to request funds for outsourcing consultation to CJ by updating the work plan. Discussion of financial component to take place at the next meeting with CJ during the review of the Work Plan.</p> <p>GB to work with LJ and EB to review remuneration of members according to the work output and the requirements for 2022. Members to let Chair and Secretariat know how many hours they worked on each code.</p>
	Standard of Pet Food	<p>Members discussed the possibility of providing advice on the standards of pet food.</p> <p>ML available to join a group discussing pet food standards.</p> <p>Bruce Hancock will update AWAC on the working group on pet food.</p> <p>ACTION: Melanie Latter/ Judith Woolley will provide a draft document of AWAC's position on pet food. Chair to share with Minister Steel.</p>
2	'Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT'	<p>Ms. Woolley will make small amendments and will circulate.</p> <p>ACTION Voting will take place via email before the next meeting.</p>
3	Review Animal Welfare Act part 2 6A	<p>Review of Part 2 6A of the Act concerning confinement</p> <p>John Guth will communicate by email concerning tethering of dogs</p> <p>ACTION Woolley, Fowler, Guth, Latter to discuss</p>
4	Work Plan 2022-2023	<p>ACTION Secretariat and Chair will update the work plan and circulate to members</p>
5	Equine Welfare Report	<p>Members agreed with Dr Fowler's comments</p> <p>ACTION Wayne Slattery to review Dr Fowler's email</p>

6	Omnibus bill amendment	Dr Latter's suggestions on wording change approved by the committee and to be included in suggested amendments.
7	Small mammals code update	Dr Fowler and Ms. Peachy to continue working on the code.
8	Next meeting time, date and location	Next meeting will be on Friday 6 May 2022 from 11 AM to 2 PM online.

# AWAC Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	6 May 2022 – 12 noon
<b>Location:</b>	Webex
<b>Prepared By:</b>	AWAC Secretariat

## Attendance

Members	
Ms. Genevieve Butler	Category A, a chair who is not affiliated with an animal welfare or animal user group
Ms. Michelle Robertson	Category C, a person nominated by the RSPCA ACT
Dr Melanie Latter	Category D, nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr John Guth	Category E, nominated by the ACT Rural Lessees Association
Dr Suzanne Fowler	Category F, a person with experience in teaching and research activities involving animals and as a person nominated by an ACT tertiary institution
Ms. Margaret Peachey	Category H, a person nominated by a community-based organisation involved in native wildlife matters
Ms. Judith Woolley	Category I, nominated by an organisation involved in the commercial use of companion animals
Apologies	
Dr Wendy Townsend	Category B, a person employed by the ACT Government who is an 'Authorised Officer' under the Animal Welfare Act 1992
Mr. Bruce Hancocks	Category K, a person nominated by the government body with responsibility for wildlife and/or feral animal matters in the ACT.
Mr. Wayne Slattery	Category J, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals

1	<p>Apologies Introduction Minutes Conflict of Interest declaration</p>	<p>Acknowledgement of country Members approved the minutes from the last meeting No members declared a conflict of interest</p>
2	<p>Position statement on pet food</p>	<p>AWAC's position statement on pet food was forwarded to Minister Steel and a copy to the Environment Minister.</p>
3	<p>Governance</p>	<p>Guests: Mr Craig Jordan, Animal Welfare Authority, Executive Group Manager, Territory and Business Services; Ms Lisa Johnson, Executive Branch Manager, Chief Operating Officer Group</p> <p>Lisa Johnson (LJ) updated the committee [REDACTED]</p> <p>Ms Davies position following her resignation has been the object of a brief which is currently with the Minister. The position will be advertised publicly and will undergo a selection process, Committee members can encourage suitable candidates to apply.</p> <p>Craig Jordan (CJ) clarified that a requirement of AWAC is to update old Codes of Practice and draft new codes. The Minister can task AWAC to draft or review Codes of Practice.</p> <p>Consultation will take place for each Code, some by AWAC during the drafting process and some at the discretion of Boards and Committees Section.</p> <p>Following consultation, the final Code of Practice is sent to the Minister for approval and to AWAC for information.</p> <p>LJ TCCS legal team will check the Codes of Practice, Animal Welfare Officer and Policy team can assist as required.</p> <p>CJ confirmed that TCCS resources are available to AWAC during the drafting of the Codes of Practice and an updated work plan will help schedule time for the relevant areas that need to be consulted (legal, policy etc.)</p> <p>Melanie Latter (ML) reiterated that AWAC should access the Codes of Practice and the National Standards after consultation.</p> <p>CJ Minister can receive advice from AWAC and still decide to take a different approach (Marg Peachy offered the example of the kangaroo culling plan), but</p>

	<p>feedback should be provided to AWAC.</p> <p>GB in 2022, AWAC has received acknowledgement of advice on TNR and on whipping of horses. CJ advised that the Minister found AWAC's advice useful and was appreciative of the position statement.</p> <p>GB position statements are a "value add" for the Minister. Members and TCCS should actively inform the committee when issues arise that should be addressed by the committee.</p> <p>LJ provided an update on the submitted codes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welfare of Native Wildlife - Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release code is with EPSDD and will be sent to the Minister;</li><li>• Private Keeping of Native Reptiles code is out for consultation, the deadline is 20 May 2022;</li><li>• Management of Animals in Pounds, Shelters and Rescue Establishments code is with the Legal team and is due back shortly, it will be sent to the Minister;</li><li>• Welfare of Horses in the ACT code is out for consultation and the deadline is 17 June 2022.</li></ul> <p>National Standards submitted do not need further consultation</p> <p><u>OUTCOME</u> Governance documents are approved by the Committee. A final version will be circulated.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> the Confidentiality, Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest for can be signed annually by members and verbally declare if there is a conflict of interest before each meeting. Members to sign and send the form to the Secretariat</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> Nominations for Deputy Chair of AWAC to be emailed to Chair/Secretariat</p> <p><u>OUTCOME</u> Members recommended to CJ/LJ that the Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) attend AWAC meetings on a support/research capacity when the Secretariat role will be handed over to Boards &amp; Committee. AWO is already undertaking those functions as well as the Secretariat role.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> Secretariat to share with Erin Barker the</p>
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		consultation table for the National Standards
	Omnibus bill amendment	<p>LJ Omnibus bill amendments need to be minor and non-controversial.</p> <p>OUTCOME members can start tracking the more significant amendments they want on the Animal Welfare Act and the Domestic Animals Act and forward to the Secretariat. There may be an opportunity to put them forward at a later stage.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> Secretariat will share the feedback from the policy section on each item proposed by members</p>
	Small mammals code update	<p>Members agreed on the following steps to progress the code: meeting with a policy expert from TCCS to analyse the documents and the mandatory components, the language register and the implication of repeating the same information for each species or making a code for each species or including the common information at the beginning of the document.</p> <p>Following the policy meeting the need for an external expert advice will be evaluated.</p> <p>Michelle Robertons (MR) said that grouping the small mammals may perpetuate the stereotypes about them (low maintenance, easy pets).</p> <p>ML the welfare of the small mammals is often overlooked because of the lack of knowledge and education.</p> <p>GB the code should provide a good legal instrument for the Magistrate court in cruelty cases.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> Secretariat will liaise with CJ's team to find an appropriate time for members to meet with the policy team.</p>
	Work Plan 2022-2023	<p>ML is reviewing the 'Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT' sent by Judith Woolley (JW)</p> <p>CJ Minister Steel wants to have the topic of keeping roosters in suburban areas addressed. ML the Animal Welfare Taskforce Group document on National Standards is not relevant for roosters.</p>

		<p>Cat code: ML the code was drafted by the previous committee and only needs updating to reflect the new legislation.</p> <p>Government response to bushfire-affected wildlife title to be changed to bushfire-affected animals. Marg Peachy (MP) rescue groups rely on the firefighters to bring out the animals.</p> <p>ML vets and nurses are undergoing emergency training in Taronga.</p> <p>MR government should be looking at capacity register annually before the fires season. ML is on the board of vets without borders, an asset list to be called upon when needed would be beneficial.</p> <p>Welfare background check to be pushed to Q1 2023.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> Secretariat and Chair will update the work plan and circulate to members</p> <p>Michelle Robertson will lead the review of the code for domestic poultry.</p> <p>Michelle Robertson to review the Cat code and inform the committee on the amount of editing needed.</p>
	<p>Communication strategy for Management of Animals in Pounds, Shelters and Rescue Establishments Code of Practice</p>	<p>MR it should be composed of three segments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People running the establishments</li> <li>• Stakeholders</li> <li>• Ancillary stakeholders in the industry</li> </ul> <p>The communication should be targeted not mass communication.</p> <p><u>ACTION</u> LJ to speak to the Communications team and put MR in touch with them to have RSPCA involved.</p>
	<p>National Horse Traceability</p>	<p>MR RSPCA Victoria is working on a submission, once available it will be shared with the committee.</p> <p>OUTCOME members need to decide whether AWAC should draft a position statement.</p>
	<p>Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT</p>	<p>To be discussed at the 17 May meeting.</p>
	<p>Next meeting time, date, and location</p>	<p>Next meeting will be on Friday 17 May 2022 from 12 to 2 PM</p>



## AWAC Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	3 June 2022 – 12 noon
<b>Location:</b>	Webex
<b>Prepared By:</b>	AWAC Secretariat

### Attendance

Members	
Ms. Genevieve Butler	Category A, a chair who is not affiliated with an animal welfare or animal user group
Ms. Michelle Robertson	Category C, a person nominated by the RSPCA ACT
Dr Melanie Latter	Category D, nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr John Guth	Category E, nominated by the ACT Rural Lessees Association
Ms. Margaret Peachey	Category H, a person nominated by a community-based organisation involved in native wildlife matters
Mr. Wayne Slattery	Category J, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals
Ms. Judith Woolley	Category I, nominated by an organisation involved in the commercial use of companion animals
Apologies	
Dr Wendy Townsend	Category B, a person employed by the ACT Government who is an 'Authorised Officer' under the Animal Welfare Act 1992
Dr Suzanne Fowler	Category F, a person with experience in teaching and research activities involving animals and as a person nominated by an ACT tertiary institution
Mr. Bruce Hancocks	Category K, a person nominated by the government body with responsibility for wildlife and/or feral animal matters in the ACT.

1	<p>Apologies Introduction Minutes Conflict of Interest declaration</p>	<p>Acknowledgement of country Members approved the minutes from the last meeting No members declared a conflict of interest</p>
2	<p>Governance</p>	<p>Following nominations, Michelle Robertson (MR) is appointed as Deputy Chair of AWAC</p> <p>Members discussed information to be published on the website</p> <p>The Chair reiterated the importance of confidentiality and the role of the committee which is to advise the Minister.</p> <p>Three members (Guth, Woolley, Slattery) are yet to sign the conflict of interest and confidentiality form.</p>
3	<p>Code of practice Welfare of dogs in the ACT</p>	<p>OUTCOME The code of practice is accepted unanimously by the committee.</p> <p>ACTION: Secretariat will inform Boards and Committee of the outcome of the voting and progress the code to the consultation phase</p> <p>Chair acknowledged the work of the sub-committee (Woolley, Latter, Fowler, Robertson)</p> <p>The last code of practice was drafted in 2010. Judith Woolley (JW) will share the document with the Chair.</p>
4	<p>Consultation for the Codes of Practice submitted</p>	<p>The Chair provided an update on the Codes of Practice:</p> <p>Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT-consultation closes on 17 June. Agistment centres were provided with a copy of the code.</p> <p>Wayne Slattery (WS) noted that the <i>Coalition for protection of racehorses</i> is a radical organization and is not based in the ACT.</p> <p>ACTION: Secretariat to check if the code was sent to that organization</p> <p>Code of Practice for Management of Animals in Pounds, Shelters and Rescue Establishments</p> <p>ACTION Michelle Robertson (MR) will review the consultation feedback and provide an update at the</p>

		<p>next committee meeting</p> <p>Code of Practice for the Welfare of Native Wildlife - Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release</p> <p>ACTION Marg Peachy (MP), Chair and Secretariat to review the feedback from consultation and MP will finalise the document and the Chair will send to the Minister.</p> <p>Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Native Reptiles feedback from consultation sent to MP for review.</p> <p>Code of Practice for the Welfare of Small Mammals – sub-committee to meet with Policy and Legal teams at TCCS on Friday 10 June 2022</p> <p>ACTION Secretariat will share feedback received from all the consultations with members and the lead drafter of each code will be responsible for reviewing and implementing/rejecting the suggestions.</p> <p>Lead drafter will raise with the committee any major change.</p>
5	Omnibus bill and Animal Amendment Bill update	<p>Minister Steel agreed to put forwards an Animal Amendment Bill separate from the Omnibus Bill.</p> <p>There will be a chance to provide new suggestions for the improvement of the Animal Welfare Act and the Domestic Animals Act.</p> <p>ACTION: members to provide suggestions to Secretariat</p>
6	Work Plan 2022-2023	The Chair sent the work plan to the Minister.
7	Code of practice cats review	<p>Sub-committee for the cat code: Latter, Robertson, Butler. Lead: Roberston</p> <p>ACTION Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats in the ACT- Secretariat will review the existing code before sending it to MR.</p> <p>Secretariat to add an intro with information about the recent cat containment laws.</p>
8	Other business	ACTION Secretariat to begin preliminary research into Pets and domestic violence

		<p>Judith Woolley (JW) to provide information to the Chair on the background check for people convicted of animal cruelty in other states.</p> <p>A position statement could be drafted and provided to the Minister.</p>
9	Next meeting	<p>Sub-committee meeting for the Small Mammals code on Friday 10 June 2022</p> <p>Committee meeting on Friday 8 July at 12 noon on Webex.</p>

## AWAC Committee meeting minutes

<b>Date:</b>	Friday 8 July 2022
<b>Location:</b>	Webex
<b>Prepared By:</b>	AWAC Secretariat

### Attendance

Members	
Ms Genevieve Butler	Category A, a chair who is not affiliated with an animal welfare or animal user group
Ms Michelle Robertson	Category C, a person nominated by the RSPCA ACT
Dr Melanie Latter	Category D, nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
Dr John Guth	Category E, nominated by the ACT Rural Lessees Association
Dr Suzanne Fowler	Category F a person with experience in teaching and research activities involving animals and as a person nominated by an ACT tertiary institution
Ms Margaret Peachey	Category H a person nominated by a community-based organisation involved in native wildlife matters
Ms Judith Woolley	Category I, nominated by an organisation involved in the commercial use of companion animals
Mr Wayne Slattery	Category J, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals
Apologies	
Dr Wendy Townsend	Category B as a person employed by the ACT Government who is an 'Authorised Officer' under the Animal Welfare Act 1992
Bruce Hancock	Category K, a person nominated by the government body with responsibility for wildlife and/or feral animal matters in the ACT.

Meeting Discussions and Actions		
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Minutes</p> <p>Conflict of Interest declaration</p>	<p>Acknowledgement of country</p> <p>Members approved the minutes from the last meeting</p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest</p>
2.	<p>Governance</p>	<p>Chair updated the committee on the conversation with the Animal Welfare Authority.</p> <p>Animal Welfare Authority will seek membership for an AWAC representative in the joint JACS and racehorse industry committee.</p> <p>Committee members discussed an estimate of additional hours of work for the 2022-2023 budget.</p> <p>OUTCOME Committee members to provide information on each item and Secretariat will update the plan.</p>
3.	<p>Pet registration for horses</p>	<p>Canberra Racing Club (CRC) is proposing to use the existing ACT registration platform for horses. CRC cannot trace horses after the first rehoming.</p> <p>Wayne Slattery (WS) stated that the ACT registration should be free because a transfer of ownership fee already exists in the horseracing industry.</p> <p>Michelle Robertson (MR) supports the registration of horses if a clear intent is defined. ACT pet register is not a management tool especially for horses crossing borders. It is unclear what it would achieve in term of traceability.</p> <p>Suzanne Fowler (SF) said the National Horse Traceability Working Group is working on the minimum common denominator and better traceability should be implemented in the ACT.</p> <p>Members agree that there is traffic of horses across the border.</p>

Meeting Discussions and Actions		
		<p>RSPCA Australia is advocating for microchipping of all horses not just racehorses.</p> <p>Access to the ACT pet database is limited to Transport Canberra and City Services and RSPCA for investigations.</p> <p>Members discussed integrity and transparency concerns in the racing industry and where prize money is allocated to.</p> <p>ACTION: AWAC will prepare an in-depth paper within four months on this issue. The paper needs to state what problem AWAC is trying to solve and how.</p> <p>AWAC will also need to determine if there are welfare concerns around life after racing and horses being sent to abattoirs.</p> <p>Subcommittee is formed: WS, SF (MR where possible).</p> <p>Following the drafting of the paper a meeting will be called with the Animal Welfare Authority and JACS.</p>
4.	New AWAC committee member	<p>A new committee member has been selected. Boards &amp; Committee Section is managing the appointment.</p> <p>OUTCOME: Upon appointment the new member will lead the review of the Code of Practice for Poultry.</p>
5.	Horse racing Levy	<p>Committee will draft a letter to the Minister to seek more transparency and integrity in the administration of the welfare levy.</p> <p>ACTION: A draft letter to be sent to the Secretariat and Chair for review.</p>
6.	Update on Small Mammals Code	<p>SF is creating a code for each animal: ferret, rabbits, guinea pigs, rats and mice.</p>

Meeting Discussions and <b>Actions</b>		
		OUTCOME an update will be provided at the next committee meeting
7.	Consultation feedback from the Code of Practice for the Welfare of horses in the ACT	<p>Melanie Latter (ML) will review the feedback from the Australian Veterinary Association.</p> <p>Members discussed a potential conflict of interest for some of the AVA vets.</p> <p>ACTION: Secretariat will draft a reply to the AVA with input from committee members.</p>
8.	EPSDD representation in the committee	<p>MR stated that the AWAC would benefit from a consistent presence of EPSDD representatives.</p> <p>EPSDD member has been absent since September 2021.</p>
9.	Next meeting	Friday 5 August 2022 from 12 to 2 PM on Webex

## AWAC Committee meeting minutes

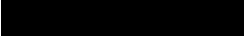
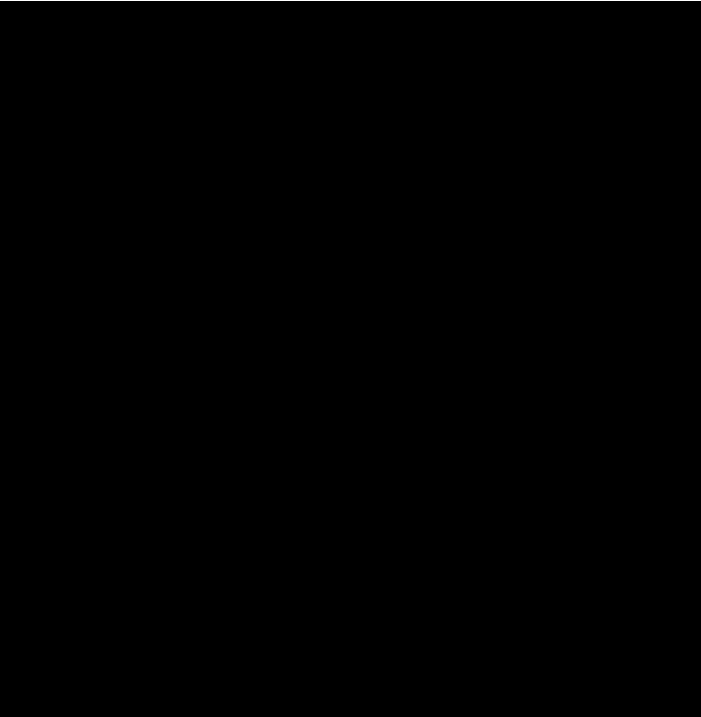
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 5 August 2022
<b>Location:</b>	online
<b>Prepared By:</b>	AWAC Secretariat

### Attendance

Members	
Ms. Genevieve Butler	Category A, a chair who is not affiliated with an animal welfare or animal user group
Ms. Michelle Robertson	Category C, a person nominated by the RSPCA ACT
Dr. Melanie Latter	Category D, nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association
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Apologies	
Dr Wendy Townsend	Category B as a person employed by the ACT Government who is an 'Authorised Officer' under the Animal Welfare Act 1992
Mr. Wayne Slattery	Category J, nominated by an organisation involved in the recreational or sporting use of animals

Meeting Discussions and Actions		
1.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Minutes</p> <p>Conflict of Interest declaration</p>	<p>Wayne Slattery not in attendance.</p> <p>Acknowledgement of country.</p> <p>Members approved the minutes from last meeting.</p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p>
2.	<p>Governance</p>	<p>The Chair updated the committee on governance issues. Appointment of the a/g Chief Veterinary Officer is underway.</p> <p>Noting that it had earlier been raised that there are two EPSDD employees on the Committee, the Chair noted that regarding future appointments, the category K position doesn't necessarily need to be a government employee.</p> <p>Bruce Hancock (BH) noted that the Chief Veterinary Officer has a good understanding of the <i>Nature Conservation Act</i>.</p> <p>Upcoming meeting dates: Friday 2 September and Friday 14 October</p> <p>ACTION: Secretariat to send an invite for meetings until the end of the year.</p>
3.	<p>Code of Practice for the Welfare of Native Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release</p> <p>Code of Practice for the Private Keeping of Native Reptiles</p>	<p>Marg Peachy (MP) finalized both codes.</p> <p>ACTION: the Chair will draft a cover letter and send both codes to Boards &amp; Committees to progress.</p>
4.	<p>Omnibus bill proposal</p>	<p>Suzie Fowler (SF) rehoming of laboratory animals requires consultation with the institutions.</p> <p>Each institution is developing its own policies for rehoming animals and are at different stages of completion.</p> <p>The Code of Practice (Licence for teaching and research) could be amended without making it mandatory.</p> <p>There is a risk for the welfare of mice which are not used to human interaction.</p> <p>There is a resource issue regarding desexing prior to rehoming.</p> <p>SF suggested pulling the proposal from the list for legislative amendments (omnibus bill proposal) and consulting with the institutions before drafting a</p>

Meeting Discussions and <b>Actions</b>		
		<p>document to propose as a way forward.</p> <p>ACTION: Secretariat to inform Policy team and list rehoming of laboratory animals as a standalone work program item. SF to be the lead.</p>
<b>5.</b>	Code of Practice for Small mammals	<p>SF updated on the four codes.</p> <p>The question of companionship for small mammals was raised, whether it is a should or a must (guideline or standard): they live in groups but making it mandatory to have two pets could lead to increased surrender and it would be hard to enforce acquiring a second pet.</p> <p>Melanie Latter (ML) proposed leaving the companionship as a guideline and adding “suitable” (including humans)</p> <p>Michelle Robertson (MR) suggested making it mandatory, specifying “companionship preferably of the same species” with a grandfathering arrangement for implementation. It is scientifically proven that the welfare of small mammals increases by having a companion.</p> <p>SF agreed that the welfare of small mammals is enhanced by compatible companionship.</p> <p>John Guth (JG) stated that humans have the right to use animals in a way that is right for people even if it’s less beneficial for animals.</p> <p>ML commented that the goal is to achieve the best outcome for the animal in the circumstances.</p> <p>The Chair advised to add wording around the science on animal welfare to explain why a suitable companionship is scientifically proven to increase the well-being of the animal. Code should have a sentence to explain why it is strongly recommended to find suitable companionship.</p> <p>BH added that “should” (guideline) is going to be sufficient for most people who try to do their best.</p> <p>Missing an overarching document to explain what the intent is for all these codes of practice.</p>

Meeting Discussions and <b>Actions</b>	
	<p>SF a definition section needs to be added to the codes.</p> <p>MR the Five Freedoms are at the centre of all the codes of practice and could be included in each introduction.</p> <p>OUTCOMES: Members agreed that a person breeding small mammals must find homes for the offspring. Code for rabbits should apply to all rabbits not just pet rabbits.</p> <p>ACTION: MR to circulate to members a statement around the Five Freedoms (Five Domains) to be included in the codes, SF will adapt it to the small mammals code. Secretariat to add the item to the September agenda</p>
6.	<p>Legal advice </p> 
7.	<p>Work plan</p> <p>ACTION: Secretariat to update the document to include rehoming of lab animals, code of practice for keeping of birds (sub-committee: MP and new member), code of practice for poultry (sub-committee: new member and MP), kangaroo culling. Once the work plan is updated the Secretariat will circulate.</p>
8.	<p>National Standards for Sheep, Cattle and Saleyard</p> <p>The Chair: the national standards need to become Codes of Practice in the ACT.</p> <p>ACTION: ML to review the codes of practice formatted</p>

Meeting Discussions and <b>Actions</b>		
		by Erin Barker based on the submissions by AWAC.
9.	Feedback review of codes of practice	<p>JG suggested a second round of consultation after feedback review.</p> <p>The Chair noted that AWAC does not have the resources to do multiple rounds of consultation. The consultation process gives adequate time for stakeholders to provide input, which is then reviewed in detail by the sub-committees.</p> <p>OUTCOME Each sub-committee reviews the relevant feedback and if an item is substantive or controversial the issue will be discussed during the committee meeting.</p>
10.	Code of Practice for Management of Animals in Pounds, Shelters, and Rescue Establishments	<p>MR provided an update. The review of feedback will be finalized in the next two weeks.</p> <p>ACTION: MR to circulate a summary of the feedback review.</p>
11.	Code of practice for Cats	<p>ACTION: ML and MR to review and update content, Secretariat to format the document when finalized.</p> <p>Introduction should have wording to mirror the recent legislation. MR: the Code will take an educational approach to desexing and breeding. The community needs to learn about not breeding and adopting instead of buying.</p> <p>An opening statement linked to the Domestic Animal Act would provide context.</p> <p>OUTCOME ML and MR will share the reviewed code with committee.</p>
12.	Code of practice for the welfare of dogs in the ACT	ACTION: Secretariat to share feedback from consultation and JW will review the feedback.
13.	Next meeting	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022 from 12 to 2 PM online

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #11

Friday, 02 September 2022

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Videoconference

1	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u></p> <p>Ms. Genevieve Butler (GB) Ms. Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr. Melanie Latter (ML) Dr. John Guth (JG) Dr. Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms. Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms. Judith Woolley (JW) Mr. Wayne Slattery (WS) Mr. Bruce Hancock (BH)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>Ms. Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms. Erin Barker (EB) Ms. Angela Challis (AC)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Dr Kyeelee Driver</p>
2	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Previous minutes</b></p> <p>Members accepted the minutes from the 05 August 2022 meeting.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p>

3

## **Governance and Administration**

### **3.1 Remuneration**

LJ advised members that a remuneration fact sheet had been prepared to provide members with information on payment for hours worked and it would be circulated for their information.

**Action 3.1.1:** Secretariat to circulate remuneration fact sheet to members.

### **3.2 Risk Register**

LJ initiated a discussion regarding the establishment of a risk register.

Members noted that while TCCS would maintain and administer the register, AWAC would own the risks and be responsible for considering what risks apply to their working environment.

**AGREED:** Members agreed to have a member of the Risk and Business Assurance team attend the next meeting to commence the review.

LJ discussed allocation of a budget for AWAC, although a set value would need to be confirmed with the Animal Welfare Authority for whom the budget sits with.

### **3.3 Update of Appointments**

Members were informed that the appointments for categories A, E, I, and J are currently in progress.

In regard to category G, members were informed of some delays with getting it to Cabinet; however, this has now been resolved and is due to go to Cabinet soon.

MR raised concerns regarding the possibility of delays within Cabinet affecting future appointments. EB and LJ noted that the existing delay is unusual.

Members were informed that Dr Kyelee Driver was successfully appointed as an acting member of the Committee whilst Dr Wendy Townsend is on leave. This acting appointment is for a period of three months.

### **3.4 Review of Membership Categories**

Members discussed the need to review its member categories, given this has not occurred since the establishment of the Committee. GB suggested adding additional categories for a member with knowledge of animal law and a member from an animal rescue organisation/sanctuary with a focus on native animals.

Members suggested a standing agenda item for an update from the Animal Welfare Authority/Domestic Animals Service presented by Ms Leana Vivarelli (LV).

Members discussed LV's involvement in meetings moving forward. Members asked for LV's full attendance at each meeting, and continued research support for the Committee, to which LJ advised she would need to confirm with Ms Meghan Oldfield (A/g Executive Group Manager, Territory and Business Services) whether LV has capacity to commit to this.

Members were reminded to include the secretariat in emails to ensure progress updates are documented, and also, to ensure the Committee is meeting records requirements.

**Action 3.4.1:** Secretariat to add 'Review of membership categories' to the agenda for 14 October 2022 meeting.

	<p><b>Action 3.4.2:</b> LJ to confirm LV's meeting attendance moving forward with Ms Oldfield. Secretariat to add standing agenda item for Animal Welfare Authority.</p> <p><b>3.5 Code of practice register</b></p> <p>LJ advised members that there are codes listed on the Legislation Register that do not have a code of practice attached. Members were informed that the secretariat was reviewing all codes listed on the Legislation Register and is creating a register to help capture those that are missing.</p> <p>It was suggested the Committee review this register. The missing codes could potentially be removed from the Legislation Register by the Secretariat.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to review the code of practice register at October's meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 3.5.1:</b> Secretariat to add code of practice register to October's agenda for review and discussion.</p> <p><b>3.6 Animal Welfare Management Bill</b></p> <p>Members were provided with an update on the progress of the Animal Welfare Management Bill, noting the Committee asked for a definition of 'desex' to be added to the legislation. LJ informed members that this change has successfully occurred, and the secretariat will circulate this amendment to members.</p> <p><b>Action 3.6.1:</b> Secretariat to circulate Animal Welfare Management Bill amendments to members.</p>
4	<p><b>Work Plan 2022-23</b></p> <p>Members advised that an updated work plan is to be circulated each month with the meeting papers. It was noted it will only be discussed if there is something specific to be raised.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1:</b> Secretariat to add 'Work Plan' as a standing agenda item for 14 October 2022 and attach the document.</p>
5	<p><b>Five Freedoms Statement for Codes of Practice</b></p> <p>MR presented the Five Freedoms, which included the more recent concept of the Five Domains. While the Five Freedoms focus on reducing negative aspects on animal welfare, the Five Domains focus more on promoting positive aspects on animal welfare. It is generally acknowledged that the incorporation of the first four domains increases the efficacy of the fifth domain.</p> <p>Members suggested drafting some standard wording that will be included at the beginning of each code of practice going forward and included in the code of practice template.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1:</b> MR, SF, and ML to draft standard wording in relation to the Five Freedoms / Five Domains and circulate to members for review. Secretariat to update template accordingly.</p>
6	<p><b>Pet Registration for Horses in the ACT</b></p> <p>The Committee provided some background information to the secretariat, advising that the Animal Welfare Authority requested that AWAC provides an information paper on the registration of horses as its top priority. Canberra Racing Club has made a request to the Minister for horses to be included on the pet registration database. The reason for this,</p>

particularly surrounding racehorses, is that once a racehorse has been sold once, they become untraceable.

The subcommittee for this task comprises of SF and WS. Members noted that:

- While there are some benefits to adding horses to the ACT pet register, they would be limited by the inability to track animals once they leave the ACT.
- The ACT Pet Register will not be capable of tracking horses destined for abattoirs.
- All racehorses are microchipped.
- No horses are professionally bred in the ACT.
- The Subcommittee will also examine whether registration should be a requirement for all horse or only racehorses.

The Subcommittee is currently gathering all the relevant information and drafting an information paper for the Minister.

**Action 6.1:** Secretariat to liaise with Mr Shane Kelly to gather information on exactly what the Canberra Racing Club has asked for.

**Action 6.2:** SF to send questions to MR on horse traceability system.

**Action 6.3:** SF and WS to continue drafting the information paper for the Minister on pet registration for horses.

**Action 6.4:** Secretariat to assist Subcommittee in organising a meeting with relevant JACS officers as per request by Mr Craig Jordan.

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#### **Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT**

ML provided an update on the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT, noting she had incorporated comments received through the consultation.

WS noted that farriers were not included under footcare, where they should be.

WS raised concerns regarding the mandatory size of stables and questioned whether commercial facilities within the ACT would meet this requirement. To address this issue, members suggested amending the specific housing standard surrounding this from a mandatory standard to a guideline.

Members questioned the difference between 'hobbling' and 'hoppling', to which WS advised he would include a definition in the code.

The Australian Veterinary Association raised specific questions during consultation in relation to loose shoes and nails. Members noted that WS would be best placed to review these.

**Action 7.1:** ML to make the following updates to the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT and send to WS for review:

- include 'farriers' under the Footcare section;
- amend the specific housing standard regarding box sizes from a mandatory standard to a guideline.

**Action 7.2:** WS to review the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT, specifically relating to:

- include definition of hobbling v hoppling;
- AVA specific questions regarding loose shoes.

	<p><u>Jump racing</u></p> <p>GB informed members and the secretariat that LV had circulated a draft position statement on Jump Racing to the Committee, which was compiled from members' previously circulated views, asking members to review and provide any additional comments/information they believe should be included.</p> <p>WS queried the definition of the term 'National Hunt Racing' and requested a clearer definition of 'Jump Racing' to ensure it would not be misconstrued as show jumping with potential consequences of affecting Olympic grade equestrian events. GB said that National Hunt Racing is terminology used in the UK not in Australia, so this can be removed for additional clarity. She said she would ask LV to redraft the definition and recirculate the position statement to members for final review.</p> <p><b>Action 7.3:</b> LV to redraft definition of 'Jump Racing' in Position Statement.</p> <p><b>Action 7.4:</b> Members to review the Jump Racing position statement and email any additional comments/information to LV and GB for finalisation.</p>
8	<p><b>Small Mammals Code of Practice</b></p> <p>SF provided members with an update on the Small Mammals Code of Practice, which is comprised of four codes covering the welfare of Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Ferrets, and Rats and Mice.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to include the standard wording on the Five Freedoms / Five Domains to the beginning of the code.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed for the secretariat to assist SF with standardising and formatting of templates.</p>
9	<p><b>Code of Practice for Management of Animals in Pounds, Shelters, and Rescue Establishments</b></p> <p>MR informed members that this code of practice is nearing completion.</p>
10	<p><b>Update on Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats in the ACT</b></p> <p>MR advised members that this code of practice is nearing completion and it will be circulated to the Committee prior to October's meeting, and to the secretariat for reformatting.</p> <p><b>Action 10.1:</b> MR to circulate Cats code of practice to members for review and to the secretariat for reformatting prior to October's meeting.</p>
11	<p><b>Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT</b></p> <p><b>Action 11.1:</b> JW to circulate the Dogs code to members for review out-of-session.</p> <p><b>Action 11.2:</b> Secretariat to add Dogs code to the agenda for 14 October 2022 meeting for further discussion.</p>
12	<p><b>Position Statement on the Power of Entry for Inspectors</b></p> <p>GB provided an update to the secretariat advising the Committee had previously considered proposing changes would be made in the TCCS Omnibus relating to power of entry for inspectors. However, this was unable to be captured within the Omnibus as it was</p>

	<p>considered to be a significant policy change. Members were advised there are no scheduled legislation updates for the remainder of 2022. GB requested this item be brought back for discussion at November's meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 12.1:</b> Secretariat to add Power of Entry for Inspectors to the agenda for the 04 November 2022 meeting.</p>
13	<p><b>National Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Codes of Practice: Cattle, Sheep, and Saleyards</b></p> <p>Members noted the Five Freedoms / Five Domains standard wording would fit appropriately into each of these codes of practice. It was discussed that these national standards were below the ACT's animal welfare standards, and that the draft ACT codes are being reviewed by ML.</p>
14	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to hold December's meeting as a face-to-face meeting.</p>
	<p>Meeting closed.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 14 October 2022, 12.00pm – 2.00pm. Virtual.</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #12

Friday, 14 October 2022

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Videoconference

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u></p> <p>Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Dr Kyelee Driver (KD) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Dr John Guth (JG) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Mr Bruce Hancock (BH)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Angela Challis (AC)</p> <p><u>Guests</u></p> <p>Ms Leana Vivarelli (LV) - Animal Welfare and Policy Officer Ms Lynnet Bridgfoot (LB) - Assistant Director, Risk and Business Assurance (item 2.1)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Ms Michelle Robertson (MR)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country, welcomed all present, and introduced Dr Kyelee Driver and Ms Serrin Rutledge-Prior (two new members) to the Committee.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p> <p><b>Previous minutes</b></p> <p>Members accepted the minutes from the 02 September 2022 meeting.</p>

	<p><b>Actions arising register</b></p> <p>Held over for 04 November 2022 meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Risk Register</b></p> <p>LB provided a presentation on risk management explaining that this also included financial mitigation. Members were advised to consider what potential oversights may prevent the AWAC from achieving its objectives. The overarching goal of a risk register is to document risk prevention practices already in place and identify what potential risks have been overlooked. Risks that have previously occurred and subsequently mitigated should also be documented for future strategical considerations. When considering risk mitigation, it is important to acknowledge that the AWAC can only control what they are responsible for (what they have control over).</p> <p>Some risks the Committee discussed included not completing a code of practice, running out of budget, and not meeting Minister and community expectations.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.1:</b> LB to provide presentation slides to be circulated to the committee.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.2:</b> Secretariat to compile a list of initial risks for further discussion at November meeting.</p> <p><b>2.2 Review of Membership Categories</b></p> <p>MR and GB are currently reviewing the membership categories and will circulate this prior to 04 November 2022 committee meeting.</p> <p>Members noted that Category B requirements are to be <i>'a person who is an authorised officer under the Animal Welfare Act 1992'</i>. For the purpose of AWAC membership, the only authorised officers are Dr Kyeelee Driver and Dr Wendy Townsend. The authority is also an authorised officer under certain conditions.</p> <p>It was raised that Category K could be represented by a Parks and Conservation Service or Conservation Research employee. Both these units are in EPSDD, the Directorate with responsibility for the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i>.</p> <p>Discussion held over for 04 November 2022 meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 2.2.1:</b> MR and GB to complete update and circulate to members out of session.</p> <p><b>Action 2.2.2:</b> Secretariat to add 'Review of membership categories' to the agenda for 04 November 2022 meeting.</p> <p><b>2.3 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>Held over for 04 November 2022 meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3.1:</b> Secretariat to add 'Code of Practice Register' to the agenda for 04 November 2022 meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>LV briefed the committee on the Animal Welfare Management Strategy 2017-2022 outstanding items: Code of Practice for Working Dogs (NSW has a code already) and Code of Practice for Poultry.</p>

	<p><b>Agreed:</b> Committee agreed to prioritise the Code of Practice for Poultry (SR lead, MP as subcommittee, AWO support), the National Guidelines drafted by the Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG) have been published and will go to the Agriculture Senior Officials' Committee (AGSOC) in January 2023.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Committee agreed to add Code of Practice for Working Dogs to the work program (JW lead, JG and WS sub-committee)</p> <p>JW raised the matter of support dogs and whether a code is needed. LV clarified there is a voluntary ACT framework for assistance animals, but support/emotional support animals are not included as the assistance animal is specifically trained to alleviate a disability by performing tasks.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agree that the Code of Practice for Groomers 1993 will be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.1:</b> Secretariat to add 'Code of Practice for Groomers 1993' to the agenda for 04 November 2022 meeting.</p>
4	<p><b>Work Plan 2022-23</b></p> <p>Discussion held over for 04 November 2022 meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1:</b> Secretariat to add 'Work Plan 2022-23' to the agenda for 04 November 2022 meeting.</p>
5	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Welfare of Horses in the ACT</b></p> <p>LJ informed the committee that the code will simultaneously go to Legal to be reviewed and to Communications to prepare a community engagement package. Once Legal and Communications have completed their roles, a final presentation of the Code will go before the Minister.</p> <p>WS raised concerns regarding S17.1 of the Code and whether the wording may be misinterpreted.</p> <p>ML noted that the ACT Equestrian Association had not raised any concerns with S17.1.</p> <p>GB noted the Code had already been through the consultation phase, and any significant changes going forward would require it to go out for consultation again.</p> <p>LJ clarified that ACT legislation prevails over code of practice guidelines. Mandatory aspects within codes of practice must be complied with.</p> <p>Members suggested amending the section from a mandatory standard to a guideline.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to retain the first sentence as a mandatory standard at S17.1 and move the second sentence to a guideline clause to G17.11.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1.1:</b> ML to action feedback from the Equestrian Association and amend S17.1 as agreed above.</p> <p><b>5.2 Welfare of Cats in the ACT</b></p> <p>LV has completed the new section on cat containment enclosures to be added to the draft Code, and it has been forwarded to ML and MR for review.</p>

	<p>ML will include the content in the Code, finalise it, and circulate it prior to the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2.1:</b> ML to circulate Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats prior to November's meeting.</p> <p><b>5.3 Welfare of Dogs in the ACT</b></p> <p><b>Action 5.3.1:</b> Secretariat to format Dog Code into new template.</p>
6	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Pet Registration for Horses in the ACT</b></p> <p>SF advised she is still wishing to have a meeting with JACS, noting she would be willing to send the questions via email if it would result in a faster response. SF is obtaining information from vets regarding the associated costs of microchipping and is also seeking information from MR on incidence of horse welfare complaints.</p> <p>Members discussed whether a position statement or an information paper would be better suited for the Minister.</p> <p>KD advised that due to the ACT being a small jurisdiction and with the active engagement of the Biosecurity and Rural Services team, and with both private and government horse agistment enterprises identifying horse owners and landowners, following up on welfare complaints should be straightforward.</p> <p><b>6.2 Land Transport of Livestock for Horses Consultation</b></p> <p>LV advised the National Guidelines for Land Transport of Horses is open for consultation until 28 October.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to not provide a submission at this time and to wait for the outcome of consultation.</p> <p>WS advised he was wishing to put in a submission in a personal capacity, not on behalf of AWAC.</p> <p><b>6.3 Code of Practice for Cattle</b></p> <p><b>Action 6.3.1:</b> EB to send the Code of Practice for Cattle to ML for review.</p>
7	<p>Meeting closed 2:20pm.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 04 November 2022, 12:00pm – 2:00pm. <a href="#">Online</a>.</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #13

Friday, 04 November 2022

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Videoconference

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u></p> <p>Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Dr Kyelee Driver (KD) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Dr John Guth (JG) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Mr Bruce Hancocks (BH)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Angela Challis (AC)</p> <p><u>Animal Welfare Authority</u></p> <p>Ms Leana Vivarelli (LV) - Animal Welfare and Policy Officer</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Nil</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p> <p><b>Previous minutes</b></p> <p>Members accepted the minutes from the 14 October 2022 meeting.</p>

2

## Codes of Practice

### 2.1 Update on progress of submitted Codes of Practice (Private Keeping of Reptiles, Native Wildlife, Horses, and Dogs)

EB provided the following Code of Practice updates:

- The Horse and Dog Codes of Practice are currently being reviewed by the TCCS Legal team. Legal typically takes an estimated 5 to 6 weeks to complete reviews.
- The Reptile Code of Practice has been reviewed by the TCCS Legal team, and the Secretariat is currently working on a community engagement package with TCCS Communications.
- The Wildlife Code of Practice is making its way through the necessary internal clearances on its way to the Minister for his endorsement. It is expected the endorsement process will be quicker than usual due to this Code not requiring a full communications strategy.

Members were advised that once a Code has been endorsed by the Minister, it is returned to EB, at which time, it is published on the ACT Legislation Register.

MR enquired about the status of the Cattle Code of Practice and whether the AWAC would be notified when that Codes are published on the legislation website. EB confirmed AWAC would be notified as well as provided with a link to each relevant Code of Practice upon publication.

ML advised she will complete the Standards and Guidelines for Cattle, Sheep and Saleyards and Depots based on what has previously been agreed upon by AWAC.

### 2.2 Code of Practice Pounds and Shelters

MR informed members that upon undertaking one final review, she will send the Code to Genevieve to draft a cover letter.

### 2.3 Code of Practice for Cats

MR thanked LV for her assistance with drafting the Code.

MR informed members that upon undertaking one final review, she will circulate the draft Code to members before the 02 December 2022 meeting for voting.

GB requested that members read the circulated draft and raise any questions in preparation for voting on it.

**Action 2.3.1:** MR to circulate the Cat Code draft to members before the 02 December 2022 meeting.

### 2.4 Code of Practice for Small Mammals

SP advised that she is finalising committee comments and will circulate a draft of the Code to members with the view/aim to cast a vote at the 02 December 2022 meeting,

**Action 2.4.1:** SP to circulate the Small Mammals Code draft to members before the 02 December 2022 meeting.

	<p><b>2.5 Code of Practice for Pet Grooming Establishments</b></p> <p>LV noted that while the Pet Grooming Code is not part of the animal welfare strategy, it has not been reviewed since 1993. LV highlighted the need for the Code to be added to the 2023 work plan and to form a sub-committee for the Code.</p> <p><b>Action 2.5.1:</b> GB to allocate Code of Practice for Pet Grooming Establishments to 2023 work plan.</p> <p><b>2.6 Code of Practice for Poultry</b></p> <p>LV also noted the Captive Birds Code has not been reviewed since 1995.</p> <p>SR is drafting a Poultry Code, with MP in the subcommittee, which will be circulated to members.</p> <p><b>Action 2.6.1:</b> SR to circulate the Poultry Code draft to members.</p>
3	<p><b>Pet Registration System for Horses information paper</b></p> <p>SF and WS to discuss approaching the Territory Agistment to query reports of problems regarding the welfare of horses.</p> <p>MR suggested KD should contact the inspectors due to her established relationship with them.</p> <p>In her capacity as a government veterinarian, KD is willing to contact Territory Agistment Inspectors for anecdotal responses to pass onto the Minister.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed for KD to contact the Territory Agistment as the Chief Veterinary Officer to ask welfare and traceability questions.</p> <p>GB queried the process and frequency of which agistment locations are monitored regarding the welfare of horses.</p> <p>JG advised that agistments are government-owned but not government-run. Agistment paddocks are managed by contractors.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1:</b> KD to contact Territory Agistment to seek information on horse welfare and traceability.</p>
4	<p><b>Position statements</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Position Statement on the Power of Entry for Inspectors</b></p> <p>Members discussed Power of Entry noting that under current law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• inspectors are unable to verify the potential for imminent death of an animal on private property.</li><li>• body corporates are permitted to refuse entry to inspect companion animals.</li></ul> <p>MR highlighted Queensland's <i>Animal Care and Protection Act 2001</i>, suggesting AWAC include Sections 122, 123, and 125 in the position statement.</p> <p>Regarding the Queensland Power of Entry, LJ queried whether 'reasonable belief' had been tested.</p>

	<p>Members discussed Power of Entry within educational and research institutions. The welfare of animals within these institutions is managed by ethics committees.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.1:</b> MR to draft dot points for inclusion in the position statement.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.2:</b> Members to circulate final version of the position statement to the secretariat once completed.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.3:</b> Secretariat to share position statement with TCCS Policy team and arrange a meeting with the subcommittee and Policy team.</p> <p><b>4.2 Position Statement on Tree Nets Policy</b></p> <p>Members discussed mandating the style of netting used to protect fruit trees, and that there is a current net swap campaign in place.</p> <p>BH advised EPSDD are reviewing the <i>Nature Conservation Act</i> and looking as to how the prohibition of nets can potentially be included.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to put this position statement on hold for the time being.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.1:</b> Secretariat to add Position Statement on Tree Nets Policy to the February 2023 agenda for further discussion.</p> <p><b>4.3 Position Statement on Horse Racing Welfare Levy</b></p> <p>Members discussed life after racing for racehorses.</p>
5	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Timetable for 2023 meetings</b></p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to the proposed 2023 meeting schedule.</p> <p><b>5.2 Risk Register - Review of Initial Risks</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members noted the three identified risks and agreed to review one risk per meeting commencing in February 2023.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2.1:</b> Secretariat to send word version of risks to KD for amendments.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2.2:</b> Secretariat to add the first risk for review to February 2023 agenda.</p> <p><b>5.3 Review of Membership Categories</b></p> <p>Members discussed AWAC membership categories and discussed who the most appropriate person would be to fill the Category K position, a person nominated by the administrative unit with responsibility for the <i>Nature Conservation Act 2014</i>.</p> <p>GB and MR presented two newly proposed categories. LJ advised the committee to consider the number of members, the current recommendation is a maximum of 12 members.</p>
6	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>LV discussed the Animal Welfare Management strategy 2017-2022 (AWMS).</p>
7	<p><b>Work Plan</b></p> <p>Held Over</p>

8	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Consultation Process</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed that Codes of Practice circulated to consultancy groups include a 'Confidential' watermark and the cover letter to participants must state the attached information is 'provided in confidence'.</p> <p><b>8.2 02 December 2022 Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed to extend a 12:30pm to 1pm lunch invitation to Daniel Childs (AWA), Chris Mooney (DAS), Shane Kelly (TCCS) and Kelly Debono (former AWAC member).</p> <p><b>Action 8.2.1:</b> Secretariat to invite Daniel Childs, Chris Mooney, Shane Kelly and Kelly Debono to December meeting.</p>
9	<p>Meeting closed 2:00pm</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 02 December 2022, 11:30am – 2:30pm, Room 00.024 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson</p>

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #15**  
**Friday, 2 December 2022**  
**11.30pm – 2.30pm**  
**Room 00.024, 480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson**

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u></p> <p>Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Dr John Guth (JG) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Mr Bruce Hancocks (BH)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Jill Slaven (JS)</p> <p><u>Animal Welfare Authority</u></p> <p>Animal Welfare and Policy Officer – recruitment for this position underway Daniel Childs to introduce himself during lunch</p> <p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Dr Kyelee Driver (KD)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Dr Wendy Townsend (WT)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p>

	<p><b>Previous minutes</b></p> <p>Members accepted the minutes from the 4 November 2022 meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed to discuss in February 2023.</p> <p><b>2.2 Actions Arising Register</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed to discuss in February 2023.</p> <p><b>2.3 Finance</b></p> <p>GB informed members that an additional \$40,000 had been budgeted for work being undertaken outside of scheduled monthly meetings.</p> <p>Members were advised that the secretariat will provide monthly finance updates of how much budget has been used so the Committee can adjust the workplan accordingly. These updates will commence in approximately March 2023.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3.1:</b> Members to submit their timesheets to the secretariat by early January 2023.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3.2:</b> Secretariat to provide finance report in March 2023 meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>Pet Registration System for Horses Information Paper</b></p> <p>SF provided an overview of the draft paper.</p> <p>Members discussed who would have access to the register and agreed that it would be (like the cat and dog register) accessible only by the ACT Government.</p> <p>MR noted that there are two requirements with different objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Being a pet register</li><li>2. Bring a national working group on racehorses.</li></ol> <p>MR noted support for the ACT system if it integrates with national traceability register, it will not substitute the national register.</p> <p>SF advised that the National register is currently on hold.</p> <p>SF suggested removing the "...training history of a horse" from the document as it does not affect the welfare of the animal, which is AWAC's remit.</p> <p>KD advised that the National Horse Traceability Working Group (NHTWG) had finalised their report and it is being considered at the Agriculture Ministers Meeting in December.</p> <p>KD Informed members that the horse stock return for 2022 indicates there are 1500 horses in ACT; 300 of which are at Thoroughbred Park and the Harness Racing Club. Noting that the numbers are fluid, and these are the figures at this moment in time. Consultation</p>

	<p>undertaken on this matter indicated that the community would not be willing to pay for registration and believed it should be government funded. Further feedback may be received from the public.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Committee agreed to send the paper up to the Animal Welfare Authority in its current form.</p> <p><b>Noted:</b> KD does not support the position statement as it currently stands.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1:</b> SF to update the document as discussed in the meeting, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Input the horse stock return figures</li><li>- Leave the “Other Benefits” paragraph regarding training history of the horses... but remove the dot point in Background</li></ul>
4	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update (verbal update)</b></p> <p>Members introduced themselves to Daniel Childs (DC).</p> <p>DC provided an update on the Animal Welfare Management Strategy and will attend future AWAC meetings when required.</p>
5	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Code of Practice for Cats</b></p> <p>Members discussed the definition of ‘euthanise’ and the distinction between euthanasia and humane killing. Concerns were raised that the community could misinterpret the meaning. ML clarified the meanings below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Euthanasia – end life to relieve suffering</li><li>- Humane killing – end life while minimising pain, stress and fear</li></ul> <p>Members noted that the cat code refers to humane killing.</p> <p>KD raised the issue if a cat cannot be rehomed. Members discussed that it would have to come under humane killing.</p> <p>EB updated the Cat Code document in the meeting during discussion.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed for the following stakeholders to be consulted with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACT AVA</li><li>• Australian Cat Federation</li><li>• ANCCats – ACT Cat Alliance</li><li>• Canberra Street Cat Alliance</li><li>• Cat Vet – Belconnen and Gungahlin</li><li>• Behaviourists – Dr Isabel Resch</li><li>• RSPCA ACT</li><li>• Domestic Animal Services</li><li>• Pounds and shelters</li><li>• General public – Secretariat to engage with the TCCS Communications team</li></ul>

**Action 5.1:** Secretariat to see [REDACTED]

## **5.2 Code of Practice for Small Mammals**

### **5.2a Ferrets**

SF discussed KD comments and agreed to:

- change 'should' to 'must' as standard wording
- suggested formatting changes as they don't affect the core content.

KD asked whether there was a reason we did not include 'ending of life', or 'euthanasia' and suggested it would be good to include this across all the codes.

**Agreed:** Members agreed this should be a standing item across all the small mammal codes.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to use the humane killing (end of life) wording from the Cat code (removing 10.4 and 10.5) and include in all the small mammals' codes.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to the Ferrets Code (incorporating KD amendments and noting the above comments) and advised it is ready to be sent to the Minister.

### **5.2b Guinea Pigs**

**Agreed:** Members agreed to incorporate KD comments in full and include humane killing (end of life) wording.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to the Guinea Pigs Code and advised it is ready to be sent to the Minister.

### **5.2c Rabbits**

**Agreed:** Members agreed to incorporate KD comments in full and include humane killing (end of life) wording.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to the Rabbits Code and advised it is ready to be sent to the Minister.

### **5.2d Rats and Mice**

**Agreed:** Members agreed to incorporate humane killing (end of life) wording.

Members discussed whether the code should be kept broad, or whether it should be defined to pets only.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to keep the code as a broad, not restricted to pets.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to the code noting above comments and advised it is ready to be sent to the Minister.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to inform the Minister (at the briefing) of the level of discussion around the phrasing used.

	<p><b>5.3 Code of Practice for Poultry (update)</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed to discuss at February meeting</p>
6	<p><b>Work Plan</b></p> <p>Held over</p>
7	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>Meeting closed 2:35pm</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 3 February 2023, videoconference</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #01

Friday, 3 February 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u></p> <p>Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Dr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Mr Bruce Hancocks (BH)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Jill Slaven (JSL)</p> <p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Mr Daniel Childs (DC), TCCS Animal Welfare Authority Mr Ashley Robbins, (AR) TCCS Animal Welfare Policy Officer Dr Kyelee Driver (KD), Observer</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Dr Wendy Townsend (WT)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p> <p><b>Previous minutes</b></p> <p>Members accepted the minutes from the 2 December 2022 meeting.</p>

2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Code of Practice Register and flow chart</b></p> <p>EB informed members that both the Reptile and Wildlife codes came into effect on Wednesday 1 February 2023, and that stakeholder engagement is taking place to make people aware that the codes are out there. GB thanked the Secretariat for their work in channelling the codes through the various processes.</p> <p>EB also advised that the Dogs, Horses, and Pounds and Shelters codes are currently sitting with TCCS Legal for review. The secretariat is currently working with TCCS Communications to create a stakeholder engagement pack to assist in informing the community upon implementation.</p> <p>The Committee noted the three codes of practice sitting with TCCS Legal. The Pounds and Shelters code was identified as a priority code they wish to see implemented.</p> <p>EB advised that the Minister signed off on the Jumps racing position statement.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1</b> Secretariat to follow up on the three CoPs sitting with Legal and ask them to prioritise, particularly the Pounds and Shelters CoP. Secretariat to advise MR of progress.</p> <p>Secretariat distributed a flow chart outlining the process of drafting CoP's through to Minister approval.</p> <p><b>Action 2.2:</b> Secretariat to PDF the code of practice flow chart and circulate to members for review.</p> <p><b>2.2 Actions Register</b></p> <p>Secretariat reminded board members to complete time sheets and forward to GB for approval. Once approved, the Secretariat will progress to HR Shared Services for payment.</p> <p>Secretariat advised that as of next month we will be producing a finance report for AWAC.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3:</b> GB and subcommittees to review cover letters for Pounds and Shelters, Dogs and Horses CoPs and forward to Secretariat to ensure Minister's advice is met.</p> <p><b>2.3 Risk Register</b></p> <p>Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to discuss at next meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>Update from meeting with Minister on 13/12/2022</b></p> <p>GB provided an update to members on the meeting with Minister Steel. It was agreed that upon submission of a new code, the Chair's cover letter to the Minister will also flag any potential contentious issues, include a summary of consultation feedback where relevant, and identify any changes from a previous published code.</p>
4	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update (verbal update)</b></p> <p>DC advised no further update on the Animal Welfare Management Strategy. Introduced AR who updated on what's happening at DAS.</p>

	Committee members and Secretariat introduced themselves to JS and AR.
5	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>5.1 CoP Template</b></p> <p><b>Action 5.1</b> Members to review CoP template OOS and let JSL know if any objections/ comments/ questions – add to March agenda.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2</b> ML to email standard chapter on health to JSL to add to draft CoP template.</p> <p><b>5.2 CoP Poultry</b></p> <p>SR has prepared draft ready to go to committee, MP and AR have already reviewed.</p> <p><b>Action 5.3</b> Secretariat to add draft CoP Poultry to the AWAC group on MS Teams to share with the Committee so everyone can review and edit.</p> <p><b>Action 5.4:</b> Secretariat to add Poultry Code to March agenda for further discussion.</p>
6	<p><b>Position Statement on Tree nets policy</b></p> <p>MP informed members that Wildlife ACT is applying for a \$25K grant to buy netting to replace netting across ACT. By next spring this will be up and running. Comms and brochures to raise awareness will be organised by ACT Government. Old netting will be melted down to minimise harm to animals. AWAC is no longer required to do a Position Statements on Tree Nets Policy, so GB has removed this from the Work Plan.</p>
7	<p><b>Work Plan</b></p> <p>Group discussion on work plan priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CoP for Cats – with MR, draft will be finished in Q1</li> <li>• CoP for Small mammals – SF to finalise and pass on to Secretariat for formatting</li> <li>• CoP for Cattle – ML will have draft finalised by end of March 2023</li> <li>• KD led a group discussion on the Livestock Saleyards, Depots CoP and the background as to the relevance considering we don't have any in ACT, will apply to commercial livestock animals, not on-farm livestock sales. Note that we adopted the national guidelines but added points on shelter.</li> </ul> <p>EB informed members that the Sheep and Cattle National Standards are copyright and if the Committee wished to reproduce this work with the identified amendments, they would first need to seek endorsement.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed for the updated Sheep and Cattle National Standards be sent to seek endorsement for AWAC to republish with amendments. Members agreed to include acknowledgement in the introduction that the CoPs are based on the national standards with adaptation to bring them into line with the ACT's animal welfare legislation.</p> <p><b>Action 7.1</b> Secretariat to check previous minutes to see why we are still doing this saleyards and depots code given we have none in the ACT. Secretariat to "hold" the draft in case ACT position changes (GB to send draft to Secretariat).</p> <p><b>Action 7.2</b> Secretariat to remove saleyards and depots, (number 6) from Work Plan.</p>

	<p><b>Action 7.3</b> ML to return Sheep draft code to the Secretariat who will then seek endorsement for AWAC to publish.</p> <p><b>Action 7.4</b> JS to set up Sub-Committee to draft CoP for Working Dogs and Secretariat to add to the Work Plan – link sent by GB <a href="https://cityservices.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1435320/17-373-Attachment-A-Animal-Welfare-and-Management-Strategy-Final.PDF">cityservices.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/1435320/17-373-Attachment-A-Animal-Welfare-and-Management-Strategy-Final.PDF</a></p> <p><b>Action 7.5:</b> Discussion around welfare of assistance dogs to continue at the March meeting. AR noted that assistance dogs are already covered by the Welfare of Dogs Code.</p> <p><b>Action 7.6</b> Secretariat to add JW to the subcommittee for the Work Plan item on Pets and domestic violence.</p>
8	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agenda items for next meeting to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Work plan</li><li>○ Risk Register</li><li>○ Discuss draft poultry code</li><li>○ CoP template</li><li>○ Welfare of assistance dogs</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Meeting closed 2:35pm</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 3 March 2023, MS Teams</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #02

Friday, 3 March 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u></p> <p>Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Dr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Bruce Hancocks (BH)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB)</p> <p><u>Other</u></p> <p>Mr Ashley Robbins, (AR) TCCS Animal Welfare Policy Officer Dr Kyeelee Driver (KD), Observer</p> <p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Ms Jill Slaven (JSL)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p> <p><b>Previous minutes</b></p> <p>Members accepted the minutes from the 3 March 2023 meeting.</p>

2

## Governance and Administration

### 2.1 Code of Practice Register

EB informed members that the Code of Practice for Dogs, Code of Practice for Horses and Code of Practice for Pounds and Shelters have been cleared by Legal and the Communications Package and Brief to the Minister are being finalised.

GB wants to ensure marketing message around the codes is adequate. She asked if subcommittees could meet with the Communications team, but LJ advised that their schedule is too busy. GB also suggested that the subcommittees review media releases and other comms material to ensure that they are correct.

**Action 2.1.1** GB to provide key messages for Code of Practice for Dogs, Code of Practice for Horses and Code of Practice for Pounds and Shelters to Secretariat to be included in the Communications package

MP advised that some wording in the native wildlife and reptile codes Communications/social media, wasn't quite correct.

**Action 2.1.2** EB to check the wording around reptile code and rehabilitation and report back to MP.

EB notified the committee that there are seven Codes of Practice in the CoP Register that have no codes attached to them. Some are in progress. Discussion ensued around setting up sub-committees for re-drafting the Fox Control and Recreational and Sport Fishing Codes of Practice.

**Action 2.1.3** JSL to add Fox Control and Recreational and Sport Fishing Codes of Practice to the Work Plan and the April agenda for discussion.

**Agreed:** ML to lead the Recreational and Sport Fishing Sub-committee with the support of MR, BH and MP.

**Agreed:** GB to lead the Fox Control Sub-committee with the support of MP, ML MR and BH and will engage with AR and KD as required.

### 2.2 Actions Register

EB noted we had received legal advice [REDACTED]

**Action 2.2** [REDACTED]

EB reminded Committee to submit timesheets in 5-hour blocks for additional hours worked.

### 2.3 Risk Register

LJ gave an outline of the requirements of the Risk Register and noted an outstanding recommendation from the AWAC audit to implement a Conflict of Interest Policy.

	<p><b>Agreed:</b> Committee agreed to implement a Conflict of Interest policy.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3</b> Secretariat to draft the Conflict of Interest policy for discussion at the April meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update (verbal update)</b></p> <p>AR provided a brief update of DAS statistics.</p> <p>AR advised that he was in the process of preparing a Ministerial brief requesting an exemption for farmers for dog registration and breeding licences to enable them to breed their own working dogs.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> The committee agreed that AWAC does not support this proposal as it could potentially create a loophole for illegal puppy farmers.</p>
4	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 CoP draft Template</b></p> <p>General discussion on the draft CoP template reflected members were happy to have the template and guidance for drafting CoPs.</p> <p>KD suggested and the committee agreed, from a compliance perspective, to use the word 'must' for mandatory standards and 'should' for guidelines.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1</b> ML to update the template, including KD's comments regarding headings and adding a line under the 5<sup>th</sup> domain, then send to Secretariat for distribution prior to the April meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2 (Previous action from February meeting)</b> ML to email standard chapter on health to JSL to add to draft CoP template.</p> <p><b>4.2 CoP Poultry</b></p> <p>Discussion centred mainly around 4.1 the use of night boxes to stop roosters from crowing, 4.4 space for chickens at shows and 11.2 flight restriction. MR suggested that as the existing code contains many outdated practices, Serrin and Marg could review the poultry codes in other jurisdictions to see if there is a more up-to-date code that the ACT could base its new code on (an approach that other subcommittees have taken).</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Committee agreed that a review of Poultry codes in other jurisdictions should be the next step.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.1</b> Serrin to conduct more research on best practice poultry codes and review the Codes in other jurisdictions with a view to finding a more current code which the Committee can base its new code on.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.2</b> Once Serrin has re-drafted the Code she can send it to JSL to place into the new CoP template. JSL and KD to work together to identify 'must' and 'should' wording.</p> <p><b>4.3 CoP Working Dogs</b></p>

	<p>AR advised that he and JS would like to attend sheep dog trials in coming weeks to speak to stakeholders about the Working Dog code.</p> <p>There was group discussion regarding whether farmers/graziers should be exempt from paying for registration and breeding licences as they breed their own farm working dogs.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> AR to let DC know that AWAC doesn't support this proposal and will need to revisit.</p>
5	<p><b>Work Plan and Priorities</b></p> <p>GB to work on the timeframes on the Work Plan for discussion at the April meeting. Work Plan to be prioritised in the April meeting so that it can be finalised and the secretariat can then seek Minister endorsement.</p> <p>GB will prioritise the Poultry Code in the Work Plan. Committee to let GB know if any other suggestions for additions to the Work Plan.</p> <p>SF advised the group that the Subcommittee has drafted the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Small Mammals and will place on the AWAC MS Teams group chat for people to review and provide comment.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1:</b> GB to finalise workplan for Committee agreement in April meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2:</b> Secretariat to email committee when SF puts on Teams</p> <p><b>Action 5.3:</b> Members to contact JSL or EB if still having issues getting on to the teams group.</p>
8	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agenda items for next meeting to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Finalise Action Plan</li><li>○ Risk Register – draft Conflict of Interest policy paper</li><li>○ Finalise CoP template</li><li>○ Small Mammals CoP</li></ul></li></ul> <p>Meeting closed 2:00pm</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> Thursday 6 April 2023, MS Teams</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #02

Thursday, 6 April 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u></p> <p>Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Dr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Bruce Hancocks (BH) Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Mr Wayne Slattery</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Jill Slaven (JSL)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p> <p><b>Previous minutes</b></p> <p>Members accepted the minutes from the 3 March 2023 meeting.</p>
2	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update (verbal update)</b></p> <p>DC provided an update on the Animal Welfare Authority and Animal Welfare Taskforce.</p>

3	<p><b>Work Plan and Priorities for 2023-24</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Finalise work plan</b></p> <p>GB advised that timings in the workplan have been updated since last meeting.</p> <p>LJ advised that the workplan needs to align with the \$40k budget and be provided to the Minister. LJ also noted that timesheets are required by end of April to meet end of financial year timings, and that a budget update is included as part of the meeting papers.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> that members will get their timesheets into Secretariat by end of April.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1:</b> Secretariat to contact Chris Mooney (Animal Welfare Taskforce) to see how our workplans align and request that he update AWAC on anything he foresees coming through for comment.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.1:</b> GB to draft cover letter for Minister to submit with the Work Plan.</p> <p><b>3.2 Bark reduction Policy (debarking)</b></p> <p>LJ advised this policy has been passed on to AWAC from Vet Board as it is a welfare issue and may be appropriate to be a Code of Practice. AWAC discussed.</p> <p><b>Action 3.2:</b> Secretariat to place this item on the work plan for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023</p> <p><b>Action 3.2.1:</b> ML to lead a Sub-committee with JW and MR to determine whether there should be a code of practice specifically for bark reduction or if it should be part of the CoP for Dogs.</p>
4	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Fox code</b></p> <p>Group discussion around whether there is a need for a fox code of practice.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1:</b> Secretariat to invite EPSDD to give a presentation next year on fox control in the ACT. This will help determine whether AWAC wishes to provide any advice regarding fox control, such as the most appropriate types of poisons available.</p> <p><b>4.2 Small Mammals Voting</b></p> <p>MP noted some editing is required in each of the small mammal codes.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Secretariat will tidy up editing and formatting issues in each of the small mammal codes.</p> <p><u>Guinea Pigs</u></p> <p>Consensus was reached in approving the Guinea Pigs code.</p> <p><u>Rabbits</u></p> <p>Consensus was reached in approving the Rabbit code.</p> <p><u>Rats and Mice</u></p> <p>Consensus was reached in approving the Rats and Mice code.</p> <p><u>Ferrets</u></p> <p>JS raised the fact that no reference was made for working ferrets.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> It was agreed to take ferrets offline so Sub-Committee can include working ferrets into the code as appropriate.</p>

	<p><b>Agreed:</b> It was agreed that once the Sub-committee has finalised the Ferret code they will seek out of session agreement via email. Once agreement reached the whole Small Mammals code will be progressed.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2:</b> SF to provide Secretariat with the Stakeholder list for small mammal consultation.</p>
	<p><b>5.1 Horse land transport paper</b></p> <p>WT advised the Animal Welfare Taskforce Group was seeking input on Land Transport for Horses Standards and Guidelines – following the recent death of the polo horses crossing the bass strait.</p> <p>WT raised the item in AWAC to gain useful feedback from ACT.</p> <p>A lot of issues and concerns raised such as travel sickness, travel times, size of bays in trucks and removal of shoes, however no consensus reached on any specific item due to limited discussion time.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> The committee agreed there was not enough time to discuss issues at length and provide constructive feedback for the taskforce.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1:</b> WT to request extension for feedback. If granted, AWAC could potentially discuss out of session and provide comment in the new timeframe.</p>
6	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>EB updated the committee on the status of CoPs for Dogs, Horses, Pounds and Shelters sitting with us while waiting on additional information before sending up to Minister.</p> <p><b>Action 6.1:</b> GB to provide wording on Pounds and Shelters and Horses to Secretariat.</p> <p>EB sought endorsement from the Committee to remove the Fox code and Fishing Code from the legislation register as the codes are no longer available on the register. The Committee endorsed the removal.</p> <p><b>Action 6.1.1:</b> Secretariat to remove the Codes from the register.</p> <p><b>6.2 Actions Register</b></p> <p>To be discussed in May meeting due to time constraints</p> <p>JW raised in the meeting chat if we could distribute meeting papers earlier to allow time for members to read prior to the meeting.</p> <p><b>6.3 Finance Report</b></p> <p>Discussed budget requirements and that timesheets for 22/23 financial year need to be submitted by end of April to make payroll cut-off.</p> <p><b>6.4 Risk Register</b></p> <p>To be discussed in the May meeting due to time restraints.</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #04

Friday, 5 May 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u> Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Mr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u> Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Jill Slaven (JSL)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Mr Bruce Hancocks (BH) Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Mr Daniel Childs (DC)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p>
2	<p><b>Workplan</b></p> <p>GB noted the Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG) workplan and reminded members that it is not for further circulation. The Committee identified a number of items which aligned with the AWAC's work and agreed to add these to the workplan.</p>

**Action 2.1:** Secretariat to add the below to AWAC workplan:

- Land Transport of Livestock (horses only) – monitor progress with view to providing submission
- Livestock at Processing Facilities – monitor progress with view to providing submission
- Virtual Fencing Technology – monitor progress with view to providing submission
- Australian Animal Welfare Strategy – monitor progress, liaise with Domestic Animal Services and brief Minister where required
- At direction of AGSOC, review and consider options for national standards and guidelines for animal welfare – monitor progress, liaise with Domestic Animal Services and brief Minister where required
- Sheep – monitor progress with view to providing submission
- Pigs – monitor progress with view to providing submission
- Horses – monitor progress with view to providing submission

Members discussed the possibility of Chris Mooney (Senior Director, DAS) putting forward the ACT's position regarding the development of the renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.

**AGREED:** Members agreed to discuss the adaptation of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the ACT sheep and cattle codes of practice with Chris Mooney at the next meeting.

**Action 2.2:** Secretariat to invite Chris Mooney to June AWAC meeting to provide further information on AWTG workplan and timeline and discuss the use of the national standards in the ACT Sheep/Cattle codes.

**Action 2.3:** ML to send background information on the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines regarding the adoption and adaptation of the national standards in the states and territories to the Secretariat to then pass onto Chris Mooney for discussion at next AWTG meeting in May.

**Action 2.4:** Secretariat to send link to the National Standards and Guidelines for Sheep to JS for information only.

Members questioned whether it is illegal to farm pigs in the ACT.

**Action 2.5:** Secretariat to confirm whether it's illegal to farm pigs in the ACT.

**Action 2.6:** Secretariat to invite Chris Mooney to attend AWAC meetings on a six-monthly basis to provide the Committee with regular updates on the progress of the AWTG workplan.

3

**Governance and Administration**

**3.1 Actions Register**

EB provided members with an update of the actions register.

**Action 3.1.1:** Secretariat to mark GB's outstanding action items as completed.

**Action 3.1.2:** Secretariat to write to the Animal Welfare Standards advising the ACT will not be implementing the Saleyard and Depots Code of Practice.

### 3.2 CoP Register

EB sought endorsement from AWAC members to remove three codes of practice from the ACT Legislation Register as they have no code attached. The codes are Livestock and Poultry, Animals at Saleyards and Commercial Poultry.

**AGREED:** The Committee unanimously agreed to have the Livestock and Poultry, Animals at Saleyards and Commercial Poultry codes removed from the ACT Legislation Register.

**Action 3.2.1:** Secretariat to remove the Livestock and Poultry, Animals at Saleyards and Commercial Poultry from the ACT Legislation Register.

Members discussed the need for a Code of Practice for Commercial Poultry. It was agreed that the discussion would be taken offline.

**Action 3.2.2:** Secretariat to add Commercial Poultry Code of Practice to the AWAC workplan – monitor development of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for poultry with a view to adapting to the ACT as a matter of priority.

### 3.3 Finance Report

Committee members noted the monthly finance report.

**Action 3.3.1:** EB to review finance spreadsheet noting the amount of \$1,464 is replicated.

### 3.4 Risk Register

EB provided members with an overview of the *Failure to manage AWAC allocated budget or meet deliverables within allocated budget* risk category. EB discussed how the risk category reflects the budget as it currently stands and the importance that the workplan aligns with the budget.

**AGREED:** Members agreed the risk category is acceptable and will continue to monitor.

4

## Codes of Practice

### 4.1 Ferrets – vote

SF updated the Committee with addition of section 12 Ferreting to the Code of Practice and that each statement is a standard rather than a guideline.

**Action 4.1.1:** Secretariat to confirm whether the below statement should be a standard or a guideline and add legislative requirement re: not allowing animals to kill other animals (incitement):

*S 12.4 Ferrets used for ferreting must be kept and cared for as per the other standards and guidelines in this code.*

Members discussed the use of the word 'it' when referring to ferrets as they are sentient beings and changing the terminology to 'the ferret/s'.

**AGREED:** Members agreed moving forward to refer to the animal by name (or plural) rather than 'it' (e.g. 'the ferret/s').

**Action 4.1.2:** SF/Secretariat to replace all 'it' references in the Ferrets code to either 'the ferret/s' or 'they'.

	<p><b>AGREED:</b> The Committee unanimously voted in support of the Ferrets code with SF's changes with four codes now ready for consultation.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.3:</b> Secretariat to transpose the four small mammal codes into the new template ready for consultation.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.4:</b> SF to provide the Secretariat and other members with a stakeholder list for small mammal consultation.</p> <p><b>4.2 Poultry Code</b></p> <p>SRP updated the committee on the extensive research she had undertaken for existing non-commercial poultry codes to gain further information for AWAC's CoP. SRP explained the difficulty she had in finding relevant sources of information.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.1:</b> ML to send SPR the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• link on NSW DPI on keeping backyard chickens</li> <li>• link on RSPCA Knowledge Base on keeping chickens</li> <li>• details of an avian vet who may have information on keeping chickens</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 4.2.2:</b> MP to send SRP link to Jacqui Ffrench on home chooks.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.3:</b> MP and SRP to arrange a sub-committee meeting to re-draft CoP. Once draft completed, send to JSL to upload on to MS Teams for members to review and make comments.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.4:</b> Secretariat to add Poultry Code to June agenda for further discussion.</p> <p><b>4.3 Cats Code</b></p> <p>The Committee agreed that the Cats code is complete.</p> <p><b>Action 4.3.1:</b> Secretariat to transpose Cat Code on the new template and upload to MS Teams for review prior to voting at the June meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 4.3.2:</b> Secretariat to add Cat Code to June agenda (at top) for voting.</p> <p><b>Action 4.3.3:</b> Committee members to provide Secretariat with consultation stakeholders for Cat code.</p>
5	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>5.1 PIC miniature goat</b></p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> In WT's absence, members agreed to hold the discussion over to June's meeting. Members to think about how to move forward considering the paper provided at this meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1.1:</b> Secretariat to add PIC miniature goat to June's agenda for further discussion.</p> <p><b>5.2 Debarking Policy</b></p> <p>ML, MR and MP agreed to work on debarking policy (bark reduction).</p>
6	Close meeting

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #04

Friday, 2 June 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u> Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Mr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Mr Bruce Hancocks (BH)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u> Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Jill Slaven (JSL) Mr Daniel Childs (DC)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Mr Chris Mooney (CM) Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SRP)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>LJ provided members with an update of the CoP register and noted that the Small Mammals codes are with MO and consultation underway.</p>

## 2.2 Actions register

LJ noted that actions mostly up to date. A reminder to members to check and make sure they are actioning as required.

**Action 2.2.1:** ML to update the horse code to incorporate stakeholder feedback and distribute to members.

**Action 2.2.2:** Secretariat to add the consultation feedback template to July agenda under 'Governance'.

**Action 2.2.3:** Secretariat to add 'completion of consultation table' into the CoP flow chart.

**AGREED:** Members agreed that sub-committees will complete the consultation feedback template for future codes.

## 2.3 Finance Report

LJ went through the monthly finance report, noting:

- we are currently sitting under budget but still processing timesheets, so this will change significantly by EOFY
- the absolute cut-off for submitting timesheets for payment this financial year is next Tuesday 13 June, Secretariat would prefer to receive them by Friday 9 June
- that moving forward, Members must submit timesheets as soon as they have accumulated blocks of 5 hours.

**Action 2.3.1:** [REDACTED]

## 2.4 Risk Register

### Inability to effectively comply with regulatory and legislative obligations

LJ advised that the key actions to review are:

- AWAC Charter, will be added to upcoming meeting
- Conflict of interest policy
- Finalising SOPs.

**AGREED:** Members agreed the risk category is acceptable and will continue to monitor.

**Action 2.4.1** Secretariat to add the AWAC Charter to the upcoming meeting?

MR raised the risk of 'not meeting the need of the Minister' and how is this determined.

LJ commented that this is determined through Ministers actions, such as approval of Workplan and attending meetings.

GB added that the when the Minister requests AWAC advice regarding specific animal welfare issues, the Committee always prioritises its response to the Minister.

	<p>MR raised the importance of self-assessment – a couple of dot points of self-reflection of what has been achieved at each year.</p> <p>GB noted that at the end of every year she always provides a letter to the Minister outlining what has been achieved throughout the year, in line with her responsibilities as Chair.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.2:</b> Secretariat to add 'self-assessment' to the risk register</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.3:</b> GB and MR to write dot points at the end of the year outlining what has been achieved through the year and distribute to Secretariat and Members – it can then be closed off in line with the risk register.</p> <p>BH informed members that he will be leaving his role on the Committee and that Stephanie Pulford – Parks and Conservation - will be taking his place. Bruce believes Stephanie has very good knowledge of the Nature Conservation Act and will be a good addition to AWAC.</p>
3	<p><b>3.1 Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>DC informed the committee that Holly Hart commenced in the role of DAS Animal Welfare Officer last week and Chris Mooney is bringing her up to speed.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> DC suggested he meet with GB, MR and Holly for coffee, and that Holly is invited to attend all future AWAC meetings.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.1:</b> Secretariat to add Holly Hart to future AWAC meetings.</p> <p>Members discussed the work of the Animal Welfare Authority, DAS and AWAC, and the possibility of bridging any gaps.</p> <p>SF affirmed that AWAC has the expertise and knowledge to assist DAS with certain issues and is happy to assist where required.</p> <p>DC recognise that they need to use AWAC for issues arising in DAS and in the AWTG, and encouraged members to forward any questions for DAS or AWTG on to him.</p> <p>GB noted that AWAC is mindful of the AWTG work plan and this has been incorporated into AWAC's work plan, which enables a more streamlined approach.</p> <p>BH - ACT must be across a broader range of issues and advised that the CVO and Biosecurity vet are available to provide input to AWTG work.</p> <p>DC Incident reports – The AWTG is investigating ways of improving reporting of incidents.</p> <p>DC – Chris Mooney was asked to provide the ACT position on the gas stunning of pigs.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.2</b> DC will send the gas stun document to Secretariat to circulate to members who will provide input back to DAS via the secretariat.</p> <p><b>3.2 Rabbit Meat industry</b></p> <p>DC initiated discussion around AVA who has formed a group to look at the industry in Australia surrounding biosecurity risks from untreated diseases. The AVA are looking to get ACT's views on how we might address these issues.</p>

	<p>Members suggested to try and ascertain an understanding whether there is any monitoring at all on meat rabbit rearing, food safety standards are an issue, is it being monitored? Could possibly prepare a CoP to raise standards.</p> <p>ML continued discussion around the fact that ACT has a broad expertise and has expertise and knowledge from industry and from a welfare perspective.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed that we must first determine whether we have any registered meat breeders in the ACT.</p> <p>MR advised there have been no complaints coming through RSPCA.</p> <p><b>Action 3.2.1</b> DC to chat with DAS to see if they know who to go to for information – and to check if there’s any complaints coming through DAS.</p> <p>JS unaware of any commercial rabbit production in ACT – he will raise it at his next meeting if any of his colleagues are privy to information.</p> <p><b>Action 3.2.2</b> JS to report findings back to AWAC.</p> <p>SF suggested DAS could ask game meat butchers in the ACT where they source their rabbit meat from.</p>
4	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Cat Code – vote</b></p> <p>JS noted that snakes weren’t mentioned in the CoP.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> After some discussion it was agreed by all members to list snakes as an additional hazard.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.1</b> The subcommittee to add appropriate words to the CoP to cover snake hazard.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.2</b> The subcommittee to make changes as per JW’s comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• G.1.2 desexing under mandatory will be a standard</li><li>• G.1.9 and G.1.10 link to AWAC website, should we add a link to the City Service website rather than AWAC – check hyperlink</li><li>• JW trapped cats Section 9 trapped cats – agreed. Change wording in standard section to humane cat trap</li><li>• Section 10.5 ending a cats life – should we word it the same as the dogs code, add in registered veterinarian</li><li>• G10.6 – remove the word “kill” and use the word “euthanise” or “end the cats life humanely”</li><li>• ML 10.2 agreed to amend wording around veterinary surgeon update to delete the words on registered veterinarian</li></ul> <p><b>AGREED:</b> All members unanimously agreed to approve the cat code taking into consideration the 7 changes above, and go out to consultation</p>

	<p><b>Action 4.1.3</b> Secretariat to put into the new template then send back to ML and MR to amend the 7 changes.</p> <p><b>4.2 Poultry Code</b></p> <p>SF advised that there might be a vet that could assist Serrin with the CoP. He is an avian specialist and suggested AWAC could use some of their budget to procure expert advice.</p> <p>LJ suggested the committee revisit budget next meeting and that a government procurement process would need to be followed.</p> <p>GB noted that the former Animal Welfare Officer had provided a brief to the Minister regarding Rooster complaints and is hoping that AWAC will be able to have access to that brief. This would enable the subcommittee to try to address these issues in the Code of Practice.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Committee agreed to discuss further in the July meeting due to time constraints in this meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.1</b> Secretariat to add to July agenda - Poultry code will be discussed along with committee agreement on funding for external consultant.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.1:</b> Secretariat to ask Chris Mooney if AWAC can have access to any information about rooster complaints (eg briefs that have already been written).</p>
5	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>5.1 PIC miniature goat</b></p> <p>MR – WT has been getting applications from people who want to keep miniature goats for pets.</p> <p>Committee discussed domestic animal versus farm animals.</p> <p>WT has had to award the PIC – we need to reprioritise the CoP for keeping small farm animals as pets so that there is a framework to prevent this becoming a welfare issue in the ACT.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to prioritise developing a code of practice small farm animals as pets.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1.1:</b> GB to add to the workplan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1. CoP Keeping Small farm animals as pets; and</li><li>• 2. Recommendations regarding legislative amendments</li></ul> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Committee agreed that SF, ML, WT and MR to be on the Keeping small farm animals as pets sub-committee with WT to be the lead.</p> <p><b>5.2 Drowning Traps</b> – members agreed to hold this item over to the July meeting due to time constraints.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2.1</b> Secretariat to add Drowning traps to July agenda.</p>
6	<p><b>Closed meeting at 2.10pm</b></p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #04

Friday, 14 July 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Microsoft Teams Meeting

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u> Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Mr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u> Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Jill Slaven (JSL)</p> <p><u>Other</u> Mr Daniel Childs (DC) Mr Chris Mooney (CM) Ms Stephanie Pulsford (SP)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SRP) Mr Bruce Hancocks (BH) Ms Holly Hart (HH)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p>GB welcomed Stephanie Pulsford and members briefly introduced themselves.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>SF declared conflict regarding letter to AWTG (Animal Welfare Task Group) from CSO in Item 3.2.</p>

<p>2</p>	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>EB provided members with an update of the CoP register and confirmed that the Small Mammals codes consultation is underway. Feedback due in 6 weeks.</p> <p>EB informed members the secretariat had received the consultation feedback table for the Pounds and Shelters Code. Members advised the consultation feedback table for the Horse and Dog Codes was nearing completion. Once all documentation has been received, the secretariat will progress the codes to the Minister as a package.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.1:</b> MR to liaise with JW to review dog CoP consultation feedback and provide table to Secretariat.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.2:</b> ML to finalise horse code consultation feedback table and provide to Secretariat.</p> <p><b>2.2 Actions register</b></p> <p>Members noted the actions. EB reminded members to check and make sure they are actioning as required.</p> <p><b>2.3 Finance Report – June 2023</b></p> <p>LJ went through the monthly finance report, noting to date, the Committee was sitting at \$33,000 against the \$40,000 budget.</p> <p>Members were asked to think about the forward 12-month workplan and the need to be strategic about the workplan and where money is being spent, noting the Committee has previously discussed engaging a consultant.</p> <p><b>2.4 Business Summary – AWAC Charter and MOU</b></p> <p>LJ reminded members that the Charter needs to be reviewed annually. The Secretariat has reviewed with minor updates in red.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.1:</b> Committee to review AWAC Charter and MOU and provide feedback at August meeting. Secretariat to add to August agenda.</p> <p><b>2.5 Stakeholder Consultation Feedback template</b></p> <p>EB showed an example of a consultation feedback table for members to use for future codes feedback.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><b>3.1 Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>DC advised that HH was a late apology for this meeting but will be in attendance for future meetings. The Committee was informed that GB and MR would be meeting HH the following week.</p> <p>DC provided an update from the Joint racing committee last month, informing the committee of an upcoming review investigating limited whipping at horse races, to be undertaken by JACS.</p>

### 3.2 Business Summary AWTG items

CM provided an AWTG update on their approved workplan with a focus on standards development across a range of issues including poultry and the land transport of pigs and horses.

**Action 3.2.1:** CM to forward document re land transport to AWAC for information.

**Action 3.2.2:** ML to forward comments to CM on humane methods of mass destruction methods on poultry farms to be relayed back to the working group at their next meeting.

CM confirmed that AWAC can vary the AWTG Sheep and cattle standards accordingly as they apply in the ACT.

**Action 3.2.3:** CM to share the response confirming this to the Secretariat.

Members discussed the need to highlight the differences in the ACT codes of practice from the national standards. One suggestion was to highlight and bold the differences, in addition to noting the changes in the introduction.

**Action 3.2.4:** Secretariat to identify the changes in the proposed Sheep and Cattle codes from the national standards and bring back to August meeting.

4

### Codes of Practice

#### 4.1 Poultry Code

Members held a brief discussion around AWAC using their budget on engaging an external consultant ( ) to finalise the Poultry CoP.

ML suggested AWAC may get enough feedback from the consultation process and might not need to go down consultant path.

**Agreed:** Members agreed to undertake a pre-consultation with key stakeholders (i.e. The Unusual Pet Vet) to obtain initial feedback to see if they could gather information themselves before deciding to hire an external consultant.

**Action 4.1.1:** Secretariat to add Poultry Code to August agenda.

**Action 4.1.2:** Poultry sub-committee to meet prior to August meeting to decide how best to proceed.

#### 4.2 Business Summary Beekeeping in residential areas

GB sought input from the Committee whether beekeeping was a priority. The Committee agreed that AWAC doesn't need to be involved.

**Action 4.2.1:** GB to respond to EPSDD advising AWAC would like to be provided with information but will not be taking an active role.

#### 4.3 Working farm dogs code

Members held a brief discussion regarding AWAC's task to advise TCCS if the ACT should adopt the NSW code of practice for working farm dogs. The sub-committee considers that the CoP should be adopted but with some additions, including the definition of a working farm dog. A definition is proposed in the discussion paper circulated in the meeting papers.

**Action 4.3.1:** Secretariat to add 'Working farm dogs code' to August agenda.

	<p><b>4.4 Cat Code – vote</b></p> <p>The Committee reviewed the Cat Code and agreed to the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G1.4 sentence amended for clarity.</li> <li>• S3A.1 amend word from "<i>predators such as snakes</i>" to "<i>dangers such as snakes</i>"</li> <li>• S3B.1 amend word from "<i>predators such as snakes</i>" to "<i>dangers such as snakes</i>"</li> <li>• G3A.3 re-introduce the sentence "<i>it is recommended / advisable for both your cat's and out wildlife's wellbeing to keep your cat indoors.</i>"</li> <li>• G3A.3 Replaced wording from 'indoors' to 'contained within your premises'</li> <li>• G6.7 amended to include a non-slip surface in bottom of cage to keep the cat comfortable.</li> <li>• 9 Objectives add the word "humanely" back in</li> <li>• S9.1(d) delete altogether</li> <li>• S10.1 remove "or due to specific animal management regulations."</li> <li>• G10.5 delete as it is explained in G10.6; G10.6 now becomes G10.5</li> <li>• G10.5 remove word 'acute' add in 'severe'</li> <li>• Ensure all anything that references 'suitably qualified person' is removed. Should just be a 'registered veterinarian.'</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 4.4.1:</b> MR to send notes to Secretariat to update.</p> <p><b>Action 4.4.2:</b> Secretariat to send final version to MR and ML for review before going out to consultation.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to use the word 'registered' in front of 'veterinarian' in all codes moving forward.</p>
5	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Drowning traps</b></p> <p><b>Action 5.1.1:</b> Secretariat To add Drowning traps to August agenda.</p> <p><b>5.2 Openness Agreement</b></p> <p><b>Action 5.2.1:</b> Secretariat to add to August agenda.</p>
6	<p><b>Closed meeting at 2.10pm</b></p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #07

Friday, 04 August 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

MS Teams Meeting

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u> Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SRP) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Mr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u> Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB)</p> <p><u>Other</u> Ms Holly Hart (HH)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Ms Jill Slaven (JSL) Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Dr Stephanie Pulsford (SP) Mr Daniel Childs (DC)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No members declared a conflict of interest.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Actions Register</b></p>

	<p>Members agreed to check their actions on the Actions Register and mark as complete once finalised.</p> <p>GB provided update on the work plan priorities and is working with HH to introduce ‘traffic light’ system to help identify priorities against time and budget allocation.</p> <p>HH noted the long list of items on the work plan and the importance of prioritising and meeting expectations.</p> <p>SF suggested AWAC can keep to the budget by focussing their time on technical aspects of work and handing over the time-consuming editing, formatting tasks to Secretariat.</p> <p>GB also advised action items 5.1.1 and 4.1.2 are complete.</p> <p><b>2.2 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>Members were informed that the Small Mammals codes are out for community consultation and the final date for comments is 28 August 2023.</p> <p>SF informed the Committee she will be on leave during September/October, however, for the Secretariat to still send through the consolidated consultation comments.</p> <p><b>2.3 Finance Report</b></p> <p>No financial transactions recorded for July 2023.</p> <p><b>2.4 Risk Register</b></p> <p>Members reviewed the ‘Failure of AWAC to meet the expectations of stakeholders’ risk category. LJ suggested and members agreed to adding <i>delivering of the AWAC workplan</i> as an action in terms of meeting the expectations of the Minister to the treatment action column of the Risk Register.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.1:</b> Secretariat to update risk register.</p> <p><b>2.5 AWAC Charter and MOU</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed to the minor changes to the Charter and MOU.</p> <p><b>Action 2.5.1:</b> Secretariat to finalise AWAC Charter and MOU and prepare final copies for signature.</p>
3	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>No update.</p>
4	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Poultry Code</b></p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed that ML will present the draft code to the ACT division of AVA for them to review and see if they pick up on anything obvious that requires changing prior to going to wider consultation.</p> <p>SF suggested to potentially use the words from the RSPCA knowledge base article that is soon to be published.</p>

**Action 4.1.1:** SRP to forward the draft cop welfare of birds in captivity document to the committee.

**Action 4.1.2:** ML suggested wording below and the committee agreed for Serrin to include in the draft CoP – “newly hatched chicks have an internal nutrition source for the first 24 hours. However, best practice is to make sure that they have access to water and nutrients”.

#### **4.2 Working Farm Dogs Code**

Members discussed the NSW Code for working farm dogs and whether it is appropriate to adopt here in the ACT.

**Agreed:** the subcommittee will review the current dog code to identify any gaps from the perspective of owners of working dogs. Then revisit at next meeting to determine best course of action whether to develop a whole new code or tweak the existing dog code.

SF advised that an Australian standard has been written about assistance dogs.

GB raised the issue as to whether our dog code would cover all categories of working dogs. JW to investigate the different categories of working dogs and whether they have codes or standards already.

**Action 4.2.1:** Secretariat to send word version of dog code to JS to review with sub-committee (WS and JW) before bringing back to the Committee for discussion at September meeting.

**Action 4.2.2:** JW to investigate working dog categories and report back at September meeting.

**Action 4.2.3:** Secretariat to add Working Farm Dogs Code to September agenda for further discussion.

## **5 Other Business**

### **5.1 Drowning Traps**

ML raised the issue of inhumane rodent traps sold in Bunnings and whether AWAC can do anything to prevent this.

JS confirmed that Bunnings don't sell the drowning traps but saw that they are available online.

**Agreed:** Members agreed that AWAC is unable to control the sale of these traps online.

### **5.2 Openness Agreement**

SF advised the committee that ANZZCART are calling for greater transparency and openness on the use of animals in research and testing across Australia. They are asking for supporters and/or signatories.

SF raised the possibility of drafting a letter from AWAC to the AWA and Minister recommending the Minister and ACT Government support the initiative.

LJ notes that we will have to liaise with Stephanie Pulsford to ensure EPSDD view is represented in the letter.

ML advised AVA had received ANZZCART correspondence and has agreed to become a supporter.

**Agreed:** Members endorsed SF collaborating with EPSDD and drafting letter from AWAC.

6

Meeting closed.

**Next meeting:** 01 September 2023, 12.00pm – 2.00pm

**Action 6:** Secretariat to email members seeking interest in meeting in person on 1 September. If not September, maybe October.

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #07

Friday, 01 September 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

In-person Meeting

480 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u> Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SRP) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Mr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u> Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Jill Slaven (JSL)</p> <p><u>Other</u> Ms Holly Hart (HH)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Dr Stephanie Pulsford (SP) Mr Daniel Childs (DC)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>SF declared an interest in relation to the NHRMC papers on rodents, as noted below.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Actions Register</b> <b>Pounds and Shelters</b></p>

**AGREED:-** Members agreed that the Pounds and shelters CoP will go up to the Minister, as a matter of priority, independently of the Horse and Dog codes.

### **Dogs and Horses**

JW to finalise the community consultation feedback table for the dog code and provide to Secretariat.

WS to advise Secretariat once he has done a final review of the horse code, so it can be forwarded, together with the Dog code to Minister.

### **Qld DAF D-RIS on Improving horse welfare during land transport**

Members discussed the revised D-RIS that had input from WT. WS raised a concern regarding the 'veterinary inspection of horses prior to travel'.

**Action 2.1.1** WS to email the reference in question to the Secretariat so they can seek clarification from CM.

**Action 2.1.2** Secretariat to check with CM whether he was seeking feedback on the DRIS document from the Qld government or providing it to AWAC for information only. The Secretariat will inform members by email.

### **2.2 Code of Practice Register**

Pounds and shelters draft code finalised and being progressed to the Minister.

Draft Horse draft CoP finalised and ready to go to Minister, waiting on dog code consultation feedback table from JW.

Committee expressed their gratitude for the Secretariat organising the Action register and Code of Practice register.

### **2.3 Finance Report**

Only sitting fees reported on - no other financial transactions recorded for August 2023.

Discussion around timesheet process. The Secretariat referred to the email circulated by Ms Johnson to all members outlining the requirements for claiming time worked and confirmed the process in place from September 2023 as follows:

- timesheets should be submitted for approval as soon as a block of 5 hours has been reached.
- the 5 hours may be recorded on the one timesheet.
- a record, in the form of dot points or a paragraph, outlining the work undertaken, needs to be included in the approval email to GB.

### **Conflict of interest Policy**

**AGREED:-** Members agreed that the Conflict-of-interest policy is a good resource, and they endorsed the policy with a review in 12 months.

	<p><b>2.4 Work Plan</b></p> <p>GB advised that herself MR, HH, DC and Shane Kelly all met and discussed the workplan and re-prioritised items with the main change being to add in a context column in the far right to ensure there is enough detail for the Minister.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.1:</b> ML and MP to review the text in the context column to ensure it's accurate.</p> <p>HH explained the colour coded 'traffic light' system that reflects major (red), medium (orange) and minor (green) priorities and monitoring (grey) - the timeline column will be removed and replaced with the colour code column, status column.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.2:</b> Members to provide comments on the workplan that JSL sent out with August papers and send back to Secretariat who will pass on to HH to update and forward to DC to clear.</p> <p>LJ reminded the committee that financial costs for each item on the workplan need to be considered before it goes to Minister explaining how the workplan will be delivered in the context of the budget framework – <b>suggested wording is</b> - AWAC is confident it can manage this workplan in line with the budget based on the priorities identified.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>HH provided the AWA update and advised that EPSDD have requested input from DAS regarding licencing for the use of venomous snakes for research and teaching purposes.</p> <p>HH is formalising a response along the lines that any requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and will circulate her response to AWAC once finalised.</p> <p>MR advised that RSPCA does not agree with the use of snakes for research purposes.</p> <p>EPSDD pet food working group are seeking information on current regulations.</p> <p>ML mentioned the Senate review in 2018 on pet food regulation and the work that AVA, DAF have done.</p> <p>EB emailed the AWAC Position Statement on pet food to HH to help formulate their response to EPSDD.</p> <p>HH will summarise the information she has and circulate to AWAC for information.</p> <p>LJ raised the issue of Research on Rats and Rodents – still waiting on permission from NHMRC to share the papers with AWAC – SF noted her conflict of interest for when it is discussed further in AWAC. Members agreed that SF could provide context and participate in conversations as this would be useful for AWAC but wouldn't be a voting member on the final position paper. Members agreed this was an appropriate response to the declared conflict.</p> <p>Members agreed that when papers are distributed, they will review and provide comment out of session, via email, and HH, GB and ML will work together to collate an AWAC position.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Keeping small farm animals as pets</b></p> <p>Lack of existing framework on the keeping of small farm animals was noted.</p>

There was discussion around whether to call it miniature goats and not small farm animals. There was also a conversation around keeping the code broad enough to include other “miniature” animals as and when they become an issue.

ML suggested a creating a code specific to miniature goats and add other small farm animals as required.

**AGREED:** All members agreed to draft a cop for the keeping of small farm animals. Keep the introduction generic to include all small farm animals with goats included in the first chapter, then add chapters for other specific animals if needed.

WT and MR will take the lead and seek input and collaboration from all members, specifically JS and WS

#### **4.2 Cat Code**

SF noted a typo that EB updated in the meeting.

ML change to ‘mental state’ in template not in cat code. EB updated in meeting.

Canberra Cat vet hospitals (Belconnen and Gungahlin) added to consultation list.

**AGREED:** Members agreed that draft code is finalised and ready to send out for consultation

#### **4.3 Poultry Code**

SF advised that RSPCA has recently produced papers on Poultry that she will share once they are uploaded.

SF to email through comments and suggested changes to SRP before she goes on leave.

SRP will update code with SF comments.

SRP will review ANU papers and update code with any relevant information and distribute to members to review prior to October meeting where “should’s” and “must’s” will be identified.

ML sent code to ACT division of AVA with a 4–5-week timeframe for comments.

Members discussed issues surrounding native birds in captivity in relation to the review of the existing code for the welfare of birds in captivity.

LJ suggested SRP have a conversation with Stephanie Pulsford, EPSDD, offline, who is ultimately responsible for the legislation and exemptions around this, and that she could give some context and ensure the code of practice is in line with their objectives.

#### **4.4 Sheep and Cattle guidelines**

Members agreed that the changes in red in the national standards were not extensive enough to warrant further consultation prior going to the Minister. Once it has been to the Minister the Secretariat will seek specific feedback from the Rural Landowners Association.

P2 typo, Cattle instead of sheep – EB changed in the meeting.

	<p>There was a discussion around the practicality of providing anaesthetic when ear tagging sheep.</p> <p><b>AGREED:-</b> It was agreed by all members that 5.9 Ear tagging be made a guideline and ear marking remain as a standard.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> – All members agreed to change the wording around Euthanasia and projectiles to “with a soft point or hollow point projectile” – EB changed the wording in the meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 4.4.1:</b> ML to work with EB on adding wording about tethering at shows or exhibitions.</p> <p><b>4.5 Working farm dogs code.</b></p> <p><b>Action 4.5.1:</b> Secretariat to add this item to October agenda.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> - All members agreed to review and respond to the comments on the draft code prior to next meeting.</p> <p>JS asked members to consider whether we use the existing dog code to include working farm dogs or develop a new code specific to working farm dogs only.</p>
5	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>Nil raised.</p>
6	<p>Meeting closed.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 13 October 2023, 12.00pm – 2.00pm</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #09

Friday, 13 October 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

MS Teams Meeting

	<p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u> Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Mr John Starr (JS) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Dr Stephanie Pulsford (SP)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u> Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB) Ms Jill Slaven (JSL)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Mr Daniel Childs (DC) Ms Holly Hart (HH) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SRP)</p>
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No conflicts declared.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Actions Register</b></p> <p>EB advised the Committee that the Charter and MOU are now finalised and in place.</p> <p>The Cat code of practice has been sent out for consultation. Feedback is due to the Secretariat by Monday, 27 November 2023.</p>

	<p>A brief has been sent to the Minister for the sheep and cattle codes seeking agreement to consult with the Rural Landholders' Association.</p> <p>Members discussed the consultation feedback table for the Dog Code. JW to resend the feedback table to the secretariat.</p> <p>Discussion between GB and EB around the work plan and when it would be sent to the Minister.</p> <p><b>AGREED</b> – it was agreed that the end of year letter and workplan is to be sent to the Minister asap rather than wait until December as that is a busy time of year in the Minister's office.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.1</b> GB to send the final workplan and end of year letter to Secretariat who will progress to the Minister's office.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.2</b> Secretariat to mark John's rabbit action as complete on the Actions Register.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.3</b> JW to resend the Dog Code consultation feedback table to the Secretariat.</p> <p><b>2.2 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>EB advised that the register has been updated, noting the progress of codes.</p> <p><b>2.3 Finance Report</b></p> <p>EB updated the committee on the finance report.</p> <p>GB reminded members to submit timesheets at the end of each month.</p> <p>GB suggested that we could update committee members Contact details on a spreadsheet.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3.1</b> Secretariat to update member contact list and circulate to members.</p> <p><b>2.4 Risk Register</b></p> <p>EB advised that AWAC is up to date with risk categories and members were asked to consider any additional risks to include to the register. No additional risks were identified.</p>
3	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>No update.</p>
4	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Working Farm dogs</b></p> <p>Members discussed the best way forward, whether to incorporate working dogs into the existing dog code or create a new standalone working dogs code.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.1</b> SP to identify how many working farm dogs there are in the ACT and report back to the Secretariat and Committee.</p> <p>JS advised that at the most recent Rural Landholders' Association AGM the president's report stated there are 169 farmers in the ACT.</p>

Members agreed that the existing code could apply to working dogs too with a few minor edits. Slight wording changes were made during the meeting to the following sections to include provisions for working farm dogs:

- S3.3.4
- S4.1
- G7.1.6

**AGREED** - After reviewing the code and JS comments, members agreed that it was not necessary to create a new standalone code for working dogs and changes were made during the meeting to the existing Dog code to include provisions for working farm dogs.

**AGREED** - It was agreed that further consultation would not be needed as the changes to the code are minimal.

**Action 4.1.2** GB to write to DC, AWA advising that the Committee decided to add working farm dogs into the existing dog code rather than create a new code.

**Action 4.1.3** GB to include in the letter to the Minister that the Dog code now encompasses working dogs in the ACT.

#### **4.2 Small Mammals – review of stakeholder consultation**

EB advised that we have received additional feedback from EPSDD that has not yet been included in the consultation table.

**Action 4.2.1** Secretariat to add EPSDD feedback into the consultation table and send to SF to review before discussing further in AWAC.

#### **Ferrets**

The following feedback was agreed to by members:

- 6. Health section – ongoing health care – ferrets must be vaccinated against distemper virus - AWAC agreed to add
- 6. New standard to add in anal sac removal – add in wording “unless for medical reasons” – AWAC agreed
- 7. Humans with respiratory infections...- - AWAC agreed to accept addition
- 8. Identification section – that microchipping of ferrets should be mandatory – SF discuss – should it be a guideline – may need advice whether we can make it mandatory – wouldn’t stand up as a code of practice – leave it as a guideline. AWAC agreed to add “Strongly recommend owners get microchipping done”
- 9. Vaccination schedule for ferrets – Suzie added a guideline – AWAC agreed to make it a standard

**AGREED** - Members finalised the discussion on Ferrets and agreed to carry over discussion on the other 3 small mammals feedback to next meeting

**Action 4.2.2** ML to send the consultation table (ferrets section updated) to the Secretariat so they can add EPSDD feedback to the table and forward to SF to review prior to discussing at next AWAC meeting.

#### **4.3 Poultry Code**

**Action 4.3.1** Secretariat to add Poultry Code to November agenda

5	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>GB confirmed we are proceeding with a code of practice on captive birds and that SRP is the lead and MP on the subcommittee.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1</b> Secretariat to add Captive Birds Code to November agenda</p> <p>JS raised the possibility of a sheep dairy being developed on Majura Road.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2</b> JS to investigate the possibility of a sheep dairy being developed on Majura Road and report back to the Committee in the November meeting.</p>
6	<p>Meeting closed.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> 1 November 2023, 12.00pm – 2.00pm</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #10

Friday, 03 November 2023

12.00pm – 2.00pm

Videoconference

1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.</p> <p><b>Attendees</b></p> <p><u>Committee members</u> Ms Genevieve Butler (GB) Dr Melanie Latter (ML) Mr John Starr (JS) Dr Suzanne Fowler (SF) Ms Serrin Rutledge-Prior (SRP) Ms Margaret Peachey (MP) Ms Judith Woolley (JW) Dr Stephanie Pulsford (SP)</p> <p><u>Secretariat</u> Ms Lisa Johnson (LJ) Ms Erin Barker (EB)</p> <p><u>Animal Welfare Authority</u> Ms Jacqueline Gardner (JG)</p> <p><u>Apologies</u> Dr Wendy Townsend (WT) Ms Michelle Robertson (MR) Mr Wayne Slattery (WS) Ms Jill Slaven (JS)</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No conflicts of interest declared.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Actions register</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the completed items on the actions register.</p> <p>Members discussed the progress of open actions, as per below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action 3.2.1: Members agreed to push this item back to Q1 2024, noting it is on the work plan; and</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 2.1.1: Members agreed to close off this action as the deadline has passed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: 2.1.1:</b> GB to update work plan noting the Bark Reduction Policy will be pushed back to Q1 2024.</p> <p>SP provided the Committee with an update on the action relating to how many working farm dogs are located in the ACT. SP informed members that an exact figure was unable to be obtained, however, it was identified there are 160 farming families in the ACT and it is assumed that each family would have approximately two (2) dogs on average. Members discussed that this number may not be an accurate reflection and agreed to not include these figures in the letter to the Animal Welfare Authority.</p> <p>GB and JW asked to be sent the updated Dog Code from October’s meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.2:</b> Secretariat to send GB and JW updated Dog Code.</p> <p><b>2.2 Code of Practice register</b></p> <p>Members noted the Code of Practice register.</p> <p>EB raised the Pet Grooming Establishments Code of Practice with Committee members, noting the current version is from 1993 and asked members whether this should be reviewed. Members confirmed it is already captured on the work plan.</p> <p><b>2.3 Finance report – October 2023</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the financial report from October 2023.</p> <p><b>2.4 Meeting dates for 2024</b></p> <p>Members reviewed the proposed meeting dates for 2024.</p> <p>ML suggested that meetings be pushed back to the second Friday of each month (rather than the first Friday), noting this would allow significantly more preparation time for the secretariat given they are required to accommodate other meetings within the month. GB also noted that as several members have school-age children it would be preferable not to schedule meetings in school holidays.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.1:</b> Secretariat to revise meeting dates for the second Friday of each month and circulate to the Committee for comments. Committee members are asked to respond with comments within two weeks.</p> <p><b>2.5 Risk Register</b></p> <p>Members noted the risk category of Failure to manage AWAC allocated budget or meet deliverables within allocated budget, with no changes.</p>
3	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>Members were provided with an update on the Animal Welfare Officer role. Ms Holly Hart, the previous occupant, is currently acting in an alternate role at Domestic Animal Services. As a result of this, a recruitment process has been undertaken to fill the vacant Animal Welfare Officer position, with the new candidate due to commence in late November.</p>
4	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Poultry Code</b></p> <p>The Committee had a robust discussion regarding the Poultry Code.</p> <p>Members discussed whether the Code should simply cover chickens, or all poultry (including chickens, ducks, quails, geese and guinea fowl). GB provided members with some context on</p>

why the Code was being reviewed, noting it was due to Domestic Animal Services receiving a number of noise complaints regarding crowing roosters.

**Agreed:** Members agreed the Code may reference different types of poultry, although to note it has been written with chickens primarily in mind.

The Committee agreed to substantive changes on the below topics:

- Code to be transposed into new template and ensure consistent numbering of the standards and guidelines.
- Ensure there are no 'musts' in the guidelines.
- Scope – Include a reference noting that whilst the Code may mention birds other than chickens, the code has been written with chickens primarily in mind.
- Definitions – Euthanasia definition to be replaced with the wording from the Dog Code.
- G1.1 – Move the third paragraph to make it the first paragraph.
- G1.2 – Amend from 'chickens' to 'chicks'.
- G1.2 – Amend heading from 'Rearing birds' to 'Temperature management for chicks.'
- Length of perching – remove perching under G2.3 and cover it under S2.7.
- Add a new 'Behaviour and social interactions' heading.
- Add a new standard under Behaviour and social interactions capturing that poultry are flock animals and must not be kept alone without any chicken companions.
- S3.2 – link to G3.2 to be clearer on what quality of life means.
- S4.1 – link to G4.2 to be clearer on what nutritious is. Amend S4.1 from 'nutritious' to 'nutritional'.
- S7.9 – Amend the sentence to begin with 'Rooster collars must not be used...' and continue with the remainder of the sentence.
- S7.10 – move to directly under 7.5. Include a definition of 'wing clipping' and that it is to be limited to flight feathers only.
- S8.3 – Amend to 'Where birds are going to be killed by their carers, the assistance and advice of a person experienced in killing poultry, such as a qualified veterinarian, must be obtained to kill the birds.' The remainder of this paragraph is to be removed.
- G8 – Remove third and fourth paragraphs under guidelines.

**Action 4.1.1:** GB to liaise with MR asking to send any additional comments on the Poultry Code to SRP by Friday, 10 November.

**Action 4.1.2:** SRP to make the changes identified in the meeting and send updated Poultry Code to the Secretariat.

**Action 4.1.3:** Secretariat to transpose Poultry Code into the template (ensuring consistent numbering of the standards and guidelines) and circulate to the Committee prior to papers being circulated for December meeting.

	<p><b>4.2 Small Mammals Code</b></p> <p>The Committee discussed EPSDD’s consultation feedback regarding Ferreting, noting they would prefer that the Code stay silent of ferreting as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• you cannot guarantee the ferret would not attack or kill other animals; and</li><li>• a licence is required to own a ferret, and by releasing your ferret to go ferreting you would be in breach of this license.</li></ul> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed to remove the reference to ferreting (S12.1).</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed with the comments SF proposed to accept and reject in the Ferrets consultation table.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Members agreed to only discuss the items highlighted in red from the small mammals’ consultation spreadsheet, unless there is a particular concern to raise.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.1:</b> SF to confirm whether the Committee’s approved changes in the consultation table have been made in the Code of Practice (ferrets only).</p> <p><b>4.3 Captive Birds Code</b></p> <p>SRP advised the Committee she received feedback from members that she is working her way through.</p> <p><b>Action 4.3.1:</b> SRP to share the Captive Birds Code with MP.</p>
5	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Sheep dairy</b></p> <p>JS noted dairy sheep were not considered in the current sheep code of practice. Questions were raised as to what the protocol is when a new sheep dairy is established, who would be responsible for licensing and what is the Committee’s role in this. It was confirmed this function would be out of AWAC’s remit, noting they are not responsible for approving licences or regulatory oversight. It was discussed that AWAC’s responsibility would be the potential review of the current Sheep Code or the drafting of a new purpose-built code.</p>
7	<p>Meeting closed 2.00pm.</p> <p>Next meeting: Friday, 1 December 2023, 12.00pm.</p>

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #11**

**Friday, 1 December 2023**

**12.00pm – 2.00pm**

**MS Teams**

1

**Welcome**

The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present.

**Attendees**

Committee members

Ms Genevieve Butler - Chair

Ms Michelle Robertson

Dr Melanie Latter

Mr John Starr

Dr Suzanne Fowler

Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior

Ms Margaret Peachey

Ms Judith Woolley

Mr Wayne Slattery

Dr Stephanie Pulsford

Guests

Ms Claire Wimpenny

Ms Tilly Gardner

Ms Holly Hart

Secretariat

Ms Erin Barker

Ms Lisa Johnson

Mr Dan Anderson

Apologies

Ms Jill Slaven

Dr Wendy Townsend

	<p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>SP declared a conflict of interest with item 3 as she works within the same area of the Environment, Planning, and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) which holds responsibility of kangaroos.</p> <p>JS, ML and MR also declared a potential conflict of interest with item 3 as they will be meeting with Professor Sarah Legge to discuss the Review of the Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan.</p> <p>The Committee noted these conflicts and agreed members could still partake in discussions for item 3.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Actions Register</b></p> <p>Members noted the completed items within the meeting.</p> <p>There are currently two outstanding items.</p> <p><b>2.2 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>The current code of practice register was updated to identify where codes are currently standing and formatted in a way showing the current status of each code.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the register still showed the Pounds and Shelters code as currently being updated, this has been completed.</p> <p>Committee members will be meeting with Minister Steel on December 14, to discuss the Horse, Sheep and Cattle Codes. The Horse Code is awaiting the Minister's endorsement to publish, while the Sheep and Cattle Codes are seeking his agreement for consultation.</p> <p>DC will also be attending this meeting as the Animal Welfare Authority.</p> <p>The AWAC Secretariat has provided the Minister with a briefing package for each of the codes.</p> <p>The Chair will work with the Committee members involved to develop talking points to assist with the discussion.</p> <p>The Secretariat will liaise with the Ministers office to request any specific queries the Minister may have on the day to allow preparation.</p> <p><b>2.3 Financial Report – November 2023</b></p> <p>Members noted the financial report from November 2023, noting no significant charges have arisen.</p> <p><b>2.4 Membership Appointments</b></p> <p>It was noted that four positions are due to expire in 2024 – WT, ML, SF and MP. Due to 2024 being an election year, the appointment process is required to commence earlier than usual in order to meet government timelines with Cabinet. Appointments will be advertised within the next few weeks to early January to allow sufficient time to complete the process. EB will advise on the progress as it arises.</p>

	<p>Members were notified that SF will be standing down from her position on the Committee in the new year. Her last meeting likely to be February. It was noted how great an asset SF has been to the Committee and will be sadly missed.</p> <p><b>2.5 Risk Register</b></p> <p>Members noted the risk category of <i>Ineffective AWAC governance arrangements/failure to comply with legislation</i>, with no changes.</p> <p><b>Action 2.2.1:</b> Secretariat to update code of practice register, marking the Pounds and Shelters Code as complete.</p> <p><b>Action 2.2.2:</b> Secretariat to seek input from the Ministers office on any specific questions on the Horse, Sheep and Cattle Codes prior to the meeting to allow the Committee preparation time for talking points.</p>
3	<p><b>The Eastern Grey Kangaroo: Controlled Native Species Management Plan</b></p> <p><i>Ms Claire Wimpenny joined the meeting.</i></p> <p>The Committee welcomed Claire Wimpenny (CW) to the meeting as a Senior Ecologist for Nature Conservation for the macropod team with EPSDD. Professor Sarah Legge was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. CW attended to discuss undertaking research and monitoring about kangaroo or macropods in general, with a particular focus on kangaroos to support their management in the ACT.</p> <p>The Committee was provided with a presentation outlining the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The Management Plan of Controlled Native Species Management Plan (2017)</i></li></ul> <p>It was noted as part of the Nature Conservation Act 2014, the Conservator must monitor the effectiveness of a controlled native species plan and also review the plan every five years, which is currently taking place.</p> <p>It was noted that the review will be completed within three parts as outlined below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an independent expert review of the plan</li><li>• an evaluation of the ACT Government kangaroo culling programme on nature reserves with a focus of the effectiveness of the programme.</li><li>• a stand-alone engagement review with the community, this is an additional item that has not been completed in the past. This will include engagement with Ngunnawal Community through a proposed Yarning Circle.</li></ul> <p>The review is currently being undertaken with a draft report expected in December, and a final to be provided by end of January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A final review process will then be conducted and completed by 2024 with recommendation and outcomes informing the final plan.</li><li>• The Committee was invited to meet with Professor Legge.</li></ul> <p>Members agreed to form a subcommittee for this issue and will determine whether there will be sufficient time for a meeting prior to January. The subcommittee will consist of MR, ML, MP, GB and SRP.</p> <p>The Committee raised whether Professor Legge will be updating the entire plan or will they only be looking into the conservation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CW confirmed Professor Legge will be looking at a review of the entire plan rather</li></ul>

	<p>than just the conservation.</p> <p>The Committee raised a point regarding fertility control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EPSDD have commenced a roll out in a small area of GonaCon vaccine as part of the management programme with the aim of reducing the amount of culling required.</li></ul> <p>The Chair has requested the Committee to provide some feedback to Professor Legge to assist with the update of the Management Plan. It was noted that this will be completed within the subcommittee.</p> <p>The Committee questioned whether there is an intention to publish the research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes, the intention is that it will be published as a peer reviewed journal article.</li></ul> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed for the kangaroo subcommittee to consist of MR, ML, MP, GB and SRP.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1:</b> The kangaroo subcommittee to plan on whether there is enough time to meet prior to January to discuss potential issues.</p> <p><i>Ms Claire Wimpenny exited the meeting.</i></p>
4	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p>DC introduced TG who has commenced in the Animal Welfare Officer role while HH is acting in another role.</p> <p>DC informed members he had received correspondence regarding a temporary shortage of feline vaccines within Australia, and the requirements under the Boarding Code for the vaccination of cats before admission to catteries.</p> <p>Members discussed that cats who have had their full kitten course plus an annual booster are at much lower risk and will still have an immunity despite not being up to date. The veterinary profession is advising cat owners of mature cats can typically wait a few months longer to have these done, allowing the supply to be redirected to the kittens who are at the greatest risk.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the boarding kennels are aware that TCCS is temporarily not enforcing the vaccination boosters and the owners should discuss with their vets prior to boarding.</p> <p>The Committee noted there has been a lot of information already gone out to vets, but that the Vet Board may be able to assist with circulating additional information as required.</p> <p>DC informed members the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) provided some statistics for the Committee's comment around the use of whips as per the Canberra Racing Club MOU.</p> <p>Comments are due in December, which the Committee noted as unrealistic.</p> <p>DAS to seek an extension and advise GB of the updated proposed timeframes.</p> <p><b>NOTED:</b> Boarding kennels are aware that TCCS is temporarily not enforcing the vaccination boosters and the owners should discuss with their vets prior to boarding.</p> <p><b>NOTED:</b> There has been a lot of information already gone out to vets, but that the Vet Board may be able to assist with circulating additional information as required.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1:</b> DC/TG to seek an extension for comments on the Canberra Racing Club MOU statistics.</p>

	<b>Action 4.2:</b> DC/TG to provide the JACS documentation to the Committee for comment.
5	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Small Mammals Codes</b></p> <p>The Committee reviewed the remainder of the consultation feedback for the four Small Mammals Codes.</p> <p>The AVA provided feedback under the heading ‘Relation to other Codes’, suggesting the wording be changed from “... Taken together, the Codes create a matrix of animal welfare provisions that provide guidance on most of the acute animal welfare issues in the ACT...”, to “Taken together, the Codes create a matrix of animal welfare provisions that provide guidance on most of the important animal welfare issues in the ACT...”</p> <p>The Committee finalised stakeholder feedback for all four codes of practice, making the changes to the live document as they were agreed upon.</p> <p><b>5.2 Poultry Code</b></p> <p>Item not discussed due to timing, this has been rescheduled to the following meeting.</p> <p><b>5.3 Captive Bird Code</b></p> <p>Item not discussed due to timing, this has been rescheduled to the following meeting.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to the amendments to the four small mammals’ codes, which are now ready to be progressed to the Minister for his endorsement.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> Members agreed to update the wording of all Small Mammal Codes, including the code of practice template, to reflect the AVA’s proposed wording.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1.1:</b> Secretariat to update Code of Practice template (‘Relation to Other Codes, update from ‘acute’ to ‘important’).</p> <p><b>Action 5.1.2:</b> Secretariat to update the four Small Mammal Codes to reflect the new wording (‘Relation to Other Codes, update from ‘acute’ to ‘important’).</p>
6	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>Nil</p>
7	<p>Meeting closed at 2:11pm. The next meeting will commence at 12:00pm, 9 February 2023, via Microsoft Teams. The link will be provided closer to the meeting date. The Chair thanked the Committee for all their hard work over the year.</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #1

Friday, 9 February 2024

12.00pm – 2.00pm

MS Teams

1

### Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present and noted that this meeting will be recorded to assist with note taking.

### Attendees

#### Committee members

Ms Genevieve Butler – Chair

Dr Melanie Latter

Mr John Starr

Dr Suzanne Fowler

Ms Margaret Peachey

Mr Wayne Slattery

Dr Stephanie Pulsford

#### Guests

Ms Tilly Gardner

#### Secretariat

Ms Erin Barker

Mr Phil Gritti

Mr Dan Anderson

#### Apologies

Dr Wendy Townsend

Ms Michelle Robertson

Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior

Ms Judith Woolley

### 1.3 Meeting Dates for 2024

It was agreed that AWAC would move the discussion of the 2024 meeting dates over to March to allow all members to comment.

GB referred to WS's suggestion that AWAC meets with the steward of racing to have an opportunity to discuss how the rules of racing in the ACT operate in relation to the use of whips, particularly regarding penalties. GB asked if the Committee is interested to have such a meeting, and if so, if there is a preference between online or in person. WS said he thought in person would be more beneficial.

	<p><b>Action 1.3.1:</b> Secretariat to move this section onto the March 2024 meeting to allow all members to have input.</p> <p><b>Action 1.3.2:</b> Committee to discuss in the March 2024 meeting if there is an agreed upon face-to-face meeting date with the steward of racing. Secretariat to add to March agenda for discussion.</p> <p><b>Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>Nil advised.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Actions Register</b></p> <p>Members noted the completed action items within the meeting.</p> <p>There are currently four outstanding action items.</p> <p>It was noted GB was in the process of drafting the correspondence to Daniel Childs regarding working farm dogs and will aim to complete this prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>GB noted that MR had suggested that the discussion with EPSDD regarding the Fox Code should be expanded to not only foxes but, rabbits and other invasive species. It was noted that ML would like to discuss with EPSDD her position on the replacement of 1080 poison.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Kangaroo Position Statement – A position statement was completed. A meeting with EPSDD’s Claire Wimpenny on 20 December 2023 and a meeting was held with the external reviewer Professor Sarah Legge on 10 January. The Position Statement was completed and submitted on 23 January 2024 with a thank you back from EPSDD with feedback saying information was very helpful. It was to be noted that SP was not involved in the meeting due to a conflict of interest.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> The Committee agreed to remove the actions regarding Position Statement on the Power of Entry for Inspectors from the actions register as this is marked on the work plan.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.1:</b> GB to provide WS and Secretariat with final Kangaroo Subcommittee position statement.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.2:</b> DA to follow up with ML and MR regarding wording around the Fox Code discussion with EPSDD.</p> <p><b>2.2 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>It was noted that there has been no response from RLAoF regarding the sheep and cattle codes. JS noted that the RLAoF has not circulated the information.</p> <p><b>Action 2.2.1:</b> DA to speak with Jenilee Cumberland who meets with the Farmers to discuss.</p> <p><b>Action 2.2.2:</b> DA to add the Cat Code to the March 2024 Agenda.</p> <p><b>2.3 Financial Report – January 2024</b></p> <p>Members noted the financial report from January 2024.</p> <p>It was noted that WS still needed to submit a timesheet for the December meeting with the Minister.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3.1:</b> WS to provide timesheet for Ministers Meeting from December 2023.</p>

	<p><b>2.4 Risk Register</b></p> <p>Members noted the risk category of Failure of AWAC to meet the expectations of stakeholders with agreed with no changes.</p> <p>It was noted that there has been a change to Minister with Tara Cheyne taking over the City Services profile. The Directorate has provided an incoming Minister Briefing with a high-level overview of AWAC.</p> <p>PG noted that it is a possibility that the controls should be updated to include Committee Appointments.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.1:</b> GB to provide letter to Minister Cheyne with information on AWAC's position statement on the review of the Kangaroo Action Plan Update and the Final feedback on the proposed limit to whipping within horse racing.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.2:</b> Upon completion of action 2.4.1, Secretariat to prepare a brief to Minister Cheyne with the two position statements for noting.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.3:</b> EB to update the risk category controls to include member appointments.</p>
3	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p><b>3.1 – Strategy 2024 - 29</b></p> <p>DAS is currently working on a new Animal Welfare Strategy as the current plan is out of date. The new plan will run for 2024 – 29, this will be revisited next month with a full AWAC team onboard to discuss.</p> <p>It was noted by SF that it would be beneficial for the RSPCA to have input into the list of measures mentioned in the 2024 – 29 strategy.</p> <p>SL noted that the current strategy contains points that are already included within the current acts including the regulation of breeders excluding dogs and cats, and rabbits and guinea pigs will be covered off when the codes are approved and uploaded, and the regulating ownership of roosters.</p> <p>GB noted that if any committee members had further questions on the new DAS Strategy 2024 – 29 they can email TG directly and cc the Committee and the Secretariat.</p> <p>TG noted there is not a proposed timeline for the document to be completed although DAS is working on this to be completed as soon as possible.</p> <p>PG requested a point of clarity on the on the regulation of dog walking. TG noted that she will provide further information at the March 2024 AWAC meeting.</p> <p>ML noted her interest in the partnership with a desexing clinic and how these procedures would be targeted. TG noted that DAS is currently working on a procedure for this and they would be meeting with some community groups to discuss potential options.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1:</b> DA to add DAS Strategy 2024 – 29 to the March 2024 AWAC agenda.</p> <p><b>Action 3.2:</b> TG to provide clarity on the regulation of dog walking and whether this applies to commercial dog walkers and people owning business only.</p> <p><b>Action 3.3:</b> GB to discuss with TG if there are any outstanding points from the 2017-2022 strategy that need to be included in the new plan.</p>

	<p><b>Action 3.4:</b> TG to provide previous Animal Welfare Authority report and a notification of update to the report to ML with GB and Secretariat copied in.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Stakeholder Feedback Table</b></p> <p>It was noted that Stakeholder feedback is an integral part of the process.</p> <p>It has been noted that some subcommittees have not completed the consultation feedback table at the same time as updating the code of practice and that it would be best practice to update both of these documents at the same time to allow a smooth process in updating existing and new codes.</p> <p>It was noted by the committee that the process works well with the table being a great tool for the feedback.</p> <p>It was requested whether new codes should be circulated to the legal department prior to or after consultation , so that substantive changes are not made after community consultation. It was noted that the legal review is usually the last step before submission to the Minister.</p> <p>Subcommittee to review TCCS legal feedback on the Ferrets Code of Practice. ML to lead subcommittee.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.1:</b> DA to follow up with TCCS Legal if they are completing a review of all the ‘Small Mammals’ codes or if all feedback is included in the one returned to AWAC.</p> <p><b>4.2 Poultry Code</b></p> <p>The committee discussed that the poultry code is looking good. Comments in feedback table have not yet been included. AVA feedback doesn’t seem to be included.</p> <p>It was noted that targeted consultation has been completed with this code needing to be sent out more broadly. Consultation has been completed with AVA (Sandy Hume). It was noted that TCCS may want to reach out to Health regarding poultry code as they have provided standards around chickens.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.1:</b> Secretariat to seek updated Poultry Code from SRP and confirm whether the stakeholder comments have been included (copy MP into email).</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.2:</b> Secretariat to add Poultry Code to the March 2024 agenda for the Committee to vote on the broader consultation.</p> <p><b>Action 4.2.3:</b> Secretariat to include a list of suggested consultation stakeholders (including ACT Health) in March’s meeting paper.</p> <p><b>4.3 Code of Practice for the Welfare of Captive Birds</b></p> <p>Not discussed, moved onto March 2024 agenda.</p> <p><b>Action 4.3.1:</b> Secretariat to add Code of Practice for the Welfare of Captive Birds to the March 2024 agenda.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>SF was farewelled from the committee with a thank you from all committee members for all her support and input</p>

6

Meeting closed at 1:47pm. The next meeting will commence at 12:00pm, 8 March 2024, via Microsoft Teams.

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #2

Friday, 8 March 2024

12.00pm – 2.00pm

MS Teams

<b>Attendees</b>	
Ms Genevieve Butler Ms Michelle Robertson Dr Melanie Latter Mr John Starr Ms Margaret Peachey Ms Judith Woolley Mr Wayne Slattery Dr Stephanie Pulsford	
<b>Guests</b>	
Ms Tilly Gardner Mr Daniel Childs	
<b>Transport Canberra and City Services Secretariat</b>	
Ms Erin Barker Mr Phil Gritti Mr Dan Anderson	
<b>Apologies</b>	
Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior Dr Wendy Townsend	
<b>Minutes</b>	
1	<p><b>1.1 Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting at 12:00 with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present and noted the meeting apologies.</p> <p><b>1.2 Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>No conflicts of interest declared in this meeting.</p> <p><b>1.3 Meeting dates for 2024</b></p> <p>It was discussed that the 11 October 2024 meeting has been requested to move to 18 October 2024. November meeting date will be held as is and will be advised what the date will be closer to the time.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> Meeting dates for 2024 - Move the meeting date to 18 October due to School holidays.</p>

	<p><b>Action 1.3.1:</b> Secretariat to reschedule the 11 October 2024 meeting to 18 October 2024.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Actions Arising Register</b></p> <p>It was discussed that the Actions arising register is still current with the committee noting completed actions.</p> <p><b>Action 2.1.1:</b> Secretariat to discuss with Kyelee Driver regarding the 1080 poisons as this will be a discussion prior June meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that EB is currently working on Kyelee Drivers acting appointment to the committee. It was noted that the CVO holds an important position held on the committee and would be beneficial to have someone acting in this role during WT's absence. EB noted that appointments are not position specific rather appointed to an individual.</p> <p>The committee noted that if the acting appointment was not successful it would be beneficial to have the acting CVO as an observer in the AWAC Meetings.</p> <p><b>2.2 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>No comment was made on the Code of Practice register as no major changes were made from previous months.</p> <p><b>2.3 Financial Report – February 2024</b></p> <p>ML requested that the “additional hours worked” be changed to “billed hours” in the financial reporting papers. Some members do not submit timesheets for their additional work, so “additional hours” should capture the volume of work rather than the hours charged to the committee.</p> <p><b>Agreed 2.3.1:</b> Financial Report – February 2024 - It was agreed for the additional hours field on the financial reporting to be changed to billed hours.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3.2:</b> Secretariat to update the financial reporting paper to billed hours rather than additional hours.</p> <p><b>2.4 Risk Register</b></p> <p>No additional risks were raised during the meeting.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p><b>3.1 Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Strategy 2024</b></p> <p>DC noted that the Animal Welfare Strategy has now expired. The new strategy currently in draft form will run from 2024 to 2029 as it is a five-year plan. The strategy outlines the government deliverables regarding Animal Welfare across the ACT, with TCCS drafting this plan as the lead agency. The strategy is written to build on the existing legislation and fantastic work that AWAC completes over the year.</p> <p>TG brought to the attention of the committee that key strategy idea points have been provided in the meeting papers that the team at DAS had brainstormed. It was requested that committee members provide points they believe should be added to the strategy as this</p>

	<p>would inform the document's content. It was noted that all points that AWAC wish to be included should be provided in dot point written form to ensure sufficient record keeping.</p> <p>MR noted DAS needs to ensure that the strategy covers all animals and does not only focus on pet ownership.</p> <p>ML noted that the ideas are fantastic so far and noted that the current strategy points as pet ownership only. It was noted that there should be an item added for groomers regarding competencies.</p> <p>SP noted that EPSDD should be consulted to ensure the plan includes wildlife.</p> <p>MR noted that the document will need to be framed strategically. The Animal Welfare Strategy should include strategic ideas and out-come focused, rather than being initiative-focused. DG and the committee agreed with this statement.</p> <p>Daniel Childs exited the meeting 12:34</p> <p>TG noted that DAS has received correspondence regarding animals on public transport. It was noted that therapy dogs are not allowed on ACT Public Transport, including buses and Light Rail. DAS has been requested to investigate.</p> <p>It was noted that AWAC would develop a position statement for DAS to provide to Transport Canberra outlining the issue. MR noted that there would be a requirement for DAS to provide context around the issue and why it is an issue.</p> <p>It was noted by PG that AWAC must ensure there is a separation in the position statement between therapy animals and all other animals. AWAC agreed it would be beneficial to meet with Transport Canberra to discuss the issue.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.1:</b> TG to provide the committee with context around the therapy dogs and public transport issue.</p> <p><b>Agreed 3.1.2:</b> TG to ensure SP is consulted regarding the Animal Welfare Authority Strategy to ensure the plan covers wildlife in the ACT.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.3:</b> Secretariat to liaise with TG regarding request for input into the Animal Welfare Authority Strategy 2024-29 to Boards and Committees in the next three weeks.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.4:</b> Secretariat to arrange meeting between AWAC members and Transport Canberra to discuss the issue of Therapy Animals on ACT Government run Public Transport involving TG, ML, MR, GB, JS and JW.</p>
4	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Sheep and Cattle Code</b></p> <p>The Committee was informed that concerns were raised regarding the consultation process on the Sheep and Cattle Codes. It was noted that there had been pressure on the committee as it was perceived that AWAC had not properly consulted on the codes, and it was outlined that this was not the case. The Committee agreed to the proposed additional consultation with EPSDD CVO and the ACT Rural Landholder community through EPSDDs Rural Services team.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> 4.1 Sheep and Cattle Code - The committee agreed with the recommendations outlined in the meeting paper.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Secretariat to provide consultation requests to EPSDD CVO and EPSDD to circulate through the ACT Rural Landholders community.</p>

	<p>ML noted that the RLAoF were consulted when the original consultation was tabled in 2020. It was also noted that the proposed changes to the codes of practice are clearly identifiable in red text.</p> <p>The committee was notified the RLAoF requested a member of TCCS attend their next monthly meeting to further explain the proposed changes in the codes. If a representative were to attend, EB noted that as a subject matter expert, an AWAC representative would be better placed to answer any questions.</p> <p>The committee discussed the possibility of setting up an information evening regarding pain relief for sheep and cattle. ML and JS to discuss offline.</p> <p><b>4.2 Core Consultation on Codes of Practice</b></p> <p>EB proposed the committee agree on a list of core stakeholders who would be consulted with on each code of practice moving forward. These stakeholders will be the minimum consultation standards for each code, and the secretariat will seek additional stakeholders from the committee for each consultation process.</p> <p>The committee noted that it was important to outline in the consultation request email that the code is in line with the <i>Animal Welfare ACT</i> in the ACT.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> 4.2 Core Consultation on Codes of Practice - The committee agreed with the core stakeholders including the RSPCA, AVA and EPSDD with the addition of the Animal Defenders Office.</p> <p><b>5.2 Dog Code</b></p> <p>GB, MR and DC met with Minister Cheyne earlier in the week to discuss AWAC's work plan. At the meeting, it was agreed for debarking to be included in the Dog Code. It was also agreed to involve Pets and Positive Ageing in the consultation process for the additional debarking section.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> 5.2 Dog Code - The Committee agreed to add the debarking of Dogs to the existing Code of Practice.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> 5.2 Dog Code - MR agreed to involve Di Johnston, the President for Pets and Positive Ageing, in the consultation process for the additional debarking section of the Dog Code of Practice.</p> <p>MR noted that consultation is an integral part of drafting Codes of Practice and the importance of providing it to a diverse community to ensure that all areas of the community are covered.</p> <p><b>4.4 Cat Code</b></p> <p>Not discussed due to time constraints.</p> <p><b>4.5 Poultry Code (Non-Commercial)</b></p> <p>Not discussed due to time constraints.</p> <p><b>4.6 Captive Birds Code</b></p> <p>It was noted that MP is working on the code with documents shared from SRP.</p>
5	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>It was noted that ML will be leaving the committee as the AVA has nominated another member due to ML already serving 9 years on AWAC. It was noted that ML is interested in still contributing to AWAC where she can.</p>

6

Meeting closed at 2:02pm. The next meeting will commence at 12:00pm, 12 April 2024, via Microsoft Teams. The link will be provided closer to the meeting date.

### MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #3

Friday, 12 April 2024

12.00pm – 2.00pm

MS Teams

<b>Attendees</b>	
Ms Genevieve Butler Ms Michelle Robertson Dr Melanie Latter Mr John Starr Ms Margaret Peachey Ms Judith Woolley Mr Wayne Slattery Dr Stephanie Pulsford Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior	
<b>Transport Canberra and City Services Secretariat</b>	
Ms Erin Barker Mr Phil Gritti Mr Dan Anderson	
<b>Apologies</b>	
Dr Wendy Townsend Ms Tilly Gardner Mr Chris Mooney	
<b>Minutes</b>	
1	<b>1.1 Welcome</b>  The Chair opened the meeting at 12:04 with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all present and noted the meeting apologies.  <b>1.2 Conflicts of Interest</b>  No conflicts of interest declared in this meeting.
2	<b>Governance and Administration</b>  <b>2.1 Actions Arising Register</b>  EB noted over the past month several actions have been completed. It was noted regarding the Animal Welfare Management Strategy, TG confirmed that the regulation for dog walking is relating to businesses only.

## 2.2 Code of Practice Register

No comment was made on the Code of Practice register as no major changes were made from previous month.

## 2.3 Financial Report – March 2024

Nil sitting fees were charged in March as they were processed in April, therefore will show on the April report.

## 2.4 Risk Register

EB noted that this month's risk discussion was around failure to manage AWAC budget and meet deliverables within budget.

It was discussed an additional risk control had been added, that AWAC Committee members must submit timesheets by the end of each month as per the Board remuneration summary.

MR raised the concern that AWAC may not be using their time in the most efficient way, and this may need to be looked at to ensure efficiency. MR outlined that the committee may need to refocus on items that are a higher priority to ensure the budget is being spent in the most efficient way.

PG noted it may be effective to assign timings/target dates and costings to tasks to allow both the secretariat and the Committee to efficiently manage the budget.

GB, MR, and PG to discuss further offline.

PG noted the ACT Auditor-Generals Office is able to conduct an audit at any stage, with timesheets being a key focus at this point in time.

EB informed the Committee that Jill Slaven resigned from her position in TCCS, and that DA has been appointed into the role as the TCCS Boards and Committees Secretariat.

**Action 2.4.1:** Secretariat to arrange meeting between PG, EB, DA, MR, and GB to discuss budgets and allocations.

**Action 2.4.2:** Secretariat to arrange reminder emails before the last pay period of each month to ensure AWAC members are supplying timesheets in a timely manner.

3

## AWAC workplan

### 3.1 2023-24 Work plan Target Dates

EB noted that there may be potential to add timings/target dates into the work plan as a consideration with outlining AWAC goals to work towards. These completion dates would be for the committee's reference only and will ensure AWAC can monitor tasks in an efficient manner and track achievements.

PG noted that in a lot of work plans he has worked with in the past use a traffic light system and this has been noted as useful for other committees. Using a traffic light system with percentages on completion ensures that all committee members are across the completion of specific tasks and how close they are to completion. This will also identify priorities where committee members may need to dedicate more effort towards finalising items in a timely manner. This has been noted as a recommendation only.

GB advised AWAC had used a quarterly due date system in the past, although noted that the Codes of Practice often took longer than estimated to reach completion as the consultation

	<p>period generally took more time than originally planned. Examples of factors to take into account include the availability of members in developing the codes, as well as the time needed for consultation and recording justifications in the consultation feedback table.</p> <p>MR suggested there may need to be a discussion out of session regarding the steps for developing or amending codes of practice as there may be timings that can be added to some of these steps. It would be beneficial to provide AWAC with some project management methodologies around timeframe management. It was noted that there are steps that AWAC can control and some that are harder to control, particularly the consultation phase. MR noted that this process has gone through an evolution with things getting better and better each time.</p> <p>MR noted that it would be beneficial to add sub tasks regarding codes of practice including, Phase 1: In drafting, Phase 2: Committee Consultation, Phase 3: Stakeholder Consultation, Phase 4: Feedback incorporation, Phase 5: Finalisation.</p> <p>PG noted that AWAC's work plan is quite extensive and ambitious, with 35 items listed to be completed. PG recommended that in the next financial year when considering the workplan, AWAC should only include the key pieces of work and use the low priority tasks as 'nice to haves'. It was outlined with the 35 items on the workplan and with the majority of these being long processes it gives the impression that AWAC is not achieving their goals.</p> <p>GB noted that it would be beneficial for the committee not to remove these from the work plan but rather separate them from the 2023-24 plan and have the low priority task as a separate list to add into future work plans as needed. It was noted that it is also beneficial for new members of the committee to see the forward plan of AWAC, and that way the low priority tasks would not be overlooked in the future.</p> <p><b>Agreed 3.1.1:</b> The Committee agreed to move the lows priority tasks onto a separate tab on the work plan marked 'Future Tasks' for forward planning.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.2:</b> Secretariat to develop 2024-25 workplan for discussion with the committee.</p>
4	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Australian Animal Welfare Strategy 2024</b></p> <p>EB noted that CM was unable to attend today's AWAC meeting at short notice, and she would be presenting his item of the 2024 Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (the Strategy). It was noted that this had been discussed at a previous meeting and it was the objective today to advise the committee that this Strategy is now out for consultation. The current consultation period is open to invited parties to provide a submission by 31 May, with AWAC being able to provide a submission through 'your say' website. CM has provided dot points around the Strategy with the secretariat able to circulate these after the meeting.</p> <p>MR noted that AWAC needs to take the time to discuss and agree to adding this to the work plan. In the interests of time, another task may need to be removed. It was noted that there should be a discussion around 'What we are doing', 'Why we are doing it' 'How are we doing it', 'Who's doing it' and 'What do we want to achieve'.</p> <p>EB noted that the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy is on the work plan marked as a monitor item. AWAC was aware that this item would come up for consultation and it was just a matter of when.</p> <p>ML discussed she would be undertaking work on the Strategy in her capacity at the AVA and would be consulting very broadly. ML noted there are many key principles that feed into this that would be of interest to AWAC with the ability to use content from the AVA report to assist in developing our own submission.</p>

ML noted that both the sheep and cattle codes were a part of the old Strategy with AWAC having a particular interest in these codes. ML discussed that AWAC would like to be an equal stakeholder in the new Strategy as the committee wants standards to be raised rather than them sitting as the status quo, and AWAC would be able to influence change.

GB requested this be added to the next agenda noting that it would be beneficial for ML to provide a draft statement to the committee by next meeting on 10 May.

SP raised if AWAC has anything unique to add to the submission as what ML writes for the AVA would be in line with AWAC's viewpoints.

ML noted that a full submission may not be required, a one-page letter from the AWAC chair would be sufficient. The letter should outline the legislative requirement with animals being recognised in the ACT as sentient beings. Given our higher standards in the ACT on animal welfare, the ACT needs to be considered as stakeholders in the plan. ML noted that she would be able to provide GB with the AVA submission and key points to be highlighted in a letter form.

JW raised that if AWAC does not provide a submission to the consultation, the new Strategy will become a reactive report rather than proactive as it has been in the past.

MR noted that a further discussion will need to take place with DC and CM as the Animal Welfare Authority and the ACT representative on the Animal Welfare Task Group. The ACT brings a very strong animal welfare framework to the strategy, and it would be beneficial to get this across to the commonwealth.

WS raised it would be beneficial for the ACT to provide input into the national strategy, although it may be perceived that due to the ACT's standards around sentient beings it may draw out the process as this is not yet the standard across other jurisdictions. ML noted that other states and territories, such as Victoria, are currently working on imbedding sentient beings into their legislation, and this will not be an issue.

**Action 4.1.1:** ML to provide 'Key Points' to GB to be outlined in a letter as the AWAC submission to the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy by next AWAC meeting.

**Action 4.1.2:** GB to draft a letter to commonwealth as the ACT's submission to the National Animal Welfare Strategy by 30 May.

5

## **Kangaroo Update**

### **5.1 Update on review of Kangaroo Plan**

GB noted that she had been involved in an email exchange with Professor Sarah Legge discussing the Kangaroo Plan update. The Kangaroo report has been completed and fact checked by EPSDD. A final review was completed by Professor Legge, and this was provided back to EPSDD end of March 2024. It was noted that EPSDD will be publishing this report on its website in the coming weeks. EPSDD will now review the current plan and make updates with the recommendations in mind.

### **5.2 2023 ACT State of the Environment Report**

The Office of Sustainability and the Environment has classified Kangaroos as an invasive species and pests. It was noted in the paper that there is a scientific definition of what an 'invasive species' is.

MR noted that there are a lot of implications of a native species being marked as a pest or invasive species. SP noted that Kangaroos are not classified under the Pests, Plants and Animals Act as an invasive species or a pest. It was noted the commissioner's office is not

	<p>part of the ACT Government, rather an independent statutory body funded by the ACT Government.</p> <p>GB noted that there are implications to this statement including animal cruelty as there may be a belief 'it's a pest, you can treat it however you like'.</p> <p>ML noted that an invasive species must not be native to a country and must be introduced.</p> <p>GB noted she will draft a letter to the Minister for City Services outlining AWAC's concerns with the information included in the paper.</p> <p><b>Agreed 5.2.1:</b> GB to draft a letter to Minister for City Services outlining AWAC's concerns regarding the report published by the Office of Sustainability and Environment. GB to send the letter to the Secretariat once complete.</p>
6	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Welfare of Cats in the ACT – VOTE</b></p> <p>MR noted that good feedback was received from stakeholders including the AVA and EPSDD CVO. All feedback agreed to had been incorporated into the code, ensuring the differentiation between owned and feral cats. It has been made very clear throughout the code that this does not relate to cat control.</p> <p>GB requested the committee to vote on the code, with this being agreed unanimously.</p> <p><b>Agreed 6.1.1:</b> Committee agreed for the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats in the ACT to be provided to the Minister for sign off.</p> <p><b>Action 6.1.1:</b> Secretariat to provide the Cat Code letter to GB for the Minister.</p> <p><b>6.2 Welfare of Dogs in the ACT – Amendments</b></p> <p>GB noted the secretariat had drafted a letter to the Animal Welfare Authority outlining that the working farm dogs code will be integrated into the dog code. It was noted that in the meeting with the Minister in March 2024, the Minister was in agreement that the Working Farm Dogs code should be incorporated into the standard dog code.</p> <p>JS noted that AWAC should look at working farm dogs as a separate code of practice as it is perceived that there will be a lot of feedback from the rural sector when this goes out for consultation.</p> <p>ML noted that there has been sufficient consideration for working farm dogs into the code of practice including things such as dogs on the back of Utes.</p> <p>MR noted that there is a process for codes of practice, and this should not differ for different stakeholders in the community as this will create issues for the committee. It was noted that there are no standards across the code that would need to change depending on where the dog is housed including sufficient food and water as these standards are universal. MR understands that yes there are nuances on breeds and their role, but splitting these codes out won't change the outcome.</p> <p>The committee met with the Minister for City Services and her office in March 2024 regarding a policy that has been brought out for noise reductions including debarking of dogs. This has been noted as a contentious topic and agreed that this should be included in the dog code to ensure that by default debarking does not become the go to or normal. AWAC does not recommend debarking and is only to be used in lieu of euthanasia.</p> <p>MR noted that the Minister's office has requested retractable leads also be added to the dog code. MR will add in the information into the code under effective control for safety reasons.</p>

	<p><b>Action 6.2.1:</b> JW to provide GB with a list of working dogs categories to note in the correspondence to DC including if those categories have sufficient regulations.</p> <p><b>Action 6.2.2:</b> JW to speak with TG regarding therapy dogs including what the regulation is around these.</p> <p><b>Action 6.2.3:</b> MR to complete final draft of dog code for presentation to the committee at the next meeting in May 2024.</p>
7	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>JS asked that it be recorded that he joined the meeting at 12.20, he was waiting to be let into the meeting at 12.00, sent an email to DA at 12.10 who sent a new link. JS asked since the sheep and cattle codes were on the agenda and that he had been asked to report on the RLA discussion of the codes, did he miss the discussion. GB replied that there was no discussion.</p>
8	<p>Meeting closed at 2:02pm. The next meeting will commence at 12:00pm, 10 May 2024, via Microsoft Teams. The link will be provided closer to the meeting date.</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #4

Friday, 10 May 2024

12.00pm – 2.00pm

MS Teams

### Attendees

Ms Genevieve Butler  
Ms Michelle Robertson  
Dr Melanie Latter  
Mr John Starr  
Ms Margaret Peachey  
Ms Judith Woolley  
Mr Wayne Slattery  
Dr Stephanie Pulsford

### Transport Canberra and City Services Secretariat

Ms Erin Barker  
Mr Phil Gritti  
Mr Dan Anderson

### Apologies

Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior  
Dr Kyelee Driver

### Minutes

1

#### 1.1 Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:03 with an acknowledgement of country, welcomed all present and noted the meeting apologies.

GB noted that SRP is an apology due to conflicting schedules, KD is an apology due to leave and WS will be attending late due to a scheduling conflict.

#### 1.2 Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest declared in this meeting.

2

#### Governance and Administration

##### 2.1 Actions Arising Register

EB noted that Action 4.1.2 GB to write to DC, AWA, advising that the Committee decided to add working farm dogs into the existing dog code rather than create a new code has been completed.

ML noted the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy consultation period has been extended until 30 June, allowing another month for AWAC to provide their response letter. ML will block out time to complete the Small Mammals codes final review and a draft of the AAWS dot points for the committee's review.

No additional actions need to be marked as complete with no comment from the committee.

## **2.2 Code of Practice Register**

DA noted that an update of the document has been completed with a new column for completion status added. This column works off a traffic light (red, amber, green) system with percentages reflecting the status of the code.

GB noted that DA has been working on uplifting the meeting papers and committee document, ensuring they are easily interpreted by members.

## **2.3 Financial Report – April 2024**

No comments made on the finance report.

GB noted that end of financial year is now approaching. It has been agreed that the secretariat will provide notification to the committee of the ACT Government's payroll cut off for end of financial year once notified. Committee members reminded to submit timesheets each month to allow accurate financial reporting.

**Action 2.3.1:** Secretariat to provide the committee with 2023-24 end of financial year payroll cut off dates to allow processing of committee payroll.

## **2.4 Risk Register**

EB Noted that there is no risk category to be noted for the month of May 2024. The committee was requested to identify any potential risks that may be emerging for this month.

JW noted that the paper outlined emerging risks for March 2024. DA noted this is a typo and would be reflected in the minutes.

MR noted that a risk was identified for stakeholder consultation. PG noted it was an important point raised regarding stakeholder engagement. It is important for risk management, as we are documenting our controls to allow the committee to provide evidence of what is being done to address stakeholder engagement. It was agreed that the secretariat would assess whether these controls are effective or whether more needs to be done in this space to address this potential risk.

GB noted that AWAC is both learning and continuously improving and will continue to update the governance space to ensure better outcomes.

ML noted that there is a risk as outlined by MR, it is important that this is documented to allow proper mitigation, as it has been noted during the update of the sheep and cattle codes of practice. With the sheep and cattle codes being updated before, prior to the current management of the committee, there may have been a communication block between previous members and their respective organisations, giving the perception that work was being completed without effective consultation.

DA noted that the secretariat has been working on a procedure for engagement on codes of practice that will outline the stages, core stakeholders and process that is required. This will be sent to GB as the chair in the next couple of days with minor amendments required prior to the committee being consulted on this.

JS noted that the RLA and farmers were both completely taken by surprise and felt ambushed when the sheep and cattle codes were sent out for consultation. It was noted in this instance consultation was a problem with the opinion that this will be the same for the code of practice for the welfare of Dogs in the ACT. JS raised the question on what consultation has been completed with the rural sector for the dog code?

GB addressed the question regarding the consultation of the sheep and cattle codes, it was noted that the former RLA representative on the committee had a large amount of input into the sheep and cattle codes prior to them being released for engagement. It was noted that there were numerous meetings held where the codes were reviewed line by line, with the RLA representative having all this input to pass onto their group. It was then noted that the consultation process begins with the draft being provided to the stakeholder engagement groups.

GB noted that regarding the dog code of practice and the incorporation of the working farm dog code, this item was discussed at the end of last year with GB able to circulate the minutes to provide further background to committee members. When the dog code was discussed, the subcommittee addressed the sections where working farm dogs would be affected and made amendments to these sections to ensure that working farm dogs would be covered.

GB noted that this code is yet to be issued to stakeholder groups for stakeholder engagement and feedback as it is in the drafting process.

ML noted that the committee had agreed to roll the dog code and working farm dogs' codes together with a meeting spent going through the code line by line to ensure all issues for farmers were incorporated, including dogs on the back of utes. This has been updated based on the feedback provided by JS. It was noted that this is almost at the stage of being issued for stakeholder engagement.

JS noted that on page 1 item 4 of the dog code, it is noted that 'the minister has had sufficient consultation on the code'. DA noted that this wording is included on all codes of practice as included in the template for sign off by the minister prior to it

	<p>being uploaded to the legislation register with this not being in effect until the final code of practice is signed off.</p> <p>MR noted as a point of clarification, the dog code has had targeted engagement completed in the first instance prior to the working farm dogs code incorporation. MR requested that all codes of practice that are currently in review have the 'DRAFT' wording added to each header to minimise confusion. MR noted that the committee is working toward a consistent format for all codes of practice.</p> <p>DA noted that the secretariat is currently reviewing the AWAC website to include current priorities to earlier notify the community what items are currently being worked on and how community members can get in touch to express interest in providing engagement.</p> <p>GB noted that the stakeholder engagement cannot be completed without a document being drafted as there would not be a piece of work to engage on.</p> <p>MR noted for minute purposes, the secretariat will circulate the engagement process that has now been formalised. It was noted that a risk has been raised and the secretariat has put a process in place to minimise that risk. MR noted that the committee does not want to perceive that JS is being out voted by members as this is not the case, AWAC has the culture that it is important for all members to have a voice and be heard in a respectful way. It was noted that the dog code subcommittee has heard the issues raised and they have been addressed. It was also noted that as a committee, they work to the best of their abilities on codes of practice and putting them out for stakeholder engagement. As a committee they are responsible for providing guidance to the Minister on a code of practice, including justification as to why feedback has/has not been adopted, identify what areas of the code may be contentious, and the compromises that AWAC has made and the reasoning behind them. The minister then has the final say whether the code will be endorsed or not.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.1:</b> Secretariat to review risk including stakeholder engagement to ensure all controls are outlined and effective in minimising this risk.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.2:</b> Secretariat to provide GB with a copy of the Code of practice consultation procedure for review.</p> <p><b>Action 2.4.2:</b> Secretariat to add 'DRAFT' to the top and bottom of each document that is not a final copy.</p>
3	<p><b>Animal Welfare Authority Update</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Update from DAS</b></p> <p>TG advised that she is now permanent in the role and will be with the committee for a long time to come.</p> <p>TG informed the committee that pet business licenses are due for renewal, with inspections currently being undertaken. Five-year licenses will be provided to business, with shorter licenses being issued to businesses requiring improvements.</p>

Some new licences are being issued earlier than the current expiry date in order to stagger the next lot of expiry dates.

GB noted that pet tags look like a very interesting piece of work.

TG noted that TCCS and EPSDD have partnered up in working on this task with Thylation in the use of pet tags.

SP noted that TCCS and EPSDD are trialling these small Bluetooth tags with the idea that this is something that can be used to track any wandering or lost cats in the ACT. These tags are noted as small, lightweight and long lasting, with this being very much at the trial phase.

SP noted that this trial is something that EPSDD and TCCS are very interested in discussing further with the RSPCA, MR noted that she would be happy to discuss further in the meeting chat.

MR noted that there needs to be an update in the wording in the business papers on 'Pet Businesses' and 'Pet Shops' as documented. MR noted that this is only a small update although it is important to be consistent across terminology.

ML raised whether the pet tags are attached to the pet with 'pet safe' collars. SP noted that the tags are attached to the existing pet's collar.

**Agreed 3.1.1:** TG agreed to update Pet Businesses terminologies, with guidance from MR.

### **3.2 Code of Practice for Groomers in the ACT**

Correspondence was raised to the minister from a business owner regarding pet grooming.

Several concerns were raised around qualifications and the upskilling of pet groomers in the ACT. DAS has requested that this be brought to AWAC's attention and follow up with any thoughts on a potential way to move forward. The constituent has requested the educational standards become mandatory with an enforcement regime and an update to be completed on the code of practice for Pet Groomers in the ACT.

GB noted that educational standards do not fall under AWAC with the view that a subcommittee could draft a position statement on this.

New subcommittee to be set up in AWAC for the drafting of the Position Statement on Pet Groomers in the ACT, which will include JW, TG and GB. This is in addition to the Subcommittee for the drafting of the Code of Practice for Pet Groomers.

WS joined that meeting at 12:57

JW noted that Dogs Australia has called for a subcommittee on Pet Groomers with representatives from each state to discuss this issue further. The subcommittee will cover regulation and any other educational requirements that may be required in the future.

ML noted that this was previously discussed in a meeting in relation to the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. It was noted that this may be a consideration in the new Animal Welfare Strategy.

	<p>MR noted that there are three issues of note for Pet Groomers, as below;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Regulating the industry that is a very important task that will not fall under the <i>Animal Welfare Act</i>.</li><li>2. The code of practice will cover the animal welfare component of this issue, although a code of practice will not address the regulation of the industry.</li><li>3. Human Injury.</li></ol> <p>It is noted that only one of these tranches falls under the remit for this committee, although there is an opportunity to provide AWAC's support for regulating the industry.</p> <p>GB requested the committee's feedback on providing a position statement on the regulation of the industry. GB will complete an initial draft of the position statement to provide to the committee for the Ministers office.</p> <p>TG noted that the Animal Welfare Authority will be following up with the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) as there is no current course offered for this subject. TG will be meeting with CIT in the coming weeks to discuss further.</p> <p>ML noted that she is happy to be involved in the position statement outlining the risks that can occur if this is not addressed.</p> <p><b>Action 3.2.1:</b> Secretariat to add Position Statement for Pet Groomers in the ACT to the workplan, to be drafted by the June 2024 meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 3.2.2:</b> JW and TG to complete research on Pet Groomers Codes of Practice and what other jurisdictions are doing by July 2024 meeting.</p> <p><b>Action 3.2.3:</b> GB to work with ML on position statement on Pet Groomers in the ACT, with consultation from Pet Groomers code of practice subcommittee.</p>
4	<p><b>AWAC Workplan</b></p> <p><b>4.1 2023-24 Workplan</b></p> <p>It was agreed for the below edits to be made to the workplan to be moved under Sheep Code of Practice.</p> <p>Item 11: Position statement for Pet Groomers in the ACT.</p> <p>Item 12: Pet Groomers code of practice to move up to item twelve from eighteen.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.1:</b> Secretariat to make amendments to the AWAC 2023-24 Workplan.</p> <p>JW noted that as AWAC is currently working on the codes of practice for Cats, Dogs and Small Mammals, and whether it would be possible to move the Pets and Domestic Violence position statement up the order of priority? This was raised due to domestic violence being a hot topic in media over the past few months.</p> <p>GB noted that a previous member was working on this item, and it was noted that any information already gathered may not have been passed on. GB will collate and circulate the information and research previously conducted.</p> <p>MR noted that this this position statement is a large amount of work with AWAC not having a lot of influence over the outcome. MR noted the below questions;</p>

	<p>1. What can we do as a committee to influence the outcome?</p> <p>MR noted that she would be happy to assist with this position statement, although AWAC needs a clear direction on what the committee wants to achieve.</p> <p>JW noted that the committee could potentially work towards a position statement on this issue with what AWAC recommends in these situations.</p> <p>WS raised the point that he fails to see how the welfare of the animal would change from the current codes the ACT has in effect. WS noted that the welfare is the same for animals no matter the situation.</p> <p>MR agreed the standard for the welfare for the Animal does not change. AWAC can provide standards and guidelines for the welfare of animals in the ACT, but this isn't going to solve the issue. MR noted there is a lot of work that can be undertaken and great work that is being done on this issue, but unfortunately this is not an item that AWAC could get traction on as it sits outside the committee's scope.</p> <p><b>Agreed 4.1.3:</b> GB to collate and circulate research and information on domestic violence and pets drafted by previous AWAC members.</p>
5	<p><b>Australian Animal Welfare Strategy</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Submission to the Animal Welfare Strategy</b></p> <p>Moved onto the June Agenda.</p> <p><b>Agreed 5.2.1:</b> Secretariat to add 'Australian Animal Welfare Strategy submission' to June agenda considering extension from Commonwealth.</p>
6	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Welfare of Poultry (Non-Commercial)</b></p> <p>GB noted that a final draft version of the code of practice is ready to be circulated for stakeholder engagement, if the Committee is in agreement. While SRP was unable to attend the meeting, she was comfortable with the code going out for stakeholder engagement, as long as the committee only has minor amendments.</p> <p>ML noted that this code of practice has already been issued for targeted consultation with Sandy Hume at the AVA. It was noted that Simon O'Mahoney has requested to be included in the consultation process as an individual and GB has agreed for this constituent to be included.</p> <p>MP noted that she had reviewed the Code of Practice with a couple of minor amendment requested. Amendments as below;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Definition de-snooting to be added into the definitions section of the code.</li><li>2. Definition of dubbing to be added to the definitions of the code.</li><li>3. Typo in background second last paragraph (Additional F)</li><li>4. Under section G2.7 Pool dimensions to be added.</li></ol> <p>The Committee agreed to those amendments, and voted to circulate the draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Poultry (Non-Commercial) to stakeholders</p>

ML noted that the National Standards for Poultry has been endorsed by the Minister and is ready to be considered for adoption by the committee for the ACT.

**Action 6.1.1:** Secretariat to make amendment as MP comments for the Poultry (Non-Commercial) Code.

**Agreed 6.1.2:** Agreed for the code of practice for the welfare of Poultry (Non-Commercial) to be circulated for Stakeholder engagement.

**Action 6.1.3:** Secretariat to circulate Poultry Code of practice for Stakeholder Engagement to those noted on the business paper.

## **6.2 Welfare of Dogs in the ACT – Amendments**

MR noted that there are various minor changes that have been made in the code of practice that the committee can review offline in lieu of time.

MR noted that a major change to the code has been that the five freedoms are quite outdated. It was suggested that AWAC update the template to include references only to the five domains, rather than the five freedoms. These amendments are to be made to all codes that are currently not finalised including the below;

1. Code of practice for the welfare of Cats in the ACT
2. Code of practice for the welfare of Dogs in the ACT
3. Code of practice for the welfare of Small Mammals in the ACT
4. Code of practice for the welfare of Poultry (Non-Commercial) in the ACT

MR noted that at the last RSPCA conference a speaker attended to speak on the five domains. MR is happy to share this 55-minute presentation upon request from the committee.

MR requested that JS re-review the code to ensure all issues relating to working farm dogs are covered. It was noted that if there were any additional changes, they can be raised with MR for update.

MR noted that for the last 10 minutes of the meeting there would be time to discuss high level changes to the code.

JS noted he had some changes that would be returned to MR in tracked changes, although he had a couple of quick questions for now, as below with answers;

1. Has the ACT banned any breeds – MR answered, the ACT is not breed specific as it is based on the behaviour of the dog.
2. Interstate Travel - MR answered, interstate travel is covered under the travel section of the code. It has been noted that traveling dogs, specifically sheep dogs, are tethered for longer than what has been recommended in the draft code. It was noted that the ACT allows for tethering but there needs to be certain conditions around this. It was also noted that if in the instance of the sheep dog trials happening in any state, participants need to be aware of any requirements or guidelines around that state. JS requested that AWAC adds the national sheep dog association as a stakeholder for consultation. MR noted this as a good point, it was requested that once the code of practice is

	<p>finalised for Dogs in the ACT, the secretariat add the national sheep dog association to the distribution of the code.</p> <p>3. Question relating to the capture of stray dogs - if they are caught and taken to the vet in a vehicle, are you in breach of the code as they are unrestrained? MR answered that in the ACT you are normally less than 20-minutes away from a vet at any specific time and this would not be classed as unreasonable for transport.</p> <p>WS noted that it is challenging to identify an owned dog when it is in the distance attacking your wildlife, and raised the point of what happens if a farmer does shoot an owned dog.</p> <p>WS raised that ending a dog's life that is attacking your livestock is not covered under the euthanasia section of the code of practice. It was noted by MR that this is not covered under the euthanasia section of the code due to this being outside of scope of the code.</p> <p>JS noted that it is believed that he has been overruled on the breeding standards and the owning of multiple dogs. It was noted that AWAC has not overruled this, with both of these issues being captured under legislation.</p> <p>GB noted any further questions on the Dog code can be passed on to MR, ML and JW. It was noted that stakeholder engagement needs to be completed as substantive changes have been made.</p> <p><b>Agreed 6.2.1:</b> Committee agreed to remove the five freedoms from the code of practice template and draft codes now only referring to the five domains.</p> <p><b>Action 6.2.2:</b> Secretariat to update code of practice template and current codes of practice in draft form.</p> <p><b>Action 6.2.3:</b> JS to review the code of practice for the welfare of Dogs in the ACT to ensure working farm dogs are sufficiently covered.</p> <p><b>Action 6.2.4:</b> JS to raise any potential further edits in writing to MR for discussion to ensure sufficient coverage.</p>
7	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>No other business raised.</p>
8	<p>Meeting closed at 2:02pm. The next meeting will commence at 12:00pm, 14 June 2024, via Microsoft Teams. The link will be provided closer to the meeting date.</p>

## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #5

Friday, 14 June 2024

12.00pm – 2.00pm

MS Teams

### Attendees

Ms Genevieve Butler  
Ms Michelle Robertson  
Dr Melanie Latter  
Mr John Starr  
Ms Margaret Peachey  
Ms Judith Woolley  
Mr Wayne Slattery  
Dr Kyeelee Driver  
Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior

### Guest Speakers

Mr Simon O'Shea  
Ms Georgia Nicolls  
Ms Bianca De Silva

### Transport Canberra and City Services Secretariat

Ms Erin Barker  
Mr Phil Gritti  
Mr Dan Anderson

### Apologies

Dr Stephanie Pulsford

### Minutes

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | <p><b>1.1 Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting at 12:00 with an acknowledgement of country, welcomed all present and noted the meeting apologies.</p> <p>GB made a special welcome to KD as this is her first meeting since being re-appointed.</p> |
|---|--|

	<p>GB noted that SRP is finishing up her appointment at the end of this meeting as she has accepted an opportunity to work within a university in Canada. GB thanked SRP for all her contributions to the committee and the codes she has personally worked on with the committee and wished SRP all the best in the future.</p> <p><b>1.2 Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>Potential conflict of interest raised by ML regarding the discussion of the Veterinary Practice Review and her position on the ACT Veterinary Practitioners Board. The committee noted this with no issues on MLs representation of her position on AWAC.</p> <p><b>1.3 Meeting Dates – In person</b></p> <p>It was agreed for the August meeting to be held in person, this meeting will have the outgoing and incoming appointed members in attendance. GB noted that this will allow new members to be across what the current members work items are, allowing them to have the chance to ask any questions prior to current members expiring.</p> <p><b>Action 1.3.1:</b> Secretariat to update August meeting invite to an in-person meeting and send meeting details to all members.</p>
2	<p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Actions Arising Register</b></p> <p>EB noted that there is a lot of completed actions on the register.</p> <p>ML provided an update on her action 4.1.1 from the April 2024 meeting. The draft is completed for the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy by the Australian Veterinary Association. Key points will be circulated to the committee prior to the due date of 30 June for GB to complete the letter of support on behalf of AWAC.</p> <p><b>2.2 Code of Practice Register</b></p> <p>EB noted there are currently three codes of practice out for community engagement including Sheep, Cattle and Poultry (Non-Commercial). The committee had no comment on this item.</p> <p><b>2.3 Financial Report – April 2024</b></p> <p>No comment was made on this item by the committee members.</p> <p>GB noted that there are a couple of committee members that are required to submit timesheet. It was noted that it is good practice to have the timesheets for payment be submitted against this year’s budget.</p> <p>EB noted that there was approximately \$18,000 remaining in the budget for 2023-24.</p> <p><b>Action 2.3.1:</b> Committee members to submit all remaining timesheets for end of financial year processing.</p>

	<p><b>2.4 Risk Register</b></p> <p>EB noted that the risk for this month is <i>Ineffective AWAC governance arrangements/failure to comply with legislation</i>. The committee noted there are several controls around this risk allowing it to be managed effectively. EB noted that there is a treatment/preventative control around building a suite of standard operating procedures for AWAC, this is currently in progress with the secretariat working through these items.</p> <p>MR reminded members of the requirement that codes of practice need to comply with ACT Legislation and Regulations. MR believes that this is a very relevant issue that has been covered by many conversations AWAC have been involved in. MR raised this to ensure clarity with the committee and raise awareness of the risk. MR noted that with codes of practice amendments and drafting, the committee is required to put aside personal views and ensure there are no contradictions to current legislation or regulation.</p> <p>GB explained, when talking about AWAC's obligations in reviewing a code of practice, this would include completing tasks in a timely manner. The committee has a history of reviewing and revisiting issues that have previously been addressed and agreed upon. It was noted that GB must balance moving an agenda along and having very in-depth discussions on items with also giving each member a chance to be heard. GB explained that we do not have the timeframes to allow discussions to continue items that have previously been agreed upon.</p>
3	<p><b>3.1 Veterinary Practice Review</b></p> <p>GB introduced Stephen O'Shea, Bianca De Silva and Georgia Nicolls as members of the TCCS Strategic Policy and Programs team to discuss the Veterinary Practice Review that is out for consultation.</p> <p>SO informed the committee that the review is being undertaken in two parts. The first part of the review is noted as the statutory review which is required to be undertaken every 5 years, looking at the Act in detail and all regulations that sit under this. The second part is around recommendations to government, this will cover broader considerations of the review, whether the regulations should cover other areas including the extension to other staff members, including mental health and wellbeing for staff, mentoring for other areas of support, improving respite care for animals and what may happen to animals when their owners are in care and finally, crisis support for access to urgent health care including subsidies.</p> <p>As part of the review, TCCS has gone out for public consultation that commenced on 22 May 2024 and closes on 2 July 2024. This has been sent out as more of an online discussion paper on the ACT YourSay website. During the consultation period, TCCS will commence a more focused approach to consultation for groups that will be able to considerably contribute to the review.</p> <p>The requirement for statutory report needs to be tabled in the legislative assembly in early September 2024. This will also include a listening report on this item with more feedback that has been received from the wider community for members consideration. TCCS is looking at what worked well under the current legislation,</p>

what were the challenges for users and decision makers, and any recommendations for improvements.

It is noted that under the act there is a proposed amendment that would allow non veterinary professionals who hold a Diploma in Equine Allied Health to undertake equine dentistry including the use of power tools, noting that currently this is a restricted act under the legislation.

KD voiced concerns regarding sedations and is happy to discuss offline. SO agreed to meet with KD offline. KD raised a question around the restricted act of sedation and whether this would be amended to authorised people? It was noted that this has been a concern for a number of years. SO noted that this has not been flagged in a particular update in this amendment, although it will be part of the full review. PG noted that this is not a concern that has been raised, although it was noted that items such as these are the intention of the full review.

WS requested to be updated on this item as items change. SO agreed.

MR raised that the RSPCA had been in discussions with the Vet Board for several years regarding vet nurses being permitted to perform cat castrations. MR informed the committee that allowing vet nurses to be able to perform these acts would elevate pressures immensely as the RSPCA would be able to facilitate adoptions at a faster speed. SO noted that TCCS has reached out to RSPCA ACT to arrange a meeting to discuss amendments in more detail. MR shared her RSPCA contact for SO to arrange directly.

ML noted that Australian Vet Boards are looking into the regulation of vet nurses with a view that some restricted acts will be able to be performed by vet nurses. This is intended to alleviate the pressure on veterinary practitioners, as there is a workforce crisis. ML noted that around equine dentistry, it is legal for lay equine dentists to use manual tools although there is a restriction on the use of power tools, as there are animal welfare implications as great harm can be done in the wrong hands. This issue has been raised by the lay equine dentists.

ML explained the sedation issue is a separate issue relating to sedation on farms. It has been noted that there is an acknowledgement of the scientific code in the national code for research, there are specific guidelines around this including the requirement for approval from the ethics board.

KD provided the example for the issue above. The ACT Government conducts fertility control for kangaroos across the territory. To administer the treatment, rangers dart the animal with sedation. This is an approved protocol across the ACT as cleared by the animal ethics committee, although it is a requirement to have a veterinarian in attendance as it needs to be under direct supervision.

WS asked that he be kept in the loop with the amendments of accreditation, as he believes this is an act that should be opened to a larger trade.

ML noted that in Western Australia there are provisions for lay vets to receive accreditation for sedations without a veterinary officer's attendance, although this is not the case in the ACT. ML noted that this may be an issue that WS may wish to submit a position on behalf of his organisation.

	<p>JS noted that it is a requirement in the ACT that a vet be in attendance for the sheering of rams as they require sedation. JS noted that this is impractical with timings required.</p> <p>SO noted that the policy team are collecting any preliminary questions or comments on the legislation, with the view that AWAC can provide a submission if required prior to 2 July 2024.</p> <p>GB thanked the policy team for their presentation and other dealings they have had with AWAC.</p> <p>GB asked the committee, if, because of the short time frames, members are happy to provide submissions on behalf of their organisations, or whether the committee would prefer AWAC to provide a position statement.</p> <p>MR noted that RSPCA ACT will be providing a submission to the consultation of the legislation.</p> <p>ML noted that AVA will be providing a submission also. ML raised that there will be disproportionate views across AWAC on this item and it would be a better use of time if members provided submission on behalf of their organisations only.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.1:</b> Secretariat to forward consultation link to members.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> The committee agreed not to provide a position statement on the Veterinary Practice Review. Members can provide feedback by 2 July on behalf of their organisations.</p>
4	<p><b>4.1 Animal Welfare Authority update</b></p> <p>In 2019 the ACT Government completed a pet census prepared by Micromex. An updated pet census is to be completed as approved by the DG of TCCS. This will be completed in the next 6 to 12 months.</p> <p><b>Action 4.1.1:</b> TG to provide pet census to secretariat for circulation to peoples that request.</p>
5	<p><b>Workplan</b></p> <p><b>5.1 2023-24 work plan</b></p> <p>JS noted the RLA is listed as being on the subcommittee for items 6 and 7 on the current work plan, although this is not the case in the 2024-25 workplan.</p> <p>GB noted that this was an error on the spreadsheet as previous member John Guth had large amounts of input into the codes.</p> <p>ML noted that all current changes to the Sheep and Cattle Codes of Practice were changes agreed by previous committee members, including John Guth and Wendy Townsend.</p> <p>GB noted that the drafting phase of the Sheep and Cattle codes are completed including feedback from previous committee members. These codes are currently out for further consultation.</p>

JS asked if the RLA is on the subcommittee at this time? It was agreed that ML will work though the feedback with JS once received. It was noted that the makeup of subcommittees may need to be reviewed as memberships of AWAC expire.

JS noted that it would be beneficial for him to be involved in the discussion on the feedback. This was agreed. JS noted that the secretariat has provided dot points around the sheep and cattle codes of practice for a monthly meeting with the RLA, it was noted that this should take some pressure off.

EB outlined the stakeholder engagement process with this code. It was noted that the engagement period is still open for feedback as the first round of engagement was with selected groups. Since this, the committee has agreed to engage with a core stakeholder group, this group is who is currently being consulted with in the second stage on engagement. Once all feedback has been received the secretariat will collate all feedback in the best possible way and provide this to the subcommittee for integration and discussion. It was noted that feedback will not be reviewed until the consultation process has closed.

**Agreed:** It was agreed to include the JS as the RLA representative in the subcommittee.

**Agreed:** Secretariat to provide the whole committee with a list of stakeholders that provided feedback once stakeholder engagement has been completed.

## **5.2 2024-25 work plan**

GB noted that this document is intended to be provided to the Minister for City Services as AWAC regularly does each year.

GB explained the work plan is triaged by priority, with future tasks being items that AWAC does wish to complete although they are not high priority tasks. If an AWAC member wishes to take carriage of a task on the future tasks list, they can request their name be added to it on the workplan.

GB raised that Item 8 was requested by Wendy Townsend in her role as the CVO – Keeping small farm animals as pets. This item was raised in light of members of the community wishing to keep miniature goats as pets. GB requested that KD take carriage of this item as the lead. This code would include chapters on each small farm animal starting with miniature goats.

KD noted that it would be beneficial for her to consider this item as there is a larger issue with registration and would require further discussion with Domestic Animal Services.

MR provided background on this item, including Wendy Townsend contacting MR regarding keeping of “miniature pigs”. This is what led to the discussion.

KD responded with this is an item she is familiar with, as she has regular discussions with the community.

GB requested this item be added to the July 2024 agenda to discuss in more detail.

	<p>KD assured the committee with animals such as these, the CVO is very involved with the process, including discussing the preference that more than one animal is obtained.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2.1:</b> Secretariat to provide KD with the conversation on Keeping small farm animals as pets between AWAC and Dr Wendy Townsend.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2.2:</b> Secretariat to add Keeping Small Farm Animals as pets to July 2024 agenda.</p> <p><b>Agreed:</b> The 2024-25 Workplan be provided to the Minister for City Services.</p> <p><b>Action 5.2.3:</b> Secretariat to provide a brief to the Minister for City Services with a copy of AWAC 2024-25 work plan.</p>
6	<p><b>Australian Animal Welfare Strategy</b></p> <p>ML provided an update on the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy. A draft has been completed and ML will provide key points to GB to allow AWAC to provide a letter of support on this item.</p>
7	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT – Vote on engagement</b></p> <p>MR noted that a first draft of the code of practice for the Welfare of Dogs in the ACT was completed by JW in early 2022. That code has been circulated as amendments were made. It has been noted that multiple copies of the code have been circulated with many categories being added including working farm dogs and assistance dogs. It has since been agreed by AWAC and the Minister for City Services that all the discussed categories are added into one code of practice.</p> <p>KD noted that AWAC needs to pay close attention to the mandatory standards within the code of practice in which we draft. This includes using the word ‘must’ on standards that are mandatory, and ‘should’ in guidelines. KD also noted that there needs to be a communications plan around this item to ensure the community is informed of any changes to the code.</p> <p>DA explained that once the code is returned to AWAC after the community engagement period has closed, the engagement feedback is reviewed and all agreed feedback is incorporated into the code. Once this has occurred, a communications plan is developed by the secretariat alongside the TCCS Communications team. A brief, the code and communications plan is then provided to the Minister for their endorsement. Once the code is endorsed the communications plan is enacted.</p> <p>KD explained that it is very important for ACT dog owners to be aware of any changes and new obligations they are required to follow. The committee agreed.</p> <p>MR explained that she has met separately with JS to discuss input for working farm dogs into the code. MR noted that there has since been one subsequent suggestion for amendment to the code, and this will be added directly after the meeting. MR suggested that this amendment be made, and the code be finalised in the drafting period to alleviate any further delays and the committee agreed.</p> <p>MR noted key changes to the code are;</p>

1. **Issues around dog attacks on Livestock and remedies available to farmers –** MR has included in the code suggestions on how to keep stock safe and what to do if there is a dog attack.
2. **Breeding licence requirements for working animals –** This is a separate issue, and this cannot be addressed in the code.
3. **Tethering –** The section on tethering in working farm dogs section of the code has been amended with some slight leniency. The section has not been weakened but written in a more practical way.
4. **Delta Training –** This section will either be removed or reworded.

WS noted that the reason that this code has been in the drafting stage for so long is due to the Working Farm Dogs code being merged into the Dog Code. WS noted that spending three hours a day with a working dog is sometimes not practical, when other days its quite easy.

ML outlined issues around mandatory standards not being enforceable. TCCS Legal provides advice on mandatory standards and outlines if they are enforceable or not, if not we amend where possible. It was noted that if in doubt this can help with a magistrate's decision-making process.

TG noted that it is hard to audit and inspect on mandatory standards if they are not enforceable.

KD noted that codes of practice should not reference particular drugs or companies. Noting that in the dog code a particular drug that is mentioned for hormonal sterilisation, ML agreed that we should amend this to GnRH vaccine.

The secretariat agreed to check the wording for 'must' and 'should' in codes to ensure they are in the correct position prior to circulation.



MR noted that JS raised similar issues when the dog code was discussed in relation to protecting livestock. MR explained that additional guidance around keeping stock safe has been added and remedies that can be followed if there is an aggressive dog. The *Domestic Animals Act 2000* covers these remedies, and this is what the remedies provided in the dog code are based upon.

KD clarified that this code is only for owned dogs.

KD sought clarity on whether this code of practice will be open for community engagement. DA clarified that the code of practice engagement will be advertised on the AWAC website as per the other codes that are out for engagement. TCCS Secretariat will discuss with TCCS Communications on the best way to engage with the wider community.

Noted JS dropped out of the call at 1:30pm and returned at 1:46pm.

**Agreed:** AWAC agreed for the engagement to occur on this code of practice.

	<p><b>Action 7.1.1:</b> [REDACTED]</p> <p><b>Action 7.1.2:</b> Secretariat to speak with TCCS Comms on the best way to communicate that the Dog Code of practice is currently open for community engagement.</p>
7	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>No other business raised.</p>
8	<p>Meeting closed at 2:02pm. The next meeting will commence at 12:00pm, 14 June 2024, via Microsoft Teams. The link will be provided closer to the meeting date.</p>

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING #6**

**Friday, 12 July 2024**

**12.00pm – 2.00pm**

**MS Teams**

**Attendees**

Ms Genevieve Butler  
Ms Michelle Robertson  
Dr Melanie Latter  
Mr John Starr  
Ms Margaret Peachey  
Ms Judith Woolley  
Mr Wayne Slattery  
Dr Kyeelee Driver  
Dr Stephanie Pulsford

**Guest Speakers**

Mr Mark Sweaney

**Transport Canberra and City Services Secretariat**

Ms Erin Barker  
Mr Dan Anderson

**Minutes**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | <p><b>1.1 Welcome</b></p> <p>The Deputy Chair opened the meeting at 12:02 with an acknowledgement of country and NAIDOC Week. The Deputy Chair continued to welcome all present and noted there were no apologies. It was noted that the minutes have been accepted with committee changes.</p> <p><b>1.2 Conflicts of Interest</b></p> <p>Nil conflicts of interest noted.</p> |
| 2 | <p><b>Governance and Administration</b></p> <p><b>2.1 Financial Report – June 2024</b></p>  |

EB noted the report that the June attachment for the financial year is missing. It was noted that due to the end of financial year payroll cut off was earlier than other months. EB noted that due to end of financial year the July sitting fees have been charged to the 2024-25 budget and there was an additional \$5,000 of additional hours claimed by committee members.

MR noted that there is a need for a midyear budget review to be completed. This will be added to the February 2025 meeting agenda.

**Action 2.1.1:** Secretariat to add midyear budget review to AWAC February 2025 meeting agenda.

## **2.2 Risk Register**

No additional risks were raised during the meeting.

## **2.3 Code of Practice Register**

EB noted the Minister endorsed the four small mammal codes, with these to be uploaded to the ACT Legislation Register the following week.

WS requested an update on the code of practice for the welfare of dogs in the ACT. EB noted that this item is with the secretariat to arrange stakeholder consultation. The Secretariat noted that they are working with the TCCS communications team on this item and will update as it progresses.

## **2.4 Actions Arising Register**

MR outlined the open actions on the register.

5.2.2 – GB to draft a letter regarding the State of the Environment report, this item is open for GB to complete.

5.2.2 – Secretariat to add keeping small farm animals as pets to September Agenda.

7.1.1 – [REDACTED]

No other open actions identified and no comment from the committee.

**Agreed 2.4.1:** Secretariat to send reminder email to members regarding open actions at the end of each month.

## **2.5 2024-25 Work plan**

MR noted the current work plan and the items that are of high importance to the committee.

DA noted consultation feedback for the Welfare of Poultry (Non-commercial) has been received and circulated to GB for progressing.

DA noted that all feedback has been received for the codes of practice for sheep and cattle and is with the committee for discussion at this meeting.

DA noted that JW has developed the position statement for Pet Groomers in the ACT, this item is to be considered by the committee within this meeting.

WS is working on the horse racing levy and is developing the information for the input. WS agreed to the timing of October – November for this piece of work.

	<p>DA noted that the ACT caretaker period commences on 12 September 2024, and will continue until the 11<sup>th</sup> ACT Assembly is formed. This is usually around end of October to early November.</p> <p>The Secretariat is working with the TCCS communications team on the best way to consult on codes of practice moving forward.</p> <p><b>Action 2.5.1:</b> WS to provide secretariat with copy of Horse racing levy research by October 2024 meeting.</p>
3	<p><b>Position Statements</b></p> <p><b>3.1 Pet Groomers in the ACT</b></p> <p>JW noted that there is a lack of legislation in Australia regarding pet groomers and pet grooming. There is some small amount of information included in the <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW)</i>.</p> <p>Members noted a grooming specific organisation in Western Australia (WA) had been established to support groomers, educate the public, and overall help improve the industry. The organisation was formed with a strong governance foundation including a mission statement, constitution, code of ethics and code of professional conduct. It was noted that while this has not been moved into legislation in WA, it may be information that can be repurposed for the ACT. JW noted that this paper has been drafted with this research in mind.</p> <p>MR noted that KD is currently working on the Avian bird flu outbreak and has been unable to read the meeting papers at the present time. KD advised she will provide comments prior to August's meeting. This item will be looking to endorse at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the need to review the position paper and amend paragraph around confidential data, cyber security and taking payments.</p> <p><b>Agreed 3.1.1:</b> Committee agreed to remove the confidential data, cyber security and taking payments.</p> <p><b>Action 3.1.2:</b> JW to amend position paper for consideration by the committee at the August 2024 meeting.</p>
4	<p><b>4.1 Animal Welfare Authority update</b></p> <p>TG advised there was no update to provide from the Animal Welfare Authority.</p>

5

### 5.1 Discussion on 1080 Poisons

General information can be found on 1080 poisons with a position paper completed by the invasive species council on the ethical considerations of using 1080 to control feral animals. MS provided the link to the paper as below:

<https://invasives.org.au/publications/1080-a-weighty-ethical-issue/>.

MS outlined that as a small jurisdiction we are lucky that we can be quite innovative and strategic in the way the ACT controls invasive species and over abundant wildlife.

MS informed the committee that the use of 1080 in the ACT is generally used for wild dogs, dingos, pigs, foxes and rabbits. 1080 is the most effective pesticide for establishing predator proof, predator free sanctuaries. It was noted that it is quite restricted in terms of its use around dwellings and it is not used for rabbit management in urban areas.

MS noted when new techniques/poisons become available, the ACT is in a position to be able to adopt these. For instance, 1080 was used for a long time for ground-based pig control, however, when sodium nitrite became available (which is a more humane poison) it was noted the preparation time significantly increased. MS informed the committee that when using sodium nitrite, a specific type of feeder needs to be used and animals need to be feed in the correct place. In the ACT we are in the position to meet these requirements, with the majority of ground-based control now being undertaken using sodium nitrate in order to move to a more humane poison. It was noted that not all agencies can achieve this as they are not in the same position as the ACT.

MS also discussed wild dog, dingo and fox control tactics. It was noted the ACT works closely with jurisdictional counterparts, where they rely a lot more on aerial baiting. To be effective, it requires approximately 40 baits per kilometre be used. MS informed the committee that carnivores are more susceptible to 1080 then herbivores. It was noted the ACT undertakes baiting by hand in spring and autumn. It was noted that the control area in the Namadgi National Park uses around 380 baits.

ML advised that PAPP is an ideal substitute for 1080 as it is deemed much more humane. ML noted that PAPP can be used in place of 1080 in almost all circumstances, with the possible exception of aerial baiting in remote locations where access is limited. ML questioned whether there were particular areas aerial baiting can only be undertaken in the ACT, otherwise, if access is not a problem, then PAPP should be used in preference.

MS noted that the ACT Government is aware of PAPP and is working with the EPA to seek approval. The biggest issue with PAPP is the vulnerability of some native animals, particularly the Rosenberg's Goanna. However, there are other versions of PAPP the ACT is considering, not just meat baits, but the use of Canid Pest Ejectors which animals have to pull on allowing the targeting of certain species.

ML raised strong concerns that 1080 is an inhumane poison and needs to be phased out as soon as possible. It was strongly recommended PAPP be used in place of 1080 when the terrain and access is available. ML also noted there is an antidote for PAPP in the case of accidental poisoning of a pet dog. ML advised the AVA has developed

	<p>FAQ sheets regarding the use of PAPP and what can be done in the guide of accidental poisoning. These FAQs are available upon request.</p> <p>MS noted that 1080 is still applicable in some instances, including in parts of the Namadgi National Park, where other baits do not work. 1080 is still being used in areas where there is an overpopulation of rabbits (in excess of 100 per area). MR questioned what is the most humane way to remove over population of a species? KD advised that shooting is the most humane way to remove overpopulation. However, MS noted that this is not usually possible with rabbits, due to the high numbers.</p> <p>When asked how sodium nitrate works, ML informed the committee that it causes methaemoglobinemia, which causes a lowering of oxygen in the bloodstream, the animal then becomes weak and loses consciousness and subsequently dies. More humane than many other options for pigs.</p> <p>MR suggested it would be beneficial for AWAC to write a letter of support for the Department's transition away from 1080 to PAPP, for Minister Cheyne to provide to Minister Vassarotti, Minister for the Environment. The committee agreed with this approach. ML agreed to write the letter to support this change by the ACT Government.</p> <p><b>Action 5.1.1:</b> ML to draft dot points for GB for a letter to the Minister for City Services to note AWAC does not support the use of 1080, and supports the efforts being made by EPSDD to reduce the use of 1080 poisons and transition away from 1080 to PAPP.</p>
6	<p><b>Codes of Practice</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Code of Practice for the Welfare of Sheep in the ACT</b></p> <p>GB noted that the engagement feedback has been received. It was noted that the feedback is to be considered by the committee in session and a vote will be conducted on each item that is not agreed to.</p> <p>Committee members were informed that no meetings had taken place with Minister Cheyne on the sheep and cattle codes. It was also noted that when reviewing proposed codes of practice, the Minister is provided with all consultation feedback to ensure a considered and transparent approach is undertaken. Members requested the committee be provided a copy of information provided to the Minister's Office for noting only.</p> <p>DA noted that in lieu of time, the secretariat will make comment in the feedback spreadsheets on notes and agreeance. It was noted that there is some feedback that is a double up in the sheep and cattle tables. All comments will be noted in the first instance in the sheep consultation table and the secretariat will amend the cattle feedback notes if comments are the same.</p> <p>The committee discussed the below feedback from stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>General comment</i> WS made comment on the front section of the code '<i>The reason why it's higher standard than the national code is based on scientific and community scientific evidence</i></li></ul>

*and community expectations.*' GB noted the reasoning for these codes being higher than National Standards is due to the higher standards of the ACT's *Animal Welfare Act 1992* and the recognition that animals are sentient beings.

ML noted that in the first row of comments that some of the higher standards that we have imparted, including suggestions around using analgesia irrespective of the age of the animal, are science based. They are based on science and it was noted there had been no objection to these, with the only objection to analgesics being related to ear marking.

KD noted that there is a competitive disadvantage from the proposed ACT requirements to the requirements in NSW. ML noted that many farmers are already using pain relief, in particular buccalgesic, which can be purchased over the counter.

ML noted that with the comment on line three (C4) of the engagement feedback that 'the national standards and guidelines were developed with the agreement that these would all be the minimum standards would all be implemented with national consistency.' It was noted that in the preface of all National Standards and Guidelines, it specifies that jurisdictions are able to adapt to align with legislation if they have legislation which is deemed to be of a higher standard, like in the ACT.

- *Preface*

GB noted the comment from ACT CVO (C7) regarding concerns of using the word 'higher'. Members discussed amending to a different word, however KD reminded the committee that the ACT Government recognised its 'higher' standards of animal welfare and keeping this in line with the ACT Government statements is critical to passing the message to the users of these codes.

KD was asked whether there were any other costs that the committee needed to be aware of or concerned about. KD advised the importance of having an active education programme. The committee noted that education is an important part of the implementing this code.

- *Section 2: Feed and water, S2.1*

GB outlined comments made by the ACT CVO on line 10 (C10) of the engagement feedback regarding outdoor grazing.

KD explained that confined paddock feeding and feed lotting of sheep is a well-known method in cases of drought, by saying that they must be provided with reasonable access to outdoor grazing would prohibit that. JS supported KDs statement.

The committee agreed to split the standard, and add the below as a guideline:

*'a person in charge should provide sheep with reasonable access to outdoor raising'.*

- *Section 2: Feed and water, G2.1*

GB outlined comments made by the AVA in line eight (C8) of the engagement feedback.

ML noted that this has been added from the national codes of practice and it was agreed to remove the *'water deprivation exceeding 48 hours should be avoided'*.

The committee accepted the proposed change and to also include the dot points under G2.1.

- *Section 2: Feed and water, G2.10*

GB outlined the AVAs comments in line nine (C9) of the engagement feedback.

ML noted that there are no changes required for this guideline as it already outlines that water needs to be of appropriate quality.

- *Section 3: Risk management of extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation, S3.2*

GB raised NSW farmer comment in row eleven (C11) in code of practice engagement feedback regarding the evacuation of stock in the event of an emergency. ML suggested amending to a guideline as farmers want to protect their stock and will take necessary steps to ensure their safety. JS explained all ACT rural leases must have a Land Management Agreement that cannot be approved without a Farm FireWise Plan. The Farm FireWise Plan is a natural disaster plan which is linked to all emergency services (including the Bush Fire Brigade, Ambulance and Police) and all emergency service agencies hold a copy of the plan so they are aware of the plan in the event of an emergency. JS also informed the committee that a Land Management Agreement is developed by the landholder in consultation with the government and is reviewed every five years. JS noted that this should be removed from the code as it is already covered under the Land Management Agreement. Members discussed rewording the mandatory standard as a guideline, however, concerns were held as to whether this would cause confusion with farmers on what they should be complying with.

MR noted that a good compromise is to say that there needs to be some form of mitigation in line with and reference that document 'Land Management Plan'. The committee agreed that this will cover off on an important topic, but to not provide specific guidance as it exists elsewhere.

KD noted that there is an assumption that every person who is dealing with sheep is on a property with a Land Management Agreement. It was suggested to have a more generalised statement to cover those with a Land Management Agreement, and those who may not meet this criteria. It was suggested that the wording could be:

*A person in charge must have contingency plans to minimise the risks to sheep welfare.*

ML noted that the National Standards and Guidelines simply outlines that you must have reasonable actions or contingency plans to cope with natural disasters.

The committee agreed to generalise this.

- *Section 3: Risk management, G3.11*

GB outlined AVA's comment on line 16 (C16) of the engagement feedback regarding unexplained death.

MR noted that this should be updated to investigated by a veterinarian.

JW noted that veterinarian in the code of practice should be amended to 'registered veterinarian' for consistency. The committee agreed.

- *Section 3: Risk management, G3.15*

GB outlined the comment made by the AVA on line 18 (C18) of the engagement feedback regarding strategic chemical use.

ML responded that farmers know what this is and there is no need for further clarification. JS commented that strategic chemical use is covered by the Meat and Livestock Act.

The committee agreed to leave as is.

- *Section 4: Facilities and equipment, G4.1*

GB outlined the AVAs comment on line twenty (c20) of the engagement feedback outlining flood and fire risk and surface materials.

ML suggested updating flood and fire risk to natural disasters e.g. flood and fire, and under surface materials referencing flooring and ground cover.

The committee agreed to these changes.

- *Section 4: Facilities and equipment, G4.2*

GB outlined the AVAs comment on G4.2 line 21 (C21) regarding shading. GB noted that this should be amended to:

*Shade should be provided in hot weather.*

The committee agreed.

- *Section 5: Handling and management, S5.9*

GB noted NSW Farmers comment on line 22 (C22) of the engagement feedback regarding the use of analgesics for ear marking. ML explained the feedback is correct about ear tagging and it was originally included in the code as farmers would usually undertake ear tagging at the same time as all the other procedures. It was noted that if farmers are using analgesia for husbandry procedures at the same time as ear tagging, then the sheep already has analgesia. At this point KD reminded the committee that the standard being discussed was around ear marking, not ear tagging.

The committee agreed to amend from a standard to a guideline to suggest best practice for animal welfare in the ACT. It is recommended the guideline reads as follows:

*A person should not perform ear tagging or ear marking without using appropriate pain relief.*

ML noted that if the tri-solfen spray is registered for use in sheep, this will also help with pain relief.

- *Section 5: Handling and management, G5.13*

GB outlined AVAs comments on G5.13 on line twenty-nine (G29) of the stakeholder engagement regarding Feet.

ML noted that there is a lot of sheep lameness due to soft ground and weather. It would be expected that if an owner noticed their sheep were lame, that they should be inspected more frequently.

The committee agreed to not amend this guideline and leave as currently written.

It was noted that the committee meeting will end at this time. The secretariat will book an additional meeting to be held out of session to finalise these codes of practice. The committee is up to line 30 of the feedback spreadsheet.

**Agreed 6.1.1:** Agreed to NSW Farmers comment on line two (E2) engagement feedback (Sheep)

**Action 6.1.2:** Add in Note to General Section of the code of practice that all amendments to the national standards are science based.

**Agreed 6.1.3:** Agreed to NSW Farmers comment on line two (E3) engagement feedback (Sheep)

**Action 6.1.4:** Add in Note to General Section of the code of practice that all amendments to the national standards are science based.

**Agreed 6.1.5:** The Secretariat agreed to amend the process of codes of practice to circulate the briefing package provided to the Minister prior to their endorsement.

**Agreed 6.1.6:** the committee agreed to amend S5.9 of the code of practice to a guideline outlining that a person should perform ear marking with appropriate pain relief.

**Agreed 6.1.7:** The committee agreed to amend the mandatory standard around evacuation of stock to 'a person in charge must have contingency plans to minimise the risks to sheep welfare'.

**Action 6.1.8:** KD to advise ML of any other potential costs that the committee needs to inform the Minister about that are imposed with the code of practice for Sheep and Cattle in the ACT.

**Agreed 6.1.9:** The committee agreed to adopt the AVA's feedback (C8) in the sheep engagement feedback spreadsheet. Dot points to be added to the sheep code.

**Agreed 6.1.10:** AWAC has agreed to the removal of 'water deprivation exceeding 48 hours should be avoided'.

**Agreed 6.1.11:** Agreed to add a guideline saying, 'Sheep should be provided with reasonable access to outdoor grazing when practicable'.

**Agreed 6.1.12:** The committee agreed to amend G3.11 to include that 'unexplained disease and deaths be investigated by a registered veterinarian'.

	<p><b>Agreed 6.1.13:</b> The Committee agreed to amend Veterinarian to Registered Veterinarian in the code for consistency.</p> <p><b>Agreed 6.1.14:</b> The Committee agreed to amend G4.1 dot points for Flood and fire to Natural Disasters (e.g. Flood and Fire).</p> <p><b>Agreed 6.1.15:</b> The Committee agreed to amend G4.1 dot point for surface materials to Surface Materials (e.g. flooring / Ground Cover).</p> <p><b>Agreed 6.1.16:</b> The Committee agreed to amend G4.2 to ‘Shade should be provided in hot weather’.</p> <p><b>Action 6.1.17:</b> The Secretariat to book an out of session meeting to finalise the codes for sheep and cattle.</p> <p><b>6.2 Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cattle in the ACT</b></p> <p>This item was not discussed due to time.</p>
7	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>No other business raised.</p>
8	<p>Meeting closed at 2:02pm. The next committee meeting will be held on 9 August 2024, as an in-person meeting, commencing at 11.30am and concluding at 2.30pm. Meeting details, requests for dietary requirements will be issued in the coming days for attendance.</p>

## Ahmed, Toma

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 11 June 2022 10:17 AM  
**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees  
**Subject:** Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses  
**Attachments:** Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT - Draft.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Horse Code

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Morning, Erin Barker,

[REDACTED]  
My experience with the properly trained equine dentistry profession is that they are very professional, very caring, knowledgeable, and efficient in their servicing of the horse populations of Australia.

I have attached an edited version of your proposed Code of conduct with suggested changes which mainly pertain to the practise of equine dentistry.

[REDACTED] the only undergraduate training students received in equine dentistry was a one-week rotation with a veterinary surgeon performing equine dentistry. During this time, they might get to perform manual rasping of several arcades, but certainly not enough to restore function in a damaged mouth. Compare this with the existing training current students in equine dentistry receive in Australia which is over 200 horse mouths fully restored under supervision before graduation. Veterinary graduates do have a five-day course in equine dentistry operating out of Tamworth which is unassessed by an independent assessor and students are advised they are now specialist equine dentists. It is a unique case of specialist qualification being attainable after only 5 days of training. [REDACTED] failed dentistry jobs done by inexperienced and unskilled veterinarians. I have the statistics to prove this if required. When investigating the suitability of veterinarians for performing dentistry can I suggest you ask if current undergraduate or post graduate training includes operating on over 200 horses and their training is assessed by an internationally accredited equine dentist.

The ignorance of the veterinary profession is demonstrated by their advocacy of the use of power tools in horses' mouths. I would never advocate the use of power tools. They weigh up to 2.30kgs and have an instrument attached which is very difficult to control with one hand while also managing the engine of the tool in the other hand. Equine dentists use motorised instruments which have a cable connecting the power source to the instrument which only weighs up to 300gms. Both hands are used to control the rotating burr, and this results in a very controlled manipulation. I compare vet dentistry and equine dentistry like comparing a builder's carpentry with cabinet maker's carpentry. The cabinet maker is a much more skilled and professional worker of wood, just like dentists are more skilled than vets in their specialist area of expertise.

The welfare of horses is being severely compromised while the veterinary profession maintains their incorrect opinion that they are the only people with the training and knowledge to provide dentistry services to the horse industry. Until legislation is implemented to change this situation animal welfare will continue to be at risk in the

horse industries. In 2014 a file of evidence 2.5 cm thick was provided to the Agriculture Minister of NSW siting evidence of damaged mouths caused by the veterinary profession. This caused her to reverse a decision to make equine dentistry an Act of Veterinary Science. To my knowledge the veterinary profession still has no independent assessment process, which is internationally approved, for assessing their skills in equine dentistry.

Erin Barker I would be very happy to meet with you or the Minister to discuss any aspect of this submission. Currently the veterinary profession is conducting a public relations exercise pleading with the public to have patience with them as they are suffering from too much work and high stress levels causing high rates of attrition and suicide. Now is not the time to exclude very well trained and professional equine dentists from working within the horse industries. They are improving the animal welfare outcomes, which is not what the vets are currently doing.

I believe one of the main reasons there is conflict between paraprofessionals and veterinarians is that there is no legislation and regulation of the many skill sets being marketed to the horse industry by paraprofessionals. This enables non trained and qualified individuals to enter the market and spoil the name of well qualified individuals practising these same skills. In considering this proposed code of conduct it may be necessary to have a clause licensing only persons with Cert IV or above qualifications be allowed to work on animals. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I appreciate that changing legislation and imposing regulations is a long and arduous process but, the sooner it is begun, the sooner animal welfare will be improved.

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

# Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT (2021)

## Preface

This Code of Practice is intended to provide an outline of the principles of husbandry, management and handling throughout the lifetime of the horse.

The Code emphasises the importance of good horsemanship and husbandry practices, highlighting that persons in charge of horses have a legal liability under ACT legislation to care for horses under their control. Horse owners are expected to be familiar with Animal Welfare Act 1992 and Regulations 2001 and other relevant legislation.

The Code comprises guiding principles which are already well accepted by those experienced with horses and those in the racing and other equine pursuits.

The Code does not replace the need for experience and common sense in horse husbandry, and the use of veterinarian or other expert advice when necessary. The overriding theme and principles of this Code are that the wellbeing of the horse must at all times be considered above the demands of owners, breeders, trainers, riders, drivers, sponsors, officials or spectators.

The Code was compiled by the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC). It draws on documentation and contemporary works, including Animal Welfare Victoria's Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses.

## Legislation

ACT Animal Welfare Act 1992

ACT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008

ACT Animal Disease Act 2005

ACT Racing Act 1999

ACT Veterinary Practice Act 2018

## Regulations

ACT Animal Welfare Regulations 2001

## Mandatory Codes

National Livestock Identification Standards

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock

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# 1 Introduction

This Code of Practice recommends the basic needs of horses, irrespective of the husbandry system, including:

- readily accessible food and water to maintain health and vigour
- freedom of movement to stand, stretch, turn around, walk forward, lie down and roll, and have regular exercise with the ability to perform natural behaviours
- social contact with other horses or people
- accommodation that neither harms nor causes undue strain or discomfort
- protection from disease, and regular inspections to assess the need for attention to feet, teeth and parasite control
- rapid identification and treatment of injury and disease.

This Code applies to all horses that are kept in the ACT, including for the purposes of:

- work (for example, carriage, delivery, stock, trail riding)

- competition (racing, eventing, jumping, showing, endurance riding)
- pleasure riding or driving, including riding schools
- breeding
- pets

ACT legislation recognises horses as sentient beings that are able to subjectively feel and perceive the world around them. Under the legislation people have a duty to care for the physical and mental welfare of horses, which includes treating them with respect and providing them with a quality of life that reflects their intrinsic value.

This Code of Practice is intended to provide the minimum standards of welfare for horses for general husbandry and management practices and emphasises that persons in charge have a legal liability to care for horses under their control. Owners or persons in charge of horses must possess knowledge of the basic behavioural and physical needs of horses, irrespective of the intensity of husbandry. Assistance or advice on management of horses can be obtained from appropriately skilled equine veterinarians or suitably experienced/qualified equine professional, including suitably trained riding instructors, farriers, equine dentists and nutritionists. When applying this code in conjunction with existing codes or rules internal to equine organisations and clubs operating in the ACT, the higher welfare standard must always be applied.

Before acquiring a horse, the following factors must be carefully considered: the significant cost and work involved in maintaining a horse, whether you have appropriate housing and land to keep a horse in line with this Code and determining who will be responsible for the horse. Prospective purchasers and breeders of horses should be aware that proper feeding, maintenance and training of horses represent long-term responsibilities.

## 2 Behavioural needs

### Minimum Standards

- S2.1 The design of facilities, the stocking density and the composition of groups of horses must allow each horse to have an area of its own, sufficient for subordinate horses to have an opportunity to escape from bullying by dominant animals in the group.
- S2.2 Horses must be able to express normal behaviours such as freely grazing on pasture, unless there are reasonable grounds not to do so i.e., for medical or work reasons.
- S2.3 Persons responsible for a horse displaying a pathological behaviour pattern (stereotypies) including weaving, crib-biting, wind-sucking, self-mutilation, pawing, kicking or pacing must provide appropriate intervention therapy based on advice from a veterinarian or equine professional advice.

### Guidelines

- G2.1 Colts, stallions, weanlings, pregnant and sick animals, or those in advanced age, may require segregation from other groups of horses, to reduce the risk of injury and disease.
- G2.2 Introduction of a new horse or reintroduction of a segregated horse into a group should be supervised.
- G2.3 Horses may develop pathological behaviour patterns resulting from boredom, close confinement, isolation, diet, bedding material, inadequate exercise or other unknown factors. Stereotypic behaviour may indicate a welfare problem and may lead to further welfare problems.
- G2.4 Horses that do not have access to pasture should be provided with other suitable enrichment.

## 3 Supervision

### Minimum Standards

- S3.1 The person responsible for the supervision of a horse must be able to recognise signs of ill health and take appropriate action to obtain a diagnosis and treatment protocol.

S3.2 The person responsible for the supervision of a horse must have access to a registered veterinary practitioner to diagnose and treat illness or injury or to humanely euthanase the horse to prevent further suffering, if treatment is not possible.

S3.3 Horses confined in stables, stalls and yards must be inspected at least every 24 hours to ensure that their needs are met.

S3.4 Aged horses, mares in late pregnancy and horses suffering from injury or disease must be inspected daily.

S3.5 Contingency plans must be in place for emergency situations such as fire, flood, disease, injury and unexpected absences of the person in charge.

### **Guidelines**

G3.1 Frequency and level of supervision should relate to the likelihood of risk to the welfare of each horse, however, ideally, all horses should be inspected at least daily. Horses may need to be inspected more frequently than once a day depending on their physiological requirements.

G3.2 Horses kept under intensive management in stables and yards should be inspected at least twice daily.

G3.3 Mares in late pregnancy should be observed for signs of impending foaling.

G3.4 Contingency plans may include an evacuation plan where necessary and frequent handling of horses. Such plans should be practised regularly.

G3.5 Factors that can increase the welfare risk to horses include availability of suitable feed, the breed type, nature and disposition, age and pregnancy status, the quality of fencing and reliability of water supply.

Note: A horse is considered aged at 20 years old.

## **4 Water**

S4.1 Horses must have continual access to an adequate supply of good quality water unless they are being transported in accordance with the relevant ACT legislation regarding the land transport of horses.

S4.2 Horses must have access to sufficient water to supply their daily needs and maintain good health of each horse present.

S4.3 Water containers must be of a design that does not cause injury to the animals.

S4.4 Where provision of sufficient water for health and vitality cannot be met, immediate steps must be taken to move or sell the horse.

### **Guidelines**

G4.1 Water containers and mechanical water sources should be inspected at least daily to ensure that they are functioning normally.

G4.2 Where water is supplied in buckets, the supply should be inspected at least every 12 hours to ensure the horse has free access to an adequate supply of good quality water.

G4.3 Water containers should be secured and minimise spillage.

G4.4 Water containers should be maintained for cleanliness and proper function.

G4.5 Dams should have safe access for horses.

G4.6 Dams should be free of rubbish and contaminants. Dam levels and water quality need close monitoring during periods of low rainfall.

G4.7 Water volume requirements of horses vary widely, depending on age, bodyweight, air temperature and humidity, the work, state of health and type of diet of the horse.

### **Minimum Standards**

The basic maintenance requirement of water for horses is estimated to be approximately 52 ml/kg bodyweight/day:

- Ponies (200-300 kg body weight) require 10-15 litres daily

- Light hacks (300-450 kg body weight) require 15-25 litres daily
- Thoroughbreds (450-500 kg body weight) require 25-30 litres daily.

These requirements are increased with growth, work and lactation. Two or three times as much water as shown above is needed by horses in work.

Water requirement is closely related to the dry matter intake of food. Horses need 2-4 litres of water per kilogram of dry matter intake. This requirement increases as air temperatures or humidity rise.

Illness associated with bowel disease, such as obstructive colic or severe diarrhoea, can result in substantial loss of water and other essential electrolytes (50 - 70 litres/day).

## 5 Food

### Minimum Standards

- S5.1 Horses must be provided with a diet of sufficient quantity and quality to maintain their good health and meet their physiological requirements.
- S5.2 Supervision during feeding must be provided to observe behaviour patterns and response to feed.
- S5.3 A horse's body condition must not be allowed to become less than body condition score 2 (see Appendix A).
- S5.4 Horses must have appropriate access to food.
- S5.5 Where provision of sufficient food for health and vitality cannot be met, steps must be taken to immediately move, rehome or sell the horse to ensure its needs can be met.

### Guidelines

- G5.1 If there is not sufficient pasture for horses to graze, they should be fed a suitable and sufficient supplementary feed.
- G5.2 Feed troughs for horses should be well spaced to minimise bullying and allow subordinate animals access to feed. Horses that are in lighter condition and those that are subject to constant bullying should be segregated from the main group.
- G5.3 If a horse fails to thrive, the quantity, quality and availability of feed, and the health of the horse (including the state of its teeth, the extent of parasitism and the horse's age) should be evaluated. G5.4 Horses should be fed according to body condition. Over-fatness is undesirable for the health of the horse. The efficiency of food utilisation will vary between particular horses and breeds of horses. Most ponies utilise feed efficiently, but thoroughbred horses require substantially more feed per kilogram of body weight. Overfeeding some horses, particularly idle ponies, can induce laminitis or founder. Animals at risk should be exercised and their intake of food energy reduced to minimal maintenance requirements.
- G5.5 Horses should be protected from access to food harmful to health, such as mouldy hay, lawn mower clippings and poisonous plants.
- G5.6 Changes to the horse's diet should be introduced gradually to reduce the risk of digestive disorders.
- G5.7 All components of diet essential for growth, health and vitality should be readily available to horses. Selective reduction in food intake should be undertaken only by experienced persons, or under veterinary supervision.
- G5.8 Supplying supplementary feed in no spill containers, rather than directly on the ground, will decrease the risk of sand colic and minimise wastage of food.
- G5.9 Good quality pastures, containing suitable grasses and legumes, can provide the food requirements for most horses, except those doing hard work, those with compromised teeth, aged horses or lactating mares. In temperate areas where permanent pastures are fertilised annually, about 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of pasture for each grazing horse should provide maintenance requirements during years with normal rainfall.
- G5.10 Horses kept in smaller areas or on unimproved or minimal pasture may require supplementary feed for some part of the year, depending on requirements for their growth, stage of life, pregnancy, lactation, and work.

G5.11 Roughage (fibrous feed such as pasture, hay and chaff) should form a significant part of a horse's diet, to provide sufficient bulk and fibre to enable the digestive system to function properly. Horses need at least 1% of their body weight in roughage daily. If fed processed

G5.12 Approximate minimum feed requirements of adult horses are shown in Table 1 (see page 8).

G5.13 Persons inexperienced in horse care should consult a registered veterinary practitioner or an appropriate organisation such as an experienced equine professional about selection of suitable foodstuffs for horses used for a particular purpose.

**Table 1 Approximate minimum daily feed requirements of adult horses**

Body weight of horse	Idle horse (maintenance only)	Moderate work (jumping, stock work, some eventing) – horse needs both hay and grain	
		kg of hay*	kg of grain (oats)
kg	kg of hay	kg of hay*	kg of grain (oats)
300	5	4	1
400	7	5	3.5
500	8-9	5.5-7.5	4-6

feed or grains, these should be offered in addition to the appropriate amount of roughage.

\*Good quality pasture hay rich in clover, or lucerne hay

G5.14 Protein, mineral and vitamin supplements should be provided when required. Horses should have access to a source of salt when it is not provided in foodstuffs.

G5.15 Adequate, good quality food is necessary for growth of young horses. At six months of age horses require as much energy-rich food and more protein than idle, adult horses.

G5.16 Lactating mares require about 70% more energy than idle, adult horses.

## 6 Exercise

### Minimum Standards

S6.1 Stabled or yarded horses must be exercised daily, except where the exercise may be detrimental to the health and welfare of the horse.

S6.2 Horses must not be overworked, overridden or overdriven. The workload imposed must not exceed the horse's ability for its age, size, strength, and fitness.

S6.3 Horses on mechanical exercising devices, such as walking machines, must be continuously monitored by a competent person to prevent excessive strain or injury.

### Guidelines

G6.1 Horses should not be subjected to excessive strenuous exercise, particularly immature horses.

G6.2 Rider's size and weight should be appropriate for the size and condition of the horse.

G6.3 Horses may be exercised by riding, driving, lunging or releasing them into a large yard or paddock for at least one hour a day. In some circumstances, due to injury or convalescence, horses may need to be stabled for extended periods.

G6.4 Stabled horses should be spelled outside at least once a year, for at least two to four weeks.

G6.5 When introducing new or spelled horses to exercise, their workload should be increased gradually to prevent injury and stress.

## 7 Housing, shelter structures and yards

### Minimum Standards

- S7.1 Premises must be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury to horses.
- S7.2 Horses must have access to an adequate number of paddocks or yards to permit animals of similar age, sex, size and compatible temperament to be grouped, see S2.2.
- S7.3 Horses must not be overcrowded in confinement, they must have freedom of movement to stand, stretch, turn around, walk forward, lie down and roll.
- S7.4 Yards and loose boxes must have sufficient room to allow the horse to display natural behaviours, stand freely in the normal position with the head fully raised, walk forward and turn, lie down, roll, stretch and groom themselves without restrictions.
- S7.5 Loose-boxes for horses must provide a floor area of at least 12 square metres (9 square metres for ponies) and be at least 2.4 metres high for horses and ponies.
- S7.6 Appropriate clean bedding must be provided in stables and loose boxes for warmth, insulation and protection from abrasion.
- S7.7 Horses must have access to proper and sufficient shade and shelter at all times.
- S7.8 Horses must not be kept in stalls or other small, confined spaces on a permanent basis, see S6.1 and G6.4.
- S7.9 Adequate firefighting equipment should be available and easy to access. Persons in charge of stabled horses should be trained and practised in use of fire-fighting equipment. There should be ready access to horses to enable them to be released quickly in case of fire.

### Guidelines

- G7.1 Accommodation of horses in stables is not likely to meet the full spectrum of horses' behavioural and social needs. If stabling is used, provision of exercise, time out at pasture, a high fibre diet, social interaction (such as allowing these horses to see other horses), and stimulation through environmental enrichment will reduce stress, boredom and the risk of stereotypic behaviour, and should be provided.
- G7.2 Stable design should allow a horse to achieve visual contact with other horses, humans and activities in the stable surroundings.
- G7.3 Sheds should be constructed and maintained so as to provide adequate security and minimise risk of injury and disease.
- G7.4 Stables, stalls and loose boxes should have adequate lighting that permits inspection of a horse.
- G7.5 The floors of yards, sheds and stalls should have surfaces that permit adequate drainage and provide firm footing for horses.
- G7.6 Stables and stalls should give adequate natural ventilation. Air vents on opposite sides of the box are preferred. Dust levels in stables and stalls should be kept to a minimum to reduce the risk of respiratory disease.
- G7.7 Horses should be accommodated singly if in loose boxes and tied if in stalls. During weaning it is acceptable to have two weanlings together in a loose box.
- G7.8 Dirty bedding and stale or contaminated feed and water should be removed each day. Disposal of washings, urine and dung should be made in compliance with the requirements of statutory authorities.
- G7.9 Paddocks and yards should be kept free of noxious plants, rubbish and debris that may injure horses.
- G7.10 Healthy horses can tolerate a wide variation of heat and cold if they are acclimatised and have adequate feed and water. However, steps should be taken to minimise the effects of climatic extremes and other factors producing either cold or heat stress. Young foals, very old, or sick horses are most susceptible.
- G7.11 Landscape features, such as rows of trees, hedges, and gullies, can provide some shelter for horses.
- G7.12 The risk of injury increases where horses are overcrowded and competition for food, water and space leads to aggressive behaviour.

G 7.13 Shelter should provide protection from hot, cold, windy and wet conditions.

## 8 Fencing and gates

### Minimum Standards

- S8.1 Gateways must be designed to give easy and safe passage of horses.
- S8.2 Barbed wire, prefabricated wire fencing (e.g. ring lock), and high tensile wire (2.8 mm or 2.5 mm) can cause severe injury to horses and must not be used for yards and small areas.

### Guidelines

- G8.1 Permanent and temporary fences should be readily visible to horses, and properly maintained to adequately confine horses.
- G8.2 Electric fencing, properly fitted and maintained, provides a safe and effective barrier to horses, when used with conventional post-and wire and post-and rail fences. Horses should be supervised during the process of being introduced to electric fences, to ensure their education and safety.
- G8.3 Double fencing can reduce injuries caused by fencing such that it restricts nose to nose contact between horses.
- G8.4 Gates and doorways should be a minimum of 1.2 metres wide. Gateways should be fastened securely, to prevent escape of horses and possible injury.
- G8.5 The strength and height of the fencing is particularly important for stallion enclosures. Fencing should prevent escape and minimise risk to the stallion, other horses, handlers and the general public.
- G8.6 Suitability of fencing varies according to the size, sex and disposition of the horses, stocking density and paddock size.
- G8.7 Injuries occur more frequently where horses are overcrowded and facilities are inadequate.

## 9 Agistment

### Guidelines

- G9.1 An agistment property owner should record the full name, street address and contact telephone number of the owner of every horse agisted on their property.
- G9.2 A written agreement defining the conditions of the agistment should be made between the horse owner and the agistment property owner. The agreement should state the fee, the service to be provided, the name of the person responsible for supervision and provision of feed and water, the steps to be taken should the horse become sick or be injured, and a contingency plan for emergency situations such as fire, flood or disease outbreak.
- G9.3 The owner of the agistment property should advise the horse owner of the persons responsible, and the provisions made for safety and care of the animals, the supply of feed and water, the treatment of injured or ill horses, general paddock maintenance, and routine measures for control of parasites and prevention of overstocking.
- G9.4 A wide variety of agistment is available for horses and, usually, the degree of care and attention given to agisted horses is in direct proportion to the fee charged.
- G9.5 Low cost agistment on pasture is satisfactory, providing all welfare requirements are met.
- G9.6 Agistment agreements may also include supervision, rugging, grooming, stabling, individual feeding, removal of manure and provision of a high standard of facilities and management.

# DRAFT

## 10 Tethering and hobbling

### Minimum Standards

- S10.1 Horses must not be tethered or hobbled for continuous periods more than 12 hours in any 24 hour period.
- S10.2 Equipment used to hobble horses must be specifically designed for hobbling.
- S10.3 (a) Equipment used to hobble horses must have a quick release capability.
- S10.4 (b) Equipment and the method used to hobble horses must not cause injury or distress.
- S10.5 Hobbled horses must not have access to deep water due to the risk of injury or death, unless under direct supervision.

### Guidelines

- G10.1 Tethering and hobbling of horses is inherently dangerous and should be undertaken with extreme care and supervision.
- G10.2 Hobble straps should be lined or greased regularly.
- G10.3 Tethering and hobbling of horses should only be a short-term practice and should not be used to restrain horses constantly because fencing is inadequate.
- G10.4 Hobbled horses should not be tethered.
- G10.5 "Hobbling" referred to in this section does not refer to the practice of "hoppling" of harness racing horses during racing and training.

## 11 Rugging

### Minimum Standards

- S11.1 Rugging must be appropriate for the weather conditions and not result in heat stress to the animal.
- S11.2 Horses wearing rugs must be inspected at least every 24 hours for any injury or entanglement caused by the rug.
- S11.3 Rugs must be removed at least weekly for inspection of the horse's body condition, skin health and rubbing or injury caused by the rug.

### Guidelines

- G11.1 Rugs should be fit for purpose, particularly in extremes of hot, cold or wet weather. Rugs used in wet weather should be waterproof.
- G11.2 Rugs should be well fitting and in good repair.
- G11.3 Any rug that causes injury or disease should not be placed back on the horse.
- G11.4 Horses clipped during winter should be rugged, except when working or when weather conditions are very mild.
- G11.5 Horses should be familiarised with wearing rugs before being released into a paddock while wearing a rug.

# 12 Health

## Minimum Standards

- S12.1 Horses that are sick, suffering, injured or diseased must be provided with prompt veterinary or other appropriate treatment as required under 6B of the ACT Animal Welfare Act 1992. As per the Act, appropriate, in relation to an animal means “suitable for the needs of the animal having regard to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal”; treatment includes veterinary treatment, including preventative treatment, if a reasonable person would expect veterinary treatment to be sought in the circumstances.
- S12.2 Where treatment and appropriate aftercare of sick or injured horses is not possible, the animals must not be left to suffer, but must be humanely euthanased. The person in charge must be able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all possible treatment options including transfer of ownership/custody to another person able to provide appropriate care, and that it would be inhumane to keep the animal alive under the circumstances.
- S12.3 Horses losing body condition that do not respond to special feeding must be examined by a registered veterinary practitioner.
- S 12.4 Horses must receive regular health checks and treatment as appropriate, see S12.1
- S.12.5 If a person has reasonable grounds for believing that a horse is infected with an exotic or declared endemic disease, the person must immediately notify the ACT chief veterinary officer in writing.
- S12.6 If the owner or person in charge of an animal has reasonable grounds for believing that the animal is infected with an exotic disease or declared endemic disease, the person must immediately separate the animal from any other animal that is not infected with the disease.

## Guidelines

- G12.1 Examples of conditions that may require prompt veterinary attention:
- acute abdominal pain or colic seen as pawing, kicking at the stomach or rolling, often accompanied by straining, teeth-grinding and patchy or generalised sweating
  - serious injuries, including deep wounds, severe haemorrhage, suspected bone fractures, or eye injuries
  - straining for more than 30 minutes by a mare that has not foaled
  - inability or difficulty rising or standing
  - retained foetal membranes
  - marked lameness or injuries not responding to treatment within 24 hours
  - signs of respiratory disease (colds) such as discharges from eyes, nostrils, or swollen glands under the throat; these are indications of respiratory disease and may be accompanied by a cough, fever, loss of appetite
  - diarrhoea or persistent weight loss
  - constipation
  - signs of laminitis, including lameness, increased pulse to the affected hooves, reluctance to stand on affected feet and reluctance to move
  - inactivity or unresponsiveness.
- G12.2 Routine vaccination of horses against tetanus is recommended. Owners should seek veterinary advice about vaccination against other diseases.
- G12.3 Prompt appropriate preventive treatment should be given to horses for diseases that may be common in a district or occurring in a mob.
- G12.4 A new horse to a property should be isolated away from the established group for 10-14 days to reduce the risk of introducing disease. Husbandry and handling of isolated horses should be undertaken only after the care of non-isolated horses; equipment should not be transferred between the two groups.
- G12.5 Appropriate regular treatment for internal worm parasites and early treatment of external parasites such as lice, should be practised. The effectiveness of treatment should be evaluated by veterinary examination if the response to routine treatment is poor.
- G12.6 Good hygiene and cleanliness in and around stables, yards and paddocks, including disposal of effluent and litter, will reduce the risk of parasitism and disease.
- G12.7 Aged and geriatric horses should be assessed by a registered veterinary practitioner or person experienced in the care of horses for general health, and be given a full dental examination and treatment, every 12 months.
- G12.8 Paddocks used for grazing horses should be managed in such a way that contamination by parasites or other agents is minimised. Good

management practices include spelling paddocks for intervals of at least 6 weeks and preferably 12 weeks, or grazing with other species such as sheep and cattle.

G12.9 Unhealthy horses should not be offered for sale.

## 13 Foot care

### Minimum Standards

S13.1 Horses' hooves must be maintained to permit normal mobility and to maintain hoof shape and function.

S13.2 Horses with a hoof injury, overgrowth, infection or laminitis must be provided with veterinary or other appropriate treatment.

### Guidelines

G13.1 Horses ridden or driven on rough or stony surfaces should be shod or have been accustomed to being unshod on such surfaces.

G13.2 Shoeing or trimming should not cause any abnormality of gait or conformation. Shoeing should be practised only by experienced farriers.

G13.3 Hooves of horses in work should be inspected each day for signs of injury, loose shoes or impacted stones.

G13.4 Loose shoes and those with risen clenches (shoe nails) should be promptly removed, to prevent possible foot injury. Clenches remaining in the hoof should be promptly removed. The shoes should be replaced prior to work on roads, stony or hard surfaces.

G13.5 Shod horses should be inspected at least every six weeks for replacement or adjustment of shoes. Shoes should be removed or inspected regularly when horses are not in use for a particular purpose.

## 14 Dental care

### Minimum Standards

S14.1 A person must not provide any dental treatment that causes modification, damage or injury which results in a negative impact on the welfare of the horse.

S14.2 A person must not attempt any dental procedure that they are not competent to perform.

S14.3 The need for analgesia or anaesthesia must be considered before undertaking any equine dental procedure, and dental procedures likely to cause unreasonable pain must be performed with suitable analgesia or anaesthesia. Drugs used for sedation must be stored, administered and disposed of in accordance with the *ACT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008*.

S14.4 Horses must have their teeth examined at least once a year by a veterinarian or person suitably experienced and skilled in equine dentistry. The frequency of checks should be increased for young horses, stable fed horses and aged horses.

S14.5 The following dental procedures must only be performed by a registered veterinarian or qualified equine dentist

- (a) making an incision through the skin or oral mucosa; or
- (b) extracting a tooth by repulsion; or
- (c) entry below the gum line or into the tooth cavity; or
- (d) using a motorised instrument to maintain or restore correct dental function. Power tools should never be used within a horse's mouth.

The following procedures can be performed by a person suitably experienced and skilled in equine dentistry.:

- cleaning, rasping, grinding the horse's teeth (manual float)
- removing a loose tooth or deciduous tooth cap from the horse

### Guidelines

G14.1 Any person performing dental tasks on a horse should have sufficient experience, knowledge and skill to:

- handle a horse in a safe, humane manner
- identify relevant anatomy, both normal and abnormal
- recognise and understand complications of the procedure and know when to refer cases to an appropriately qualified person.

G14.2 Good practice equine dental service may include:

- inquiry into the horse's general and dental history
- full mouth examination with assistance of palpation, illumination, mirror and probe
- diagnosis of, and advice on, all detected abnormalities
- advice on treatment options and further investigative procedures
- completion of the above or referral to other appropriate practitioners where agreed and indicated.
- 

G14.3 Use of **motorised instruments**:

Due to the danger of tooth fracture and pulp exposure, the use of dental shears, molar cutters and inertia hammers should be avoided.

Great care should be taken with the use of **motorised instruments** due to the risks of thermal damage, pulp exposure and tooth damage.

G14.4 If a pulp horn or cavity is accidentally exposed, it should have a pulp capping procedure performed immediately.

G14.5 Removal of any cheek teeth overgrowths need to be performed with great care to avoid pulp exposure.

G14.6 Removal of large dental overgrowths should only be performed by a person trained and competent to visually monitor cheek teeth (via methods such as sedation, illumination and mirror) to manage risks, and recognise and treat pulp exposure.

G14.7 Indications for removal of 'wolf' teeth (PM1 or premolar 1) are:

- abnormally large or displaced PM1
- horses that require PM2 rostral border reshaping ('bit seating') such as those ridden in double bridles –
- loose or diseased PM1 (inflamed, painful or discharging adjacent soft tissues).

G14.8 Shearing off or filing off 'wolf' teeth is **never** recommended.

G14.9 Negative welfare impacts to a horse caused by dental treatment may include the horse being unable to eat within a reasonable time of the treatment, or creating an abnormal bite that affects the horse's ability to effectively chew its food.

## 15 Treatment and surgical procedures

### Minimum Standards

S15.1 Surgical procedures on horses of any age, including castration, must only be performed by a registered veterinary practitioner.

S 15.2 Analgesia, plus sedation or anaesthesia as appropriate, must be provided for all surgical and husbandry procedures likely to cause pain.

S15.3 Docking of a horse's tail and any invasive procedure to alter the tail set of a horse is not permitted unless by a registered veterinary practitioner for therapeutic reasons.

S15.4 Treatment practices that cause pain must not be carried out on horses if painless or alternative methods of treatment can be adopted.

## Guidelines

- G15.1 Restraint methods used on horses should always be the minimum necessary to carry out routine management procedures. Prolonged or over-zealous use of restraints, such as nose-twitches, may cause severe reaction in many horses.
- G15.2 Adequate facilities to provide a safe environment, and suitable equipment, should be available when horses are subjected to any procedure or treatment. Management and treatment procedures should be performed by competent persons.
- G15.3 Internal medication such as vaccines, drenches, food additives, and external medications such as liniments, lotions and insecticides, should be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturers or veterinarian's instructions - overdosing may cause harm; underdosing may be ineffective. Treatments should be administered in a hygienic manner.
- G15.4 Effective management and treatment of horses involves using various forms of restraint. These will vary with the temperament, disposition, and previous learning experience of the particular horse, the nature of the management procedure, and the skill of the handler.

# 16 Identification

## Minimum Standards

- S16.1 Horses must not be branded using corrosive chemicals or fire-branding.
- S16.2 All horses must be microchipped and microchips must be inserted by a registered and authorised veterinary practitioner.
- S16.3 The person responsible for a property where horses are kept must have a property identification code (PIC) in place as per the requirements under the National Livestock Identification System.

## Guidelines

- G16.1 Microchipping with animal owner details recorded on a licensed microchip registry, freeze-branding, DNA profiling and blood type profiling are acceptable methods of permanent identification.
- G16.3 Horses should be permanently identified as early as management practices will allow, by persons experienced and proficient in performing the procedure.
- G16.4 Where horses are kept at unoccupied premises, the contact details of the person in charge of the horse should be clearly displayed or readily accessible.
- G16.5 Horse owners should regularly check that their contact details are correctly recorded with the licensed animal microchip identification registry. This information will be available two days after the horse has been microchipped.
- G16.6 Microchips must be inserted into the nuchal ligament halfway along the left-hand side of the horse's neck.

# 17 Breeding

## Minimum Standards

- S17.1 Behaviour management of horses during breeding, including for dangerous stallions, must not cause unreasonable or unjustifiable pain, suffering, distress or injury. Management procedures with the potential to cause pain, distress or injury must only be performed to protect the safety of the animal itself, another animal, or human; they must be performed for the shortest duration possible to stop or prevent the undesirable behaviour.
- S17.2 Facilities used for breeding must be constructed and maintained to minimise potential for injury to the horses.
- S17.3 Horses with known or potentially inherited conditions which have potential to result in adverse welfare must not be used for breeding.

S17.4 Indiscriminate breeding of horses and the breeding of horses of a type or temperament unsuitable for specific purposes should be avoided. Many welfare problems are created when owners neglect animals that may have little economic value or when horses are not able to find suitable homes.

### **Guidelines**

- G17.1 Persons responsible for reproductively entire horses should have a breeding program and ensure that mares and stallions are housed separately except for specific breeding purposes. Horses should not be allowed to breed with closely related horses.
- G17.2 Where stallion behaviour endangers handlers or mares, the behaviour should be modified using an appropriate training method by a competent person, or the stallion gelded. Humane euthanasia should be a last resort if all other options have failed, and the animal's quality of life cannot be assured. Stallion behavioural problems may be minimised by training and enrichment from a young age.
- G17.3 Special nutrition should be provided to the mare to cope with the burden of pregnancy, foaling and lactation.
- G17.4 Frequency of monitoring of mares should increase as foaling becomes imminent.
- G17.5 Mares should be monitored perinatally to ensure they pass the placenta within three hours.
- G17.6 Foals should be monitored perinatally (for the initial 24 hours after birth) to ensure meconium expulsion, urination and suckling are normal and that colostrum intake occurs.
- G17.7 Foals orphaned at birth and under human care, should receive colostrum or a substitute within 24 hours of birth.
- G17.8 Nurse mares should be supervised until they have accepted the foal.
- G17.9 Foals should not be weaned before four months of age.
- G17.10 Foals should be weaned before nine months of age.

## **18 Training and Handling**

### **Minimum Standards**

- S18.1 Training methods used must be humane and must not cause unreasonable pain or suffering to the horse. Training methods and tools that have the potential to cause pain, distress or injury must only be used to protect the safety of the animal itself, another animal, or human; they must be performed/used for the shortest duration possible to stop or prevent the undesirable behaviour.
- S18.2 Horses must not be beaten or abused.
- S18.3 Electronic prodders must not be used on horses.
- S18.4 Mouthpieces that cause pain including those that are twisted at the point where the device is in contact with the bars of the horse's mouth must not be used.
- S18.5 Electronic collars, such as anti-crib collars, must not be used on horses.

### **Guidelines**

- G18.1 Training methods should be adapted to suit the needs of the particular horse.
- G18.2 Persons engaged in the education and training of horses should be experienced, or under direct supervision of an experienced person.
- G18.3 Horses should be of the appropriate type, be adequately educated, fed and housed, and trained to the degree of fitness for the task to be performed. Veterinary attention should be sought if there is any doubt about the fitness of a horse for a particular purpose.
- G18.4 Most horses respond best to firm but gentle techniques and to rewards when the horse responds correctly. People training horses should be confident and instil this confidence in the horses they train.
- G18.5 Abnormal physiological and behavioural responses to training and confinement should be recognised and measures taken to correct the suspected cause of them. These responses may include aggression, biting, pawing, kicking, weaving, pacing, crib-biting or windsucking.
- G18.6 Some behavioural management measures may be necessary to establish the hierarchy of a relationship between horses and people.

G18.7 Horses should only be given training schedules that are suited to their physical capabilities or level of maturity. Basic education of young horses is desirable; however, it should not be strenuous, to reduce risk of injury and growth abnormalities.

G18.8 All saddlery, harness and other equipment used with horses should be of sound condition, well-fitting, correctly adjusted, regularly cleaned and must not compromise the welfare of the horse. Professional advice should be sought in fitting the saddle and other equipment if the owner/handler is not competent to do so.

G18.9 When accompanied by their mothers, foals less than four or five months of age may be handled to accustom them to being caught, tied up and led, to having their legs and feet handled and to being confined within a yard, stable or horse float. Handling of foals from the earliest possible age is recommended.

G18.10 Horses require regular exercise for a period of months before they are adequately conditioned for strenuous exercise. Experience and skill are required to ride or drive horses to their utmost ability in competitive horse sports without inducing distress, injury or illness.

## 19 Transport

### Minimum Standard

S19.1 Horses must be transported in accordance with the relevant ACT's Mandatory Code regarding the land transport of horses, the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock*.

S20.9 Horses held at saleyards must be dealt with in accordance with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Saleyards and depots, Appendix B.

## 20 Euthanasia or slaughter

### Minimum Standards

#### General

S20.1 Before euthanasia or slaughter is undertaken, the person in charge must be able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all possible options including treatment for injury or illness, or transfer of ownership/custody to another person able to provide appropriate care.

S20.2 Euthanasia or slaughter must be performed humanely. The method must result in immediate death or immediate loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious.

S20.3 Euthanasia or slaughter must only be performed by persons suitably qualified and competent in the method used and licensed where appropriate.

S20.4 Where possible, horses must be euthanased on-farm to avoid the need for transportation to a slaughterhouse. [Note this is mandatory for racehorses (see S20.9)].

20.5 Euthanasia must be undertaken away from any other animals i.e., out of view

20.6 Only the following methods of euthanasia are permitted for horses:

- Injectable pentobarbital euthanasia solution, administered by a registered veterinarian
- A head shot using appropriate firearm and ammunition by a person competent to know the landmarks, and resulting in immediate death (see guidelines, add diagram).

S20.7 Where on-farm euthanasia is not possible, horses other than racehorses may be sent to a slaughterhouse, provided the facility is specifically designed and equipped to kill horses humanely.

S20.8 A person euthanising or slaughtering a horse must take appropriate action to confirm the horse is dead. This includes confirming all three of the following:

20.9

- Permanent cessation of breathing, and
- Permanent cessation of heart beat, and
- Loss of corneal reflex

### Racehorses

The euthanasia of racehorses must be undertaken in accordance with the Rules of Racing in the ACT as prescribed in the *ACT Racing Act 1999*. This means that racehorses must not be killed in slaughterhouses, but must be humanely euthanased on-farm, and only after satisfying requirements under S20.1.

## Guidelines

G20.1 The horse should be handled quietly before euthanasia or slaughter to ensure it is not unnecessarily distressed or alarmed.

G20.2 Acceptable methods of euthanasia or slaughter include:

- rapid intravenous injection of concentrated barbiturate solutions; it should be noted that tissue residues will render the carcass unfit for human or pet consumption if this technique is used.
- shooting by a licensed person, using a registered firearm

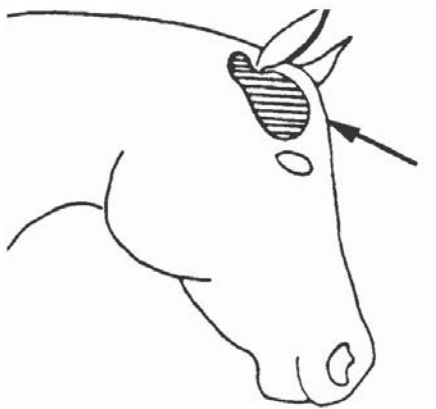
Shooting:

- the firearm should be at least .22 calibre (long rifle)
- persons other than the marksman and a handler for the horse should be cleared from the area or should stand well behind the marksman
- a head collar or bridle should be put on the horse to enable it to be quietly restrained by an assistant, who must stand out of the line of fire
- never fire while the horse is moving its head; wait patiently for a quiet interval before firing
- to provide maximum impact and the least possibility of misdirection, the gun should be fired at a range that is as short as circumstances permit, but not in contact with the horse's head.
- the target area and direction of the bullet are as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Figures 1 and 2 show the place on the horse's head where a firearm should be pointed and the angle at which it should be held, so as to obtain the right results. Draw an imaginary line from the base of each ear to the opposite eye, the intersection of the lines being the centre which, if hit, ensures instant loss of consciousness (Figure 1).



**Figure 1 Target area for humane destruction of horse by shooting. (Figure Courtesy State of Victoria) The target is just above intersection of broken lines.**



**Figure 2 Direction (shown by arrow) in which bullet should be fired at the target area. (Figure Courtesy State of Victoria)**




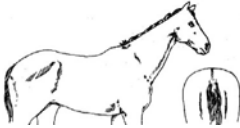

## **Appendix A Body condition scoring**


Body condition scoring provides a useful and objective method of monitoring body condition. Body condition, expressed as fatness, is the most reliable indicator of the suitability of a horse's diet.

Poor body condition is not always due to lack of feed; it could be related to parasite infestations, poor dental health, chronic injury or illness, advanced age, or lack of mobility affecting the horse's ability to forage.

### Method of estimation

1. Assess visually and by feel, the horse's pelvis and rump, back and ribs and neck. During winter, a long heavy hair coat complicates visual appraisal. You need to run your hands over the horse to get an accurate score.
2. Give those areas individual scores using a scale of 0 (very poor) to 5 (very fat).
3. Intermediate assessments can be given half scores.
4. Using the pelvic and rump assessment as the base score, adjust that score by a half point if it differs by 1 or more points from the score for the neck or ribs.

Score	Description
<p><b>0 Very poor</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very sunken rump</li> <li>• deep cavity under tail</li> <li>• skin tight over bones</li> <li>• very prominent backbone and pelvis</li> <li>• marked U shaped neck</li> </ul>
<p><b>1 Poor</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sunken rump</li> <li>• cavity under tail</li> <li>• ribs easily visible</li> <li>• prominent backbone and croup</li> <li>• U shaped neck - narrow and slack</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Moderate</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flat rump either side of backbone</li> <li>• ribs just visible</li> <li>• narrow but firm neck</li> <li>• backbone well covered</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Good</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rounded rump</li> <li>• ribs just covered but easily felt</li> <li>• no crest, firm neck</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 Fat</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rump well rounded</li> <li>• gutter along back</li> <li>• ribs and pelvis hard to feel</li> <li>• slight crest</li> </ul>

<p><b>5 Very fat</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• very bulging rump</li><li>• deep gutter along back</li><li>• ribs buried</li><li>• marked crest</li><li>• folds and lumps of fat</li></ul>
---	--

(Table Courtesy State of Victoria)

DRAFT

## Ahmed, Toma

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 17 June 2022 4:24 PM  
**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Commencement of consultation on the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT  
**Attachments:** ACTEA Code of Practice Comments.pdf; ACTEA Annotated Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
**Categories:** Horse Code

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of the Horse. An annotated copy of your draft and a covering letter from the ACT Equestrian Association is attached.

[REDACTED]  
President  
ACT Equestrian Association  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <TCCS\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 May 2022 4:50 PM  
**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <TCCS\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Commencement of consultation on the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Dear stakeholders

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee) is established by the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* (the Act) to, among other things:

- advise the Minister about animal welfare legislation; and
- participate in the development of approved codes of practice and mandatory codes of practice.

The Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the current *Horses Code of Practice 1996* and determined that the current code required considerable updating and redrafting. Two key areas identified as requiring updating were in regard to euthanasia / slaughter of horses and regulatory oversight bodies.

Under the Act, the Minister for Transport and City Services may approve an animal welfare code of practice.

### Comments and Feedback

You have been identified as a key stakeholder in relation to reviewing this code of practice and we would like to know any feedback you may have.

A copy of the proposed *Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT* can be found at [Attachment A](#) for your review. A copy of the current *Horses Code of Practice 1996* can be found at [Attachment B](#).

We welcome your comments via written submission to [TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au).

If you would like to speak to someone regarding your submission, we ask that you please request this via writing and we will arrange for a Committee representative to contact you.

Consultation on the *Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT* will run for six weeks, and will **close on Friday, 17 June 2022**.

It would be appreciated if you could please advise if you believe there are any other key stakeholders we should be consulting with on this code of practice.

**Next steps**

The outcomes of consultation with stakeholders will help inform the Committee’s review of the *Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT*. Once consultation has closed and the Committee’s review is complete, the Committee will prepare a report for the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel. This process could see further amendments to the proposed code. Should amendments occur, further consultation on this will be undertaken with previously identified key stakeholders.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Many thanks

**Erin Barker**

Director | **Boards and Committees**

Phone: 02 6207 2000 | Email: [Erin.Barker@act.gov.au](mailto:Erin.Barker@act.gov.au)

**Transport Canberra and City Services | ACT Government**

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**The ACT Equestrian Association Incorporated**

**ABN 47 674 025 536**

All correspondence to:  
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[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au).

### ***Draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT***

Please find attached comments from the ACT Equestrian Association in regard to the proposed new Code of Practice for the Welfare of the Horse in the ACT. This response is compiled from feedback from our 16 affiliated clubs and associations. Other interested parties have also contributed.

ACTEA was surprised that it was unable to find a copy of the existing Code. Apart from a brief outline of what the Code contained and the provided copy of Appendix 4 of that Code aimed specifically at horse riding establishments there seems to be no public manifestation of the existing Code; surprising since it is potentially a legal document.

**There are 32 individual comments in the Attached annotated copy of the Draft Code.**

Separately, we would like to point out that "access to a registered veterinary practitioner" in Canberra at the moment is extremely problematic. We have been told that there are, at times, no after-hours equine vets servicing Canberra and getting an appointment at short notice at any time of day can also be difficult. Horse owners have called veterinary practices in the very recent past to receive recorded messages that there was no vet on call and they should telephone Randwick (in Sydney!). Some vets in the surrounding NSW region will not drive to Canberra, presumably because of the time away from their surgeries. If your horse does not, or is not in a state to, float then its well-being is at risk. It would be unpleasant for somebody who is trying hard to get a vet to be accused of neglecting their horse.

We know of anecdotal evidence that veterinarians of all kinds feel under acute strain at the moment, but this appears to be a larger issue of vets leaving the profession. There are currently 1700 recreational horses in the ACT and no amount of words about the standard of care they should

**ACTEA supported by funding from Sport and Recreation Services ACT**

receive mean much if it continues to be so hard to find an equine veterinarian when they need them. It would be useful if the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee investigated the causes and possible remedies for this situation.

We look forward to further consultation on some of the issues we have raised in our comments, such as euthanasia.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

President

ACT Equestrian Association

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT (2021)

## Preface

This Code of Practice is intended to provide an outline of the principles of husbandry, management and handling throughout the lifetime of the horse. ~~This document should clarify the status of this Code. In other instances, an approved code is admissible evidence in court proceedings to determine what is reasonable practice. What is the intent with this Code?~~

The Code emphasises the importance of good horsemanship and husbandry practices, highlighting that persons in charge of horses have a legal liability under ACT legislation to care for horses under their control. Horse owners are expected to be familiar with Animal Welfare Act 1992 and Regulations 2001 and other relevant legislation.

The Code comprises guiding principles which are already well accepted by those experienced with horses and those in the racing and other equine pursuits.

The Code does not replace the need for experience and commonsense in horse husbandry, and the use of veterinarian advice when necessary. The overriding theme and principles of this Code are that the wellbeing of the horse must at all times be considered above the demands of owners, breeders, trainers, riders, drivers, sponsors, officials or spectators. ~~To whom does this Code apply. The only publicly available previous manifestation of this code was an addendum aimed at agistment managers - who are not included in this list.~~

The Code was compiled by the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC). It draws on documentation and contemporary works, including Animal Welfare Victoria's Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses.

## Legislation

ACT Animal Welfare Act 1992

ACT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008

ACT Animal Disease Act 2005

ACT Racing Act 1999

ACT Veterinary Practice Act 2018

## Regulations

ACT Animal Welfare Regulations 2001

## Mandatory Codes

National Livestock Identification Standards

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock

## Summary of Comments on ACTEA Annotated Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT.pdf

Page: 1

	Number: 1	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Typewritten Text	Date: 14/06/2022 2:13:58 PM
	This document should clarify the status of this Code. In other instances			
	Number: 2	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Typewritten Text	Date: 14/06/2022 2:15:27 PM
	to determine			
	Number: 3	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Typewritten Text	Date: 14/06/2022 2:15:19 PM
	admissible evidence in court proceedings			
	Number: 4	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Typewritten Text	Date: 14/06/2022 2:14:41 PM
	an approved code is			
	Number: 5	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Typewritten Text	Date: 14/06/2022 2:16:19 PM
	What is the intent with this Code?			
	Number: 6	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Typewritten Text	Date: 14/06/2022 2:15:45 PM
	what is reasonable practice.			
	Number: 7	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Typewritten Text	Date: 14/06/2022 2:17:57 PM
	To whom does this Code apply. The only publicly available			
	Number: 8	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Typewritten Text	Date: 14/06/2022 2:24:19 PM
	previous manifestation of this code was an addendum aimed at agistment managers - who are not included in this list.			

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DRAFT

# 1 Introduction

This Code of Practice recommends the basic needs of horses, irrespective of the husbandry system, including:

- readily accessible food and water to maintain health and vigour
- freedom of movement to stand, stretch, turn around, walk forward, lie down and roll
- regular exercise

have the ability to perform natural behaviours

social contact with other horses or people

- accommodation that neither harms nor causes undue strain or discomfort
- protection from disease, and regular inspections to assess the need for attention to feet, teeth and parasite control
- rapid identification and treatment of injury and disease.

This Code applies to all horses that are kept in the ACT, including for the purposes of:

- work (for example, carriage, delivery, stock, trail riding)
- competition (racing, eventing, jumping, showing, endurance riding)
- pleasure riding or driving, including riding schools
- breeding
- pets

ACT legislation recognises horses as sentient beings that are able to subjectively feel and perceive the world around them. Under the legislation people have a duty to care for the physical and mental welfare of horses, which includes treating them with respect and providing them with a quality of life that reflects their intrinsic value.

This Code of Practice is intended to provide the minimum standards of welfare for horses for general husbandry and management practices and emphasises that persons in charge have a legal liability to care for horses under their control. Owners or persons in charge of horses must possess knowledge of the basic behavioural and physical needs of horses, irrespective of the intensity of husbandry. Assistance or advice on management of horses can be obtained from appropriately skilled equine veterinarians or suitably experienced/qualified equine professional, including riding instructors, and nutritionists. When applying this code in conjunction with existing codes or rules internal to equine organisations and clubs operating in the ACT, the higher welfare standard must always be applied.

Before acquiring a horse, the following factors must be carefully considered: the significant cost and work involved in maintaining a horse, whether you have appropriate housing and land to keep a horse in line with this Code and determining who will be responsible for the horse. Prospective purchasers and breeders of horses should be aware that proper feeding, maintenance and training of horses represent long-term responsibilities.

## 2 Behavioural needs

### Minimum Standards

S2.1 The design of facilities, the stocking density and the composition of groups of horses must allow each horse to have an area of its own, sufficient for subordinate horses to have an opportunity to escape from bullying by dominant animals in the group.

S2.2 Horses must be able to express normal behaviours such as freely grazing on pasture, unless there are reasonable grounds not to do so i.e., for medical or work reasons.








S2.3 Persons responsible for a horse displaying a pathological behaviour pattern (stereotypies) including weaving, crib-biting, wind-sucking, self-mutilation, pawing, kicking or pacing must provide appropriate intervention therapy based on advice from a veterinarian or equine professional.

### Guidelines


G2.1 Colts, stallions, weanlings, pregnant and sick animals, or those in advanced age, may require segregation from other groups of horses, to reduce the risk of injury and disease.

Page: 3

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	Number: 1	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 13/06/2022 4:23:04 PM
Introduction				
It may be useful to indicated at the start of this doc that it relates only to domestic horses and that specific legislation elsewhere deals with feral horses.				
	Number: 2	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 13/06/2022 4:23:15 PM
Introduction				
insert . point				
	Number: 3	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 13/06/2022 4:23:34 PM
Introduction				
creates risk of injury				
	Number: 4	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 13/06/2022 4:23:56 PM
Introduction				
cost, <u>time</u> and work				
	Number: 5	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 13/06/2022 4:24:21 PM
<u>Introduction</u>				
<u>Access</u> to appropriate housing and land Most horse owners in the ACT are NOT landowners but are agisting their horses on land owned by private establishment or in government horse holding paddocks				
	Number: 6	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Sticky Note	Date: 13/06/2022 4:24:53 PM
Introduction				
"work" is ambiguous - does it apply to a busy owner or a horse in training for something?				
	Number: 7	Author: [REDACTED]	Subject: Cross-Out	Date: 12/06/2022 3:09:32 PM

---


- G2.2 Introduction of a new horse or reintroduction of a segregated horse into a group should be supervised.
- G2.3 Horses may develop pathological behaviour patterns resulting from boredom, close confinement, isolation, diet, bedding material, inadequate exercise or other unknown factors. Stereotypic behaviour may indicate a welfare problem and may lead to further welfare problems.
- G2.4 Horses that do not have access to pasture should be provided with other suitable enrichment.  <sup>1</sup>

## 3 Supervision

### Minimum Standards

- S3.1 The person responsible for the supervision of a horse must be able to recognise signs of ill health and take appropriate action to obtain a diagnosis and treatment protocol.
- S3.2 The person responsible for the supervision of a horse must have access to a registered veterinary practitioner to diagnose and treat illness or injury or to humanely euthanase the horse to prevent further suffering, if treatment is not possible.
- S3.3 Horses confined in stables, stalls and yards must be inspected at least every 24 hours to ensure that their needs are met.  <sup>2</sup>
- S3.4 Aged horses, mares in late pregnancy and horses suffering from injury or disease must be inspected daily.
- S3.5 Contingency plans must be in place for emergency situations such as fire, flood, disease, injury and unexpected absences of the person in charge. 

### Guidelines





- G3.1 Frequency and level of supervision should relate to the likelihood of risk to the welfare of each horse, however, ideally, all horses should be inspected at least daily. Horses may need to be inspected more frequently than once a day depending on their physiological requirements.
- G3.2 Horses kept under intensive management in stables and yards should be inspected at least twice daily.  <sup>1</sup>
- G3.3 Mares in late pregnancy should be observed for signs of impending foaling.
- G3.4 Contingency plans may include an evacuation plan where necessary and frequent handling of horses. Such plans should be practised regularly.
- G3.5 Factors that can increase the welfare risk to horses include availability of suitable feed, the breed type, nature and disposition, age and pregnancy status, the quality of fencing and reliability of water supply.

Note: A horse is considered aged at 20 years old.

## 4 Water

- S4.1 Horses must have continual access to an adequate supply of good quality water unless they are being transported in accordance with the relevant ACT legislation regarding the land transport of horses.
- S4.2 Horses must have access to sufficient water to supply their daily needs and maintain good health of each horse present.
- S4.3 Water containers must be of a design that does not cause injury to the animals.
- S4.4 Where provision of sufficient water for health and vitality cannot be met, immediate steps must be taken to move or sell the horse.

Page: 4

- 
-  Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:25:20 PM  
G2.4  
Needs to be clearer that this is behavioral rather than nutritional enrichment
- 
-  Number: 2 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:37:46 PM  
S3.3  
Surely this is too infrequent. A horse can get itself into a lot of trouble in a confined space in 24 hours.
- 
-  Number: 3 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 16/06/2022 4:36:55 PM  
S3.5  
Since fire is a major threat to agisted horses in the ACT more emphasis could be placed on bushfire preparedness. Agistees often have little say in the bushfire plans of property owners. They should refer to local guidelines based on previous experience such as <http://www.actea.asn.au/will-your-horse-stay-or-go>
- 
-  Number: 4 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 17/06/2022 10:09:41 AM  
G3.2  
How do horses under "intensive management" (G3.2) differ from other horses confined in stables and yards?

## Guidelines

- G4.1 Water containers and mechanical water sources should be inspected at least daily to ensure that they are functioning normally.
- G4.2 Where water is supplied in buckets, the supply should be inspected at least every 12 hours to ensure the horse has free access to an adequate supply of good quality water.
- G4.3 Water containers should be secured and minimise spillage.
- G4.4 Water containers should be maintained for cleanliness and proper function.
- G4.5 Dams should have safe access for horses.
- G4.6 Dams should be free of rubbish and contaminants. Dam levels and water quality need close monitoring during periods of low rainfall.
- G4.7 Water volume requirements of horses vary widely, depending on age, bodyweight, air temperature and humidity, the work, state of health and type of diet of the horse.

## Minimum Standards

The basic maintenance requirement of water for horses is estimated to be approximately 52 ml/kg bodyweight/day:

- Ponies (200-300 kg body weight) require 10-15 litres daily
- Light hacks (300-450 kg body weight) require 15-25 litres daily
- Thoroughbreds (450-500 kg body weight) require 25-30 litres daily.

These requirements are increased with growth, work and lactation. Two or three times as much water as shown above is needed by horses in work.

Water requirement is closely related to the dry matter intake of food. Horses need 2-4 litres of water per kilogram of dry matter intake. This requirement increases as air temperatures or humidity rise.

Illness associated with bowel disease, such as obstructive colic or severe diarrhoea, can result in substantial loss of water and other essential electrolytes (50 - 70 litres/day).

# 5 Food






## Minimum Standards

- S5.1 Horses must be provided with a diet of sufficient quantity and quality to maintain their good health and meet their physiological requirements.
- S5.2 Supervision during feeding must be provided to observe behaviour patterns and response to feed.
- S5.3 A horse's body condition must not be allowed to become less than body condition score 2 (see Appendix A).
- S5.4 Horses must have appropriate access to food.
- S5.5 Where provision of sufficient food for health and vitality cannot be met, steps must be taken to immediately move, rehome or sell the horse to ensure its needs can be met.

## Guidelines

- G5.1 If there is not sufficient pasture for horses to graze, they should be fed a suitable and sufficient supplementary feed.
- G5.2 Feed troughs for horses should be well spaced to minimise bullying and allow subordinate animals access to feed. Horses that are in lighter condition and those that are subject to constant bullying should be segregated from the main group.
- G5.3 If a horse fails to thrive, the quantity, quality and availability of feed, and the health of the horse (including the state of its teeth, the extent of parasitism and the horse's age) should be evaluated.
- Feed troughs or bins should not be placed under trees likely to be frequented by fruit bats to avoid any potential Hendra contamination.

Page: 5

- 
-  Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 17/06/2022 10:12:25 AM  
G4.1  
This should be 'at least every 12 hours'. Small autofill drinkers used in stables etc can fail and unlike troughs, have no reserve supply.
- 
-  Number: 2 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 17/06/2022 10:14:16 AM  
G4.2 Water containers such as buckets, garbage bins and trugs can be tipped over, or fouled by manure.
- 
-  Number: 3 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 14/06/2022 2:24:36 PM  
S5.4  
Emphasise starvation diets for fat horses are not appropriate
- 
-  Number: 4 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Typewritten Text Date: 14/06/2022 2:27:39 PM  
bins should not be placed under trees likley to be frequented by fruit bats to avoid any potential Hendra contamination.
- 
-  Number: 5 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Typewritten Text Date: 14/06/2022 2:26:35 PM  
Feed troughs or

- G5.4 Horses should be fed according to body condition. Over-fatness is undesirable for the health of the horse. The efficiency of food utilisation will vary between particular horses and breeds of horses. Most ponies utilise feed efficiently, but thoroughbred horses require substantially more feed per kilogram of body weight. Overfeeding some horses, particularly idle ponies, can induce laminitis or founder. Animals at risk should be exercised and their intake of food energy reduced to minimal maintenance requirements.
- G5.5 Horses should be protected from access to food harmful to health, such as mouldy hay, lawn mower clippings and poisonous plants.
- G5.6 Changes to the horse's diet should be introduced gradually to reduce the risk of digestive disorders.
- G5.7 All components of diet essential for growth, health and vitality should be readily available to horses. Selective reduction in food intake should be undertaken only by experienced persons, or under veterinary supervision.
- G5.8 Supplying supplementary feed in no spill containers, rather than directly on the ground, will decrease the risk of sand colic and minimise wastage of food.
- G5.9 Good quality pastures, containing suitable grasses and legumes, can provide the food requirements for most horses, except those doing hard work, those with compromised teeth, aged horses or lactating mares. In temperate areas where permanent pastures are fertilised annually, about 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of pasture for each grazing horse should provide maintenance requirements during years with normal rainfall.
- G5.10 Horses kept in smaller areas or on unimproved or minimal pasture may require supplementary feed for some part of the year, depending on requirements for their growth, stage of life, pregnancy, lactation, and work.
- G5.11 Roughage (fibrous feed such as pasture, hay and chaff) should form a significant part of a horse's diet, to provide sufficient bulk and fibre to enable the digestive system to function properly. Horses need at least 1% of their body weight in roughage daily. If fed processed feed or grains, these should be offered in addition to the appropriate amount of roughage.
- G5.12 Approximate minimum feed requirements of adult horses are shown in Table 1 (see page 8).
- G5.13 Persons inexperienced in horse care should consult a registered veterinary practitioner or an appropriate organisation such as an experienced equine professional about selection of suitable foodstuffs for horses used for a particular purpose.

**Table 1 Approximate minimum daily feed requirements of adult horses**

Body weight of horse	Idle horse (maintenance only)	Moderate work (jumping, stock work, some eventing) – horse needs both hay and grain	
		kg of hay*	kg of grain (oats)
kg	kg of hay	kg of hay*	kg of grain (oats)
300	5	4	1
400	7	5	3.5
500	8-9	5.5-7.5	4-6

\*Good quality pasture hay rich in clover, or lucerne hay

- G5.14 Protein, mineral and vitamin supplements should be provided when required. Horses should have access to a source of salt when it is not provided in foodstuffs.
- G5.15 Adequate, good quality food is necessary for growth of young horses. At six months of age horses require as much energy-rich food and more protein than idle, adult horses.
- G5.16 Lactating mares require about 70% more energy than idle, adult horses.

Page: 6

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 Number: 1    Author: [REDACTED]    Subject: Sticky Note    Date: 17/06/2022 10:16:40 AM

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G5.12

Grain intake needs to be varied with work (reduced or omitted entirely on non-work days) to reduce risk of 'tying up', Horses fed this amount of grain constantly could have their welfare seriously impacted. The table also fails to recognise the availability of alternative sources of energy and nutrients.

## 6 Exercise

### Minimum Standards

- S6.1 Stabled or yarded horses must be exercised daily, except where the exercise may be detrimental to the health and welfare of the horse.
- S6.2 Horses must not be overworked, overridden or overdriven. The workload imposed must not exceed the horse's ability for its age, size, strength, and fitness.
- S6.3 Horses on mechanical exercising devices, such as walking machines, must be continuously monitored by a competent person to prevent excessive strain or injury.

### Guidelines

- G6.1 Horses should not be subjected to excessive strenuous exercise, particularly immature horses.
- G6.2 Rider's size and weight should be appropriate for the size and condition of the horse.
- G6.3 Horses may be exercised by riding, driving, lunging or releasing them into a large yard or paddock for at least one hour a day. In some circumstances, due to injury or convalescence, horses may need to be stabled for extended periods.
- G6.4 Stabled horses should be spelled outside at least once a year, for at least two to four weeks.
- G6.5 When introducing new or spelled horses to exercise, their workload should be increased gradually to prevent injury and stress.

## 7 Housing, shelter structures and yards

### Minimum Standards


- S7.1 Premises must be designed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury to horses.
- S7.2 Horses must have access to an adequate number of paddocks or yards to permit animals of similar age, sex, size and compatible temperament to be grouped, see S2.2.
- S7.3 Horses must not be overcrowded in confinement, they must have freedom of movement to stand, stretch, turn around, walk forward, lie down and roll.
- S7.4 Yards and loose boxes must have sufficient room to allow the horse to display natural behaviours, stand freely in the normal position with the head fully raised, walk forward and turn, lie down, roll, stretch and groom themselves without restrictions.
- S7.5 Loose-boxes for horses must provide a floor area of at least 12 square metres (6 square metres for ponies) and be at least 2.4 metres high for horses and ponies.
- S7.6 Appropriate clean bedding must be provided in stables and loose boxes for warmth, insulation and protection from abrasion.
- S7.7 Horses must have access to proper and sufficient shade and shelter at all times.
- S7.8 Horses must not be kept in stalls or other small, confined spaces on a permanent basis, see S6.1 and G6.4.
- S7.9 Adequate firefighting equipment should be available and easy to access. Persons in charge of stabled horses should be trained and practised in use of fire-fighting equipment. There should be ready access to horses to enable them to be released quickly in case of fire.

### Guidelines


- G7.1 Accommodation of horses in stables is not likely to meet the full spectrum of horses' behavioural and social needs. If stabling is used, provision of exercise, time out at pasture, a high fibre diet, social interaction (such as allowing these horses to see other horses), and stimulation through environmental enrichment may reduce stress, boredom and the risk of stereotypic behaviour, and should be provided.
- G7.2 Stable design should allow a horse to achieve visual contact with other horses, humans and activities in the stable surroundings.

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 Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:26:47 PM  
\$7.4  
This is not an Australian term. It would mean nothing to most readers.

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 Number: 2 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:27:03 PM  
\$7.5  
standard would not be met by most ACT commercial agistment providers

- G7.3 Sheds should be constructed and maintained so as to provide adequate security and minimise risk of injury and disease.
- G7.4 Stables, stalls and loose boxes should have adequate lighting that permits inspection of a horse.
- G7.5 The floors of yards, sheds and stalls should have surfaces that permit adequate drainage and provide firm footing for horses.
- G7.6 Stables and stalls should give adequate natural ventilation. Air vents on opposite sides of the box are preferred. Dust levels in stables and stalls should be kept to a minimum to reduce the risk of respiratory disease.
- G7.7 Horses should be accommodated singly if in loose boxes and tied if in stalls. During weaning it is acceptable to have two weanlings together in a loose box.
- G7.8 Dirty bedding and stale or contaminated feed and water should be removed each day. Disposal of washings, urine and dung should be made in compliance with the requirements of statutory authorities.
- G7.9 Paddocks and yards should be kept free of noxious plants, rubbish and debris that may injure horses.
- G7.10 Healthy horses can tolerate a wide variation of heat and cold if they are acclimatised and have adequate feed and water. However, steps should be taken to minimise the effects of climatic extremes and other factors producing either cold or heat stress. Young foals, very old, or sick horses are most susceptible.
- G7.11 Landscape features, such as rows of trees, hedges, and gullies, can provide some shelter for horses.
- G7.12 The risk of injury increases where horses are overcrowded and competition for food, water and space leads to aggressive behaviour.
- G7.13 Shelter should provide protection from hot, cold, windy and wet conditions.

## 8 Fencing and gates

### Minimum Standards


- S8.1 Gateways must be designed to give easy and safe passage of horses.
- S8.2 Barbed wire, prefabricated wire fencing (e.g. ring lock), and high tensile wire (2.8 mm or 2.5 mm) can cause severe injury to horses and must not be used for yards and small areas.

### Guidelines

- G8.1 Permanent and temporary fences should be readily visible to horses, and properly maintained to adequately confine horses.
- G8.2 Electric fencing, properly fitted and maintained, provides a safe and effective barrier to horses, when used with conventional post-and-wire and post-and rail fences. Horses should be supervised during the process of being introduced to electric fences, to ensure their education and safety.
- G8.3 Double fencing can reduce injuries caused by fencing such that it restricts nose to nose contact between horses.
- G8.4 Gates and doorways should be a minimum of 1.2 metres wide. Gateways should be fastened securely, to prevent escape of horses and possible injury.
- G8.5 The strength and height of the fencing is particularly important for stallion enclosures. Fencing should prevent escape and minimise risk to the stallion, other horses, handlers and the general public.
- G8.6 Suitability of fencing varies according to the size, sex and disposition of the horses, stocking density and paddock size.
- G8.7 Injuries occur more frequently where horses are over-crowded and facilities are inadequate.

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 Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 16/06/2022 4:08:51 PM  
This needs unpicking. If horses shouldn't be restrained for long periods why should they be tied in stalls? Accidents happen under these circumstances.

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 Number: 2 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 14/06/2022 2:32:08 PM  
G7.9  
This is a specific description. There are many plants, including trees, not considered noxious that could be harmful to horses.

+ potentially harmful plants?

## 9 Agistment

### Guidelines

- G9.1 An agistment property owner should record the full name, street address and contact telephone number of the owner of every horse agisted on their property.
- G9.2 A written agreement defining the conditions of the agistment should be made between the horse owner and the agistment property owner. The agreement should state the fee, the service to be provided, the name of the person responsible for supervision and provision of feed and water, the steps to be taken should the horse become sick or be injured, and a contingency plan for emergency situations such as fire, flood or disease outbreak.
- G9.3 The owner of the agistment property should advise the horse owner of the persons responsible, and the provisions made for safety and care of the animals, the supply of feed and water, the treatment of injured or ill horses, general paddock maintenance, and routine measures for control of parasites and prevention of overstocking.
- G9.4 A wide variety of agistment is available for horses and, usually, the degree of care and attention given to agisted horses is in direct proportion to the fee charged.
- G9.5 Low cost agistment on pasture is satisfactory, providing all welfare requirements are met.
- G9.6 Agistment agreements may also include supervision, rugging, grooming, stabling, individual feeding, removal of manure and provision of a high standard of facilities and management.

## 10 Tethering and hobbling

### Minimum Standards

- S10.1 Horses must not be tethered or hobbled for continuous periods more than 12 hours in any 24 hour period.
- S10.2 Equipment used to hobble horses must be specifically designed for hobbling.
- S10.3 (a) Equipment used to hobble horses must have a quick release capability.
- S10.4 (b) Equipment and the method used to hobble horses must not cause injury or distress.
- S10.5 Hobbled horses must not have access to deep water due to the risk of injury or death, unless under direct supervision.

### Guidelines


- G10.1 Tethering and hobbling of horses is inherently dangerous and should be undertaken with extreme care and supervision.
- G10.2 Hobble straps should be lined or greased regularly.
- G10.3 Tethering and hobbling of horses should only be a short-term practice and should not be used to restrain horses constantly because fencing is inadequate.
- G10.4 Hobbled horses should not be tethered.
- G10.5 "Hobbling" referred to in this section does not refer to the practice of "hoppling" of harness racing horses during racing and training.

# 11 Rugging

## Minimum Standards


- S11.1 Rugging must be appropriate for the weather conditions and not result in heat stress to the animal.
- S11.2 Horses wearing rugs must be inspected at least every 24 hours for any injury or entanglement caused by the rug.
- S11.3 Rugs must be removed at least weekly for inspection of the horse's body condition, skin health and rubbing or injury caused by the rug.

## Guidelines

- G11.1 Rugs should be fit for purpose, particularly in extremes of hot  or wet weather. Rugs used in wet weather should be waterproof.
- G11.2 Rugs should be well fitting and in good repair.
- G11.3 Any rug that causes injury or disease should not be placed back on the horse.
- G11.4 Horses clipped during winter should be rugged, except when working or when weather conditions are very mild.
- G11.5 Horses should be familiarised with wearing rugs before being released into a paddock while wearing a rug.

# 12 Health

## Minimum Standards


- S12.1 Horses that are sick, suffering, injured or diseased must be provided with prompt veterinary  other appropriate treatment as required under 6B of the ACT Animal Welfare Act 1992. As per the Act, appropriate, in relation to an animal means "suitable for the needs of the animal having regard to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal"; treatment includes veterinary treatment, including preventative treatment, if a reasonable person would expect veterinary treatment to be sought in the circumstances.
- S12.2 Where treatment and appropriate aftercare of sick or injured horses is not possible, the animals must not be left to suffer, but must be humanely euthanased. The person in charge must be able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all possible treatment options including transfer of ownership/custody to another person able to provide appropriate care, and that it would be inhumane to keep the animal alive under the circumstances.
- S12.3 Horses losing body condition that do not respond to special feeding must be examined by a registered veterinary practitioner.
- S 12.4 Horses must receive regular health checks and treatment as appropriate, see S12.1
- S.12.5 If a person has reasonable grounds for believing that a horse is infected with an exotic or declared endemic disease, the person must immediately notify the ACT chief veterinary officer in writing.
- S12.6 If the owner or person in charge of an animal has reasonable grounds for believing that the animal is infected with an exotic disease or declared endemic disease, the person must immediately separate the animal from any other animal that is not infected with the disease.

## Guidelines

- G12.1 Examples of conditions that may require prompt veterinary attention:
- acute abdominal pain or colic seen as pawing, kicking at the stomach or rolling, often accompanied by straining, teeth-grinding and patchy or generalised sweating
  - serious injuries, including deep wounds, severe haemorrhage, suspected bone fractures, or eye injuries
  - straining for more than 30 minutes by a mare that has not foaled
  - inability or difficulty rising or standing
  - retained foetal membranes
  - marked lameness or injuries not responding to treatment within 24 hours
  - signs of respiratory disease (colds) such as discharges from eyes, nostrils, or swollen glands under the throat; these are indications of respiratory disease and may be accompanied by a cough, fever, loss of appetite


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 Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:27:42 PM  
Section 11


This section should also address fly veils which are ubiquitous in horse paddocks over summer in Canberra. To prevent injury they need to be well fitted and checked daily, and preferably removed over night, Neither fly veils nor cotton rugs should be worn in extreme bushfire conditions.

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 Number: 2 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 14/06/2022 2:35:53 PM

Most 'cotton' rugs contain a high level of synthetic thread which can cause deadly injuries in event of fire. Owners should be warned not to rug horses at all during severe fire danger periods.

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 Number: 3 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 17/06/2022 10:32:25 AM  
S12.1

This statement presumes the availability of 'prompt' veterinary attention. An alternative option for emergency euthanasia needs to be an option.

- diarrhoea or persistent weight loss
- constipation
- signs of laminitis, including lameness, increased pulse to the affected hooves, reluctance to stand on affected feet and reluctance to move
- inactivity or unresponsiveness.

G12.2 Routine vaccination of horses against tetanus is recommended. Owners should seek veterinary advice about vaccination against other diseases.

G12.3 Prompt appropriate preventive treatment should be given to horses for diseases that may be common in a district or occurring in a mob.

G12.4 A new horse to a property should be isolated away from the established group for 10-14 days to reduce the risk of introducing disease. Husbandry and handling of isolated horses should be undertaken only after the care of non-isolated horses; equipment should not be transferred between the two groups.

G12.5 Appropriate regular treatment for internal worm parasites and early treatment of external parasites such as lice, should be practised. The effectiveness of treatment should be evaluated by veterinary examination if the response to routine treatment is poor.

G12.6 Good hygiene and cleanliness in and around stables, yards and paddocks, including disposal of effluent and litter, will reduce the risk of parasitism and disease.

G12.7 Aged and geriatric horses should be assessed by a registered veterinary practitioner or person experienced in the care of horses for general health, and be given a full dental examination and treatment, every 12 months.

G12.8 Paddocks used for grazing horses should be managed in such a way that contamination by parasites or other agents is minimised. Good management practices include spelling paddocks for intervals of at least 6 weeks and preferably 12 weeks, or grazing with other species such as sheep and cattle.

G12.9 Unhealthy horses should not be offered for sale.

## 13 Foot care

### Minimum Standards

S13.1 Horses' hooves must be maintained to permit normal mobility and to maintain hoof shape and function.

S13.2 Horses with a hoof injury, overgrowth, infection or laminitis must be provided with veterinary or other appropriate treatment.

### Guidelines

G13.1 Horses ridden or driven on rough or stony surfaces should be shod if they have been accustomed to being unshod on such surfaces.

G13.2 Shoeing or trimming should not cause any abnormality of gait or conformation. Shoeing should be practised only by experienced farriers.


G13.3 Hooves of horses in work should be inspected each day for signs of injury, loose shoes or impacted stones.

G13.4 Loose shoes and those with risen clenches (shoe nails) should be promptly removed, to prevent possible foot injury. Clenches remaining in the hoof should be promptly removed. The shoes should be replaced prior to work on roads, stony or hard surfaces.

G13.5 Shod horses should be inspected at least every six weeks for replacement or adjustment of shoes. Shoes should be removed or inspected regularly when horses are not in use for a particular purpose.


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 Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:27:55 PM  
Section 13


Given that an increasing number of horses in Canberra are no longer shod but given removable boots they should be addressed in this section

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 Number: 2 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 17/06/2022 10:04:30 AM  
, wearing well fitting hoof boots or

# 14 Dental care

## Minimum Standards

- S14.1 A person must not provide any dental treatment that causes modification, damage or injury which results in a negative impact on the welfare of the horse.
- S14.2 A person must not attempt any dental procedure that they are not competent to perform.
- S14.3 The need for analgesia or anaesthesia must be considered before undertaking any equine dental procedure, and dental procedures likely to cause unreasonable pain must be performed with suitable analgesia or anaesthesia. Drugs used for sedation must be stored, administered and disposed of in accordance with the *ACT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008*.
- S14.4 Horses must have their teeth examined at least once a year by a veterinarian or person suitably experienced and skilled in equine dentistry. The frequency of checks should be increased for young horses, stable fed horses and aged horses.
- S14.5 The following dental procedures must only be performed by a registered veterinarian
- (a) making an incision through the skin or oral mucosa; or
  - (b) extracting a tooth by repulsion; or
  - (c) entry below the gum line or into the tooth cavity; or
  - (d) using a power tool to maintain or restore correct dental function 

The following procedures can be performed by a or person suitably experienced and skilled in equine dentistry.:


- (e) cleaning, rasping, grinding the horse's teeth (manual float)
- (f) removing a ~~lose~~ loose tooth or deciduous tooth cap from the horse

## Guidelines

- G14.1 Any person performing dental tasks on a horse should have sufficient experience, knowledge and skill to:
- handle a horse in a safe, humane manner
  - identify relevant anatomy, both normal and abnormal
  - recognise and understand complications of the procedure and know when to refer cases to an appropriately qualified person.
- G14.2 Good practice equine dental service may include:
- inquiry into the horse's general and dental history
  - full mouth examination with assistance of palpation, illumination, mirror and probe
  - diagnosis of, and advice on, all detected abnormalities
  - advice on treatment options and further investigative procedures
  - completion of the above or referral to other appropriate practitioners where agreed and indicated.
  -
- G14.3 Use of power tools:
- Due to the danger of tooth fracture and pulp exposure, the use of dental shears, molar cutters and inertia hammers should be avoided.
- Great care should be taken with the use of power tools due to the risks of thermal damage, pulp exposure and tooth damage.
- G14.4 If a pulp horn or cavity is accidentally exposed, it should have a pulp capping procedure performed immediately.
- G14.5 Removal of any cheek teeth overgrowths need to be performed with great care to avoid pulp exposure.
- G14.6 Removal of large dental overgrowths should only be performed by a person trained and competent to visually monitor cheek teeth (via methods such as sedation, illumination and mirror) to manage risks, and recognise and treat pulp exposure.
- G14.7 Indications for removal of 'wolf' teeth (PM1 or premolar 1) are:
- abnormally large or displaced PM1
  - horses that require PM2 rostral border reshaping ('bit seating') such as those ridden in double bridles
  - loose or diseased PM1 (inflamed, painful or discharging adjacent soft tissues).

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 Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 14/06/2022 2:41:11 PM


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Section 14

This seems to be leaving it up to the practitioner to decide if they are appropriately qualified. It is not very helpful to a horse owner concerned about the standard of care of their animal's teeth. Surely there are qualifications you need to have before mucking around in a horse's mouth?

There is real concern in the equestrian community about conflicting information and advice about the relative merits of vets and dental practitioners.

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 Number: 2 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:50:54 PM

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S14.5(d)

This appears to contradict both the NSW Veterinary Practice Regulation 2013, Part 2, (2) (c) and the ACT Veterinary Practice Regulation 2018, Schedule 1, Part 1.2, 18(d), which allow such procedures "if the horse has been adequately sedated under the immediate and direct supervision of a registered veterinary practitioner."

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 Number: 3 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Cross-Out Date: 13/06/2022 4:51:12 PM

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G14.8 Shearing off or filing off 'wolf' teeth is not recommended.

G14.9 Negative welfare impacts to a horse caused by dental treatment may include the horse being unable to eat within a reasonable time of the treatment, or creating an abnormal bite that affects the horse's ability to effectively chew its food.

## 15 Treatment and surgical procedures

### Minimum Standards

S15.1 Surgical procedures on horses of any age, including castration, must only be performed by a registered veterinary practitioner.

S 15.2 Analgesia, plus sedation or anaesthesia as appropriate, must be provided for all surgical and husbandry procedures likely to cause pain.

S15.3 Docking of a horse's tail and any invasive procedure to alter the tail set of a horse is not permitted unless by a registered veterinary practitioner for therapeutic reasons.

S15.4 Treatment practices that cause pain must not be carried out on horses if painless or alternative methods of treatment can be adopted.

### Guidelines

G15.1 Restraint methods used on horses should always be the minimum necessary to carry out routine management procedures. Prolonged or over-zealous use of restraints, such as nose-twitches, may cause severe reaction in many horses.

G15.2 Adequate facilities to provide a safe environment, and suitable equipment, should be available when horses are subjected to any procedure or treatment. Management and treatment procedures should be performed by competent persons.

G15.3 Internal medication such as vaccines, drenches, food additives, and external medications such as liniments, lotions and insecticides, should be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturers or veterinarian's instructions - overdosing may cause harm; underdosing may be ineffective. Treatments should be administered in a hygienic manner.

G15.4 Effective management and treatment of horses involves using various forms of restraint. These will vary with the temperament, disposition, and previous learning experience of the particular horse, the nature of the management procedure, and the skill of the handler.

## 16 Identification

### Minimum Standards

S16.1 Horses must not be branded using corrosive chemicals or fire-branding.

S16.2 All horses must be microchipped and microchips must be inserted by a registered and authorised veterinary practitioner.

S16.3 The person responsible for a property where horses are kept must have a property identification code (PIC) in place as per the requirements under the National Livestock Identification System.

### Guidelines

G16.1 Microchipping with animal owner details recorded on a licensed microchip registry, freeze-branding, DNA profiling and blood type profiling are acceptable methods of permanent identification.

G16.3 Horses should be permanently identified as early as management practices will allow, by persons experienced and proficient in performing the procedure.

G16.4 Where horses are kept at unoccupied premises, the contact details of the person in charge of the horse should be clearly displayed or readily accessible.

G16.5 Horse owners should regularly check that their contact details are correctly recorded with the licensed animal microchip identification registry. This information will be available two days after the horse has been microchipped.

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 Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:54:03 PM

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S16.2  
This is inconsistent with G16.1. As far as we are aware compulsory microchipping is not yet a national standard for horses.

G16.6 Microchips must be inserted into the nuchal ligament halfway along the left-hand side of the horse's neck.

## 17 Breeding

### Minimum Standards

S17.1 Behaviour management of horses during breeding, including for dangerous stallions, must not cause unreasonable or unjustifiable pain, suffering, distress or injury. Management procedures with the potential to cause pain, distress or injury must only be performed to protect the safety of the animal itself, another animal, or human; they must be performed for the shortest duration possible to stop or prevent the undesirable behaviour.

S17.2 Facilities used for breeding must be constructed and maintained to minimise potential for injury to the horses.

S17.3 Horses with known or potentially inherited conditions which have potential to result in adverse welfare must not be used for breeding.

S17.4 Indiscriminate breeding of horses and the breeding of horses of a type or temperament unsuitable for specific purposes should be avoided. Many welfare problems are created when owners neglect animals that may have little economic value or when horses are not able to find suitable homes.

### Guidelines

G17.1 Persons responsible for reproductively entire horses should have a breeding program, and ensure that mares and stallions are housed separately except for specific breeding purposes. Horses should not be allowed to breed with closely related horses.

G17.2 Where stallion behaviour endangers handlers or mares, the behaviour should be modified using an appropriate training method by a competent person, or the stallion gelded. Humane euthanasia should be a last resort if all other options have failed and the animal's quality of life cannot be assured. Stallion behavioural problems may be minimised by training and enrichment from a young age.

G17.3 Special nutrition should be provided to the mare to cope with the burden of pregnancy, foaling and lactation.

G17.4 Frequency of monitoring of mares should increase as foaling becomes imminent.

G17.5 Mares should be monitored perinatally to ensure they pass the placenta within three hours.

G17.6 Foals should be monitored perinatally (for the initial 24 hours after birth) to ensure meconium expulsion, urination and suckling are normal and that colostrum intake occurs.

G17.7 Foals orphaned at birth and under human care, should receive colostrum or a substitute within 24 hours of birth.

G17.8 Nurse mares should be supervised until they have accepted the foal.

G17.9 Foals should not be weaned before four months of age.

G17.10 Foals should be weaned before nine months of age.

## 18 Training and Handling

### Minimum Standards

S18.1 Training methods used must be humane and must not cause unreasonable pain or suffering to the horse. Training methods and tools that have the potential to cause pain, distress or injury must only be used to protect the safety of the animal itself, another animal, or human; they must be performed/used for the shortest duration possible to stop or prevent the undesirable behaviour.

S18.2 Horses must not be beaten or abused.

S18.3 Electronic prodders must not be used on horses.

S18.4 Mouthpieces that cause pain including those that are twisted at the point where the device is in contact with the bars of the horse's mouth must not be used.

S18.5 Electronic collars, such as anti-crib collars, must not be used on horses.

### Guidelines

G18.1 Training methods should be adapted to suit the needs of the particular horse.

G18.2 Persons engaged in the education and training of horses should be experienced, or under direct supervision of an experienced person.

G18.3 Horses should be of the appropriate type, be adequately educated, fed and housed, and trained to the degree of fitness for the task to be performed. Veterinary attention should be sought if there is any doubt about the fitness of a horse for a particular purpose.

G18.4 Most horses respond best to firm but gentle techniques and to rewards when the horse responds correctly. People training horses should be confident and instil this confidence in the horses they train.

G18.5 Abnormal physiological and behavioural responses to training and confinement should be recognised and measures taken to correct the suspected cause of them. These responses may include aggression, biting, pawing, kicking, weaving, pacing, crib-biting or wind-sucking.

G18.6 Some behavioural management measures may be necessary to establish the hierarchy of a relationship between horses and people.

G18.7 Horses should only be given training schedules that are suited to their physical capabilities or level of maturity. Basic education of young horses is desirable; however it should not be strenuous, to reduce risk of injury and growth abnormalities.

G18.8 All saddlery, harness and other equipment used with horses should be of sound condition, well-fitting, correctly adjusted, regularly cleaned and must not compromise the welfare of the horse. Professional advice should be sought in fitting the saddle and other equipment if the owner/handler is not competent to do so.

G18.9 When accompanied by their mothers, foals less than four or five months of age may be handled to accustom them to being caught, tied up and led, to having their legs and feet handled and to being confined within a yard, stable or horse float. Handling of foals from the earliest possible age is recommended.

G18.10 Horses require regular exercise for a period of months before they are adequately conditioned for strenuous exercise. Experience and skill are required to ride or drive horses to their utmost ability in competitive horse sports without inducing distress, injury or illness.

## 19 Transport

### Minimum Standard


S19.1 Horses must be transported in accordance with the relevant ACT's Mandatory Code regarding the land transport of horses, the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock*.

S20.9 Horses held at saleyards must be dealt with in accordance with the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Saleyards and depots, Appendix B.

## 20 Euthanasia or slaughter

### Minimum Standards


#### General

S20.1 Before euthanasia or slaughter is undertaken, the person in charge must be able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all possible options including treatment for injury or illness, or transfer of ownership/custody to another person able to provide appropriate care. 

S20.2 Euthanasia or slaughter must be performed humanely. The method must result in immediate death or immediate loss of consciousness followed by death while unconscious.

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 Number: 1    Author: [REDACTED]    Subject: Sticky Note    Date: 17/06/2022 10:31:55 AM  
S20.1


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This is potentially incompatible with the welfare of the horse. Just because you can keep a horse alive does not mean that it is in its best interest that you do so. The reasons for choosing to euthanase a horse may not be overt illness or injury, but special care needs arising from advanced age or a physiological or metabolic condition requiring costly medication and/or special agistment arrangements. Just because another owner/carer might be ABLE to provide appropriate care does not mean they would and the horse's welfare could then be compromised. Euthanasing rather than rehoming a horse if its present owner can no longer maintain the level of care needed for its welfare should be a decision for the owner to make in consultation with their vet,

The concept of 'quality of life' comes in to play here. This whole sentence needs rethinking.

S20.3 Euthanasia or slaughter must only be performed by persons suitably qualified and competent in the method used and licensed where appropriate.

S20.4 Where possible, horses must be euthanased on-farm  to avoid the need for transportation to a slaughterhouse. [Note this is mandatory for racehorses (see S20.9)].

20.5 Euthanasia must be undertaken away from any other animals i.e., out of view 

20.6 Only the following methods of euthanasia are permitted for horses:

- Injectable pentobarbital euthanasia solution, administered by a registered veterinarian
- A head shot using appropriate firearm and ammunition by a person competent to know the landmarks, and resulting in immediate death (see guidelines, add diagram).

S20.7 Where on-farm euthanasia is not possible, horses other than racehorses may be sent to a slaughterhouse, provided the facility is specifically designed and equipped to kill horses humanely.

S20.8 A person euthanasing or slaughtering a horse must take appropriate action to confirm the horse is dead. This includes confirming all three of the following:

- Permanent cessation of breathing, and
- Permanent cessation of heart beat, and
- Loss of corneal reflex

#### Racehorses

20.9 The euthanasia of racehorses must be undertaken in accordance with the Rules of Racing in the ACT as prescribed in the *ACT Racing Act 1999*. This means that racehorses must not be killed in slaughterhouses, but must be humanely euthanased on-farm, and only after satisfying requirements under S20.1.

#### Guidelines


G20.1 The horse should be handled quietly before euthanasia or slaughter to ensure it is not unnecessarily distressed or alarmed.

G20.2 Acceptable methods of euthanasia or slaughter include:

- rapid intravenous injection of concentrated barbiturate solutions; it should be noted that tissue residues will render the carcass unfit for human or pet consumption if this technique is used
  - shooting by a licensed person, using a registered firearm
- Shooting:
- the firearm should be at least .22 calibre (long rifle)
  - persons other than the marksman and a handler for the horse should be cleared from the area or should stand well behind the marksman
  - a head collar or bridle should be put on the horse to enable it to be quietly restrained by an assistant, who must stand out of the line of fire
  - never fire while the horse is moving its head; wait patiently for a quiet interval before firing

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 Number: 1 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 17/06/2022 10:33:41 AM

\$20.4  
Not all agistment facilities in the ACT are farms. Reword to say "at their usual place of residence".

---

 Number: 2 Author: [REDACTED] Subject: Sticky Note Date: 13/06/2022 4:44:50 PM

There is a strong view to the contrary expressed to ACTEA by horse owners in the ACT. Many horse owners and their vets are of the view that where possible a horse should be euthanased where its death can be viewed and processed by members of its herd and/or family. There are strong views expressed that this method keeps the horse calm and helps the herd accept a passing.

- to provide maximum impact and the least possibility of misdirection, the gun should be fired at a range that is as short as circumstances permit, but not in contact with the horse's head.
- the target area and direction of the bullet are as shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Figures 1 and 2 show the place on the horse's head where a firearm should be pointed and the angle at which it should be held, so as to obtain the right results. Draw an imaginary line from the base of each ear to the opposite eye, the intersection of the lines being the centre which, if hit, ensures instant loss of consciousness (Figure 1).



**Figure 1 Target area for humane destruction of horse by shooting. (Figure Courtesy State of Victoria)**

The target is just above intersection of broken lines.



**Figure 2 Direction (shown by arrow) in which bullet should be fired at the target area. (Figure Courtesy State of Victoria)**


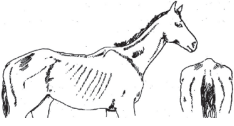
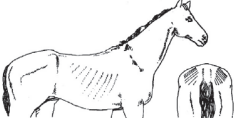
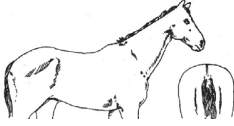
# Appendix A Body condition scoring



Body condition scoring provides a useful and objective method of monitoring body condition. Body condition, expressed as fatness, is the most reliable indicator of the suitability of a horse's diet.

Poor body condition is not always due to lack of feed; it could be related to parasite infestations, poor dental health, chronic injury or illness, advanced age, or lack of mobility affecting the horse's ability to forage.

## Method of estimation

1. Assess visually and by feel, the horse's pelvis and rump, back and ribs and neck. During winter, a long heavy hair coat complicates visual appraisal. You need to run your hands over the horse to get an accurate score.
2. Give those areas individual scores using a scale of 0 (very poor) to 5 (very fat).
3. Intermediate assessments can be given half scores.
4. Using the pelvic and rump assessment as the base score, adjust that score by a half point if it differs by 1 or more points from the score for the neck or ribs.

Score	Description
<p><b>0 Very poor</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very sunken rump</li> <li>• deep cavity under tail</li> <li>• skin tight over bones</li> <li>• very prominent backbone and pelvis</li> <li>• marked U shaped neck</li> </ul>
<p><b>1 Poor</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sunken rump</li> <li>• cavity under tail</li> <li>• ribs easily visible</li> <li>• prominent backbone and croup</li> <li>• U shaped neck - narrow and slack</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Moderate</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flat rump either side of backbone</li> <li>• ribs just visible</li> <li>• narrow but firm neck</li> <li>• backbone well covered</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Good</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rounded rump</li> <li>• ribs just covered but easily felt</li> <li>• no crest, firm neck</li> </ul>

<p><b>4 Fat</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• rump well rounded</li><li>• gutter along back</li><li>• ribs and pelvis hard to feel</li><li>• slight crest</li></ul>
<p><b>5 Very fat</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• very bulging rump</li><li>• deep gutter along back</li><li>• ribs buried</li><li>• marked crest</li><li>• folds and lumps of fat</li></ul>

(Table Courtesy State of Victoria)

DRAFT

**Ahmed, Toma**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 9 June 2022 12:36 PM  
**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees  
**Subject:** Code of conduct proposal

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

Reading through the new code of conduct draft in section 3 Supervision minimum standards S3.3 states that horses only need to be checked on once in 24hrs when in a yard, stable or stall. From my experience working in the horse industry for over 10 years I don't agree with this minimum. This statement should be amended to a minimum of every 12 hours.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

## Ahmed, Toma

---

**From:** [REDACTED]@ava.com.au >  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 June 2022 4:20 PM  
**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees  
**Cc:** Barker, Erin  
**Subject:** AVA Submission on the Draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT  
**Attachments:** AVA Submission - Draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT (June2022) .pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**Categories:** Horse Code

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached the Australian Veterinary Association feedback on the proposed Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT.

Kind regards,



[REDACTED]  
**Australian Veterinary Association**

[REDACTED]  
Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street, St Leonards NSW 2065  
[ava.com.au](http://ava.com.au) | [vetvoice.com.au](http://vetvoice.com.au)

Your professional partner – championing and empowering the veterinary profession to thrive by providing a voice, education, community and support.





# Draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT

Submission of the  
Australian Veterinary Association Ltd  
June 2022



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## The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the only national association representing veterinarians in Australia. Founded in 1921, the AVA today represents over 8500 members working in all areas of animal science, health and welfare.

The AVA thanks the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) for the opportunity to provide comment on the [proposed new Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT](#). We note the Committee aims to update and redraft the [current Code of Practice](#), particularly in regard to euthanasia/slaughter of horses and regulatory oversight bodies.

The AVA has consulted with relevant AVA committees and AVA ACT Members to seek expert member input to inform this submission on the proposed new Code of Practice (CoP). Members of the AVA ACT Division Committee who have extensive expertise and experience in equine veterinary practices have been the main contributors to this feedback.

Of note, the AVA has several policies relating to horse health and welfare:

- [Artificial breeding of horses and related species](#)
- [Castration of horses and donkeys](#)
- [Distal limb neurectomy](#)
- [Equine competitive events \(other than jump races and rodeos\)](#)
- [Equine dentistry](#)
- [Equine jumping races](#)
- [Heat stress in the horse](#)
- [Hendra Virus](#)
- [Racing two year old thoroughbreds](#)
- [Thermocautery of horses](#)
- [Transport of horses](#)
- [Use of horses in entertainment](#)
- [Use of whips on horses at competitive events](#)

The AVA are concerned overall regarding the framework of standards and guidelines in the CoP, particularly as it will be mandated under legislation. We request meeting with the Chair of the ACT AWAC and relevant department personnel to discuss these concerns and clarify the purpose/outcomes of the CoP.

Whilst the AVA is supportive of updating the legislation for the welfare of horses in the ACT, it is not supportive of the CoP in its current arrangement; we provide the following table of suggestions, comments and questions on the proposed CoP minimum standards and guideline sections.

## AVA Comments: Draft Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses in the ACT

<b>Title</b>	<i>Code of Practice for the Welfare of <b>Horses</b> in the ACT (2021)</i>
<p>Suggest amending the title of the CoP to Equids, or outlining the term on an introductory page, as it encapsulates horses, ponies, donkeys and mules. All of which are housed in the ACT and the welfare standards applies to them all.</p>	
<b>Contents</b>	
<p>Suggest including a definitions section into the CoP including defining veterinarian, farrier, stable, yard, exercise, and defining the other identified terms in the following comments.</p>	
<b>Introduction</b>	
<p>Suggest including an opening explanation on ‘minimum standards’ and ‘guidelines’ at the beginning of the CoP (for example similar to the Land transport of livestock - standards and guidelines)</p>	
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>accommodation</b> <i>that neither harms nor causes undue strain or discomfort</i></li> </ul>
<p>Suggest changing ‘accommodation’ to ‘housing’ and use the term consistently throughout the CoP. Accommodation would not be commonly used in reference to horse housing.</p>	
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>competition (racing, eventing, jumping, showing, endurance riding)</i></li> </ul>
<p>Suggest amending to (for example racing, eventing, jumping, showing, endurance riding, dressage and camp drafting).</p>	
<b>Introduction</b>	<p><i>Assistance or advice on management of horses can be obtained from appropriately skilled <b>equine veterinarians</b> or <b>suitably experienced/qualified equine professional</b>, including riding instructors, and <b>nutritionists</b>.</i></p>
<p>Suggest removing any reference to ‘equine veterinarians’ and replace with ‘registered veterinarians’. There are no qualifications or determinations that would specify someone as an ‘equine veterinarian’. Alternatively use the term ‘veterinarian’ throughout and define this as a registered veterinarian (veterinarian registered in the ACT) in definitions section.</p> <p>Suggest including a definition of what is a ‘suitably experienced/qualified equine professional’ and ‘nutritionist’ and identify underlying qualifications.</p>	

<b>Introduction</b>	<i>Prospective purchasers and breeders of horses should <b>be aware</b> that proper feeding, maintenance and training of horses represent long-term <b>responsibilities</b>.</i>
<p>Suggest amending this sentence to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• awareness of dangers for unskilled handlers/riders, and</li> <li>• the costs.</li> </ul>	
<b>Behavioural needs</b>	<i>S2.2 Horses must be able to <b>express normal behaviours</b> such as freely grazing on pasture, unless there are reasonable grounds not to do so i.e., for medical or work reason</i>
<p>Suggest including a definition of 'normal behaviours'.</p> <p>We caution against using just one reference to indicate 'normal behaviours' that horses need is grazing. They also need socialisation, ability to groom themselves/other horses and more.</p>	
<b>Behavioural needs</b>	<i>S2.3 Persons responsible for a horse displaying a <b>pathological behaviour</b> pattern (stereotypies) including weaving, crib-biting, wind-sucking, self-mutilation, pawing, kicking or pacing must provide appropriate <b>intervention therapy</b> based on advice from a veterinarian or <b>equine professional advice</b>.</i>
<p>Suggest this section needs rewording following advice from an equine behaviouralist noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathological behaviour: Change to 'behaviour reflective of poor husbandry, nutrition, anxiety or boredom' or 'abnormal' or 'self-injurious'.</li> <li>• Intervention therapy: Change to 'obtain veterinary guidance'. Intervention therapy may be ineffective, for example horse out in herd environment, environmental stimulation, appropriate feed, paddock-mates and still weaves or crib-bites. Not always appropriate to apply collars for example, some equine behaviour specialists no longer recommend such devices. Needs rethink of wording. Consider advice from equine veterinary behaviouralist, for example <a href="#">Professor Paul McGreevy</a>.</li> <li>• Professional advice: Suggest only veterinarian included here as there are no industry standards for 'equine professionals'.</li> </ul>	
<b>Behavioural needs</b>	<i>G2.1 Colts, stallions, weanlings, pregnant and sick animals, or those in advanced age, may require segregation from <b>other groups of horses</b>, to reduce the risk of injury and disease.</i>
<p>Greater clarity is needed on this section to if segregation is temporary or permanent. Additionally noting the risks of the horse having no social contact with other horses.</p> <p>Suggest referencing 'physical distancing' or 'suitable barrier' but maintaining visual contact and physical contact (e.g. over fence) if possible.</p>	

<b>Behavioural needs</b>	<i>G2.2 Introduction of a new horse or reintroduction of a segregated horse into a group should <b>be supervised</b>.</i>
Suggest adding 'be supervised until the animals are relaxed and a hierarchy has been established'.	
<b>Behavioural needs</b>	<i>G2.4 Horses that do not have access to pasture should be provided with other <b>suitable enrichment</b>.</i>
Suggest defining 'suitable enrichment' e.g. forage/roughage as fodder, toys, slow-feeder hay nets, and companions.	
<b>Supervision</b>	<i>S3.1 The person responsible for the supervision of a horse must be able to recognise signs of ill health and take <b>appropriate action to obtain a diagnosis and treatment protocol</b>.</i>
Suggest after: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'appropriate' add 'and prompt'</li> <li>• 'treatment protocol' add 'from a qualified registered veterinarian'.</li> </ul>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<i>S3.2 The person responsible for the supervision of a horse must have access to a registered veterinary practitioner to diagnose and treat illness or injury or to <b>humanely euthanase</b> the horse to prevent further suffering, if <b>treatment is not possible</b>.</i>
Suggest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing 'humanely euthanase' and replace with 'euthanase in a humane manner if treatment is not possible, not successful, or declined by an owner and no other alternative is possible.'</li> <li>• Removing 'treatment is not possible' as sometimes treatment might be possible but may be long and painful with potentially poor outcome, or simply owner cannot afford treatment even if high likelihood of successful outcome.</li> </ul>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<i>S3.3 Horses confined in <b>stables, stalls and yards</b> must be inspected at least every 24 hours to ensure that their needs are met.</i>
Question: why are all horses not inspected every 24 hours, e.g. if in paddock? Suggest all horses under all keeping conditions must be checked at least every 24 hours	
<b>Supervision</b>	<i>S3.4 Aged horses, mares in late pregnancy and horses suffering from injury or disease must be inspected <b>daily</b>.</i>

<p>The CoP uses the terms 'daily' and '24 hours' interchangeably throughout the document. Suggest consistently using the reference of 'every 24 hours'. Suggest changing S3.4 to 'twice daily'. See comment on G3.2.</p>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<p><i>S3.5 Contingency plans must be in place for emergency situations such as fire, flood, disease, injury and unexpected absences of the person in <b>charge</b>.</i></p>
<p>Suggest including 'and be made readily available a person able to take responsibility for the horse in the owner's absence'.</p>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<p><i>G3.1 Frequency and level of supervision should relate to the likelihood of risk to the welfare of each horse, however, ideally, all horses should be inspected at <b>least daily</b>. Horses may need to be inspected more frequently than once a day depending on their physiological requirements.</i></p>
<p>Suggest changing to every 24 hours.</p>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<p><i><b>G3.2</b> Horses kept under intensive management in stables and yards should be inspected at least twice daily.</i></p>
<p>Comment: This guideline seems inconsistent with the minimum standard in S3.4 <i>Aged horses, mares in late pregnancy and horses suffering from injury or disease must be inspected daily</i>. Suggest changing S3.4 to 'twice daily'</p>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<p><i><b>G3.3</b> Mares in late pregnancy should be observed for signs of impending foaling.</i></p>
<p>Suggest adding clarity of when, how frequently, for how long and how closely.</p>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<p><i>G3.4 Contingency plans may include an evacuation plan where necessary and <b>frequent handling</b> of horses. Such plans should be practised <b>regularly</b>.</i></p>
<p>Questions how 'frequent handling' is a contingency plan. Suggest explaining this concept that horses should have frequent handling and owners practise contingency plans, especially if they include transportation of the horse off the property where it resides.</p> <p>The use of the term 'regularly' is vague and open to various interpretations, suggest providing clarity how often plans should be practiced.</p>	
<b>Supervision</b>	<p><i>Note: A horse is considered <b>aged at 20 years old</b>.</i></p>
<p>Suggest using the terms geriatric or senior instead of 'aged'. Additionally, what is the basis/reference for using 20 years as the defining category aged?</p>	
<b>Water</b>	

Suggest moving minimum standards to the top of this section above guidelines in-keeping with the other topic structures.	
<b>Water</b>	<i>S4.1 Horses must have continual access to an adequate supply of good quality water unless they are being transported in accordance with the relevant ACT legislation regarding the land transport of horses.</i>
Suggest referencing the ACT legislation.	
<b>Water</b>	<i>S4.2 Horses must have access to sufficient water to supply their daily needs and maintain good health of each horse present.</i>
Suggest restructuring the sentence changing 'each horse present' to 'each/individual horse/s must have', and use consistent terminology throughout the document	
<b>Water</b>	<i>S4.3 Water containers must be of a design that does not cause injury to the animals.</i>
Suggest adding to the sentence 'and should be of a design or secured in a manner that prevents them from tipping/being knocked over easily'.	
<b>Water</b>	<i>S4.4 Where provision of sufficient water for health and vitality cannot be met, immediate steps must be taken to move or sell the horse.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and vitality: suggest including daily water requirements</li> <li>• Taken to move: suggest adding: 'to immediately provide an adequate, fresh and clean water supply (e.g. fill a bucket)'</li> <li>• Sell: Suggest removing 'sell' as selling isn't the issue. The issue is for the horse to be situated where there is an adequate supply of water.</li> </ul>	
<b>Water</b>	<i>G4.1 Water containers and mechanical water sources should be inspected at least daily to ensure that they are functioning normally.</i>
Suggest changing to 24 hours.	
<b>Water</b>	<i>G4.2 Where water is supplied in buckets, the supply should be inspected at least every 12 hours to ensure the horse has free access to an adequate supply of good quality water.</i>
Suggest noting may require segregation or multiple water sources if aggression in the group and some horses not allowed adequate access to water trough.	
<b>Water</b>	<i>G4.3 Water containers should be secured and minimise spillage.</i>

Suggest replacing 'and minimise spillage' with 'in order to, or in such a way as to, minimise spillage'.	
<b>Water</b>	<i>G4.6 Dams should be free of rubbish and contaminants. Dam levels and water quality need close monitoring during periods of low rainfall.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water quality: Suggest including monitoring for the presence of toxins including blue-green algae.</li> <li>• low rainfall: Dams also become contaminated during periods of high rainfall.</li> </ul> <p>Suggest adding 'access to water sources should be restricted until deemed safe by suitable testing and another fresh, clean water source provided during this time.'</p> <p>Suggest including guidance on water testing available for horse and property owners.</p>	
<b>Water</b>	<i>Minimum Standards: These requirements are increased with growth, work and lactation. Two or three times as much water as shown above is needed by horses in work.</i>
<p>Minimum Standards need reference numbers S4.? in keeping with the CoP structure.</p> <p>Suggest adding 'and during summer/warmer/more humid temperatures for every horse size'.</p>	
<b>Water</b>	<i>Minimum Standards: Illness associated with bowel disease, such as obstructive colic or severe diarrhoea, can result in substantial loss of water and other essential electrolytes (50 - 70 litres/day).</i>
<p>Minimum Standards need reference numbers S4.? in keeping with the CoP structure.</p> <p>If illness with bowel disease is included in the CoP it should then be followed by information to indicate veterinary attention should be sought immediately. As it stands, the CoP implies to just give more water and electrolytes.</p> <p>Additionally, it does not seem appropriate to include here as a reference to water. Should be that veterinary advice must be immediately sought if a horse has bowel disease such as obstructive colic or severe diarrhoea.</p>	
<b>Food</b>	<i>S5.3 A horse's body condition must not be allowed to become less than body condition score 2 (see Appendix A).</i>
Suggest also including 'or more than score 4'. Obesity is a major issue in horses and causes significant health risks.	
<b>Food</b>	<i>S5.4 Horses must have appropriate access to food.</i>

<p>Suggest removing S5.4 as it's unnecessary given S5.1 'Horses must be provided with a diet of sufficient quantity and quality to maintain their good health and meet their physiological requirements.'</p>	
<b>Food</b>	<p>S5.5 Where provision of sufficient food for health and vitality cannot be met, steps must be taken to immediately move, rehome or sell the horse to ensure its needs can be met.</p>
<p>Following the word 'of' suggest including 'ongoing'.</p> <p>Suggest rewording 'immediately move, rehome or sell'. Food can be provided in the location, should state to immediately provide food. Selling and moving an animal can take an extended time.</p> <p>Additionally, it would be worth noting the risk of refeeding syndrome in starved horses/animals.</p>	
<b>Food</b>	<p>G5.1 If there is not sufficient pasture for horses to graze, they should be fed a suitable and sufficient supplementary feed.</p>
<p>Suggest defining roughage-based feed to substitute pasture.</p>	
<b>Food</b>	<p>G5.2 Feed troughs for horses should be well spaced to minimise bullying and allow subordinate animals access to feed. Horses that are in lighter condition and those that are subject to constant bullying should be segregated from the main group.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• well spaced: Suggest expanding to 'well-spaced as appropriate for the herd to prevent aggression'. Some horses need to be many metres apart, others only beyond kicking distance.</li> <li>• minimise bullying: Suggest adding 'as appropriate for the herd'.</li> <li>• from the main group: Suggest elaborating that 'during feeding time to prevent choke (define) and access to feed requirements'. Same issue is applicable for water as some horses can bully other horses off water troughs.</li> </ul>	
<b>Food</b>	<p>G5.3 If a horse fails to thrive, the quantity, quality and availability of feed, and the health of the horse (including the state of its teeth, the extent of parasitism and the horse's age) should be evaluated.</p>
<p>Suggest adding 'evidence of other illness' and noting veterinary advice should be sought or examination by a veterinarian.</p>	
<b>Food</b>	<p>G5.4 Horses should be fed according to body condition. Over-fatness is undesirable for the health of the horse. The efficiency of food utilisation will vary between particular horses and breeds of horses. Most ponies utilise feed efficiently, but thoroughbred horses require substantially more feed per kilogram of body weight. Overfeeding some horses, particularly idle ponies, can induce laminitis or founder. Animals at risk should be exercised and their intake of food energy reduced to minimal maintenance requirements.</p>

- Over-fatness: Suggest defining by a body condition score (4 and above in a scale out of 5)
- thoroughbred horses: Suggest including 'for example' before 'thoroughbred horses.
- or founder: Suggest changing to 'also known as founder' as it's the same condition. Suggest including laminitis in definition section and use only this technical term throughout. Founder is lay term for laminitis and could be mentioned in definition.
- should be exercised: Suggest adding 'if appropriate' as its not appropriate if they have laminitis or other lameness issue.
- their intact of food energy reduced to minimal maintenance requirements: It is difficult to cover this concept in one sentence, suggest expanding.

<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.6 Changes to the horse's diet should be <b>introduced gradually</b> to reduce the risk of digestive disorders.</i>
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Suggest clarifying 'introduced gradually'. For example, over a period of 1-2 weeks by slowly increasing the amount of the new feed and reducing the amount of the old feed.

<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.8 Supplying supplementary feed in <b>no spill containers</b>, rather than directly on the ground, will decrease the risk of sand colic and minimise wastage of food.</i>
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Suggest expanding 'no spill containers' with 'by providing rubber or other surface around the container. Suggest including photo examples of no spill containers.

<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.9 <b>Good quality pastures, containing suitable grasses and legumes, can provide the food requirements for most horses</b>, except those doing hard work, those with compromised teeth, aged horses or lactating mares. <b>In temperate areas</b> where permanent pastures are fertilised annually, about 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of pasture for each grazing horse should provide maintenance requirements during years with normal rainfall.</i>
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Supplementation of vitamins and minerals with a purely pasture diet is often required due to nutritional deficiencies in pasture in this region. Cases of nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism can also occur in the ACT region. Suggest addressing this in the Food section.  
Suggest adding after 'In temperate areas' ', including the ACT'.

<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.11 Roughage (fibrous feed such as pasture, hay and chaff) should form a significant part of a horse's diet, to provide sufficient bulk and fibre to enable the digestive system to function properly. Horses <b>need at least 1%</b> of their body weight in roughage daily. If fed processed feed or grains, these should be offered in addition to the appropriate amount of roughage.</i>
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Suggest expanding G5.11 to note that roughage should compromise minimum 80% of the diet. Concentrates maximum 20%.  
Additionally, 1.5% bodyweight often considered minimum maintenance.

<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.12 Approximate minimum feed requirements of adult horses are shown in <b>Table 1 (see page 8)</b>.</i>
Suggest noting that volumes of roughage and concentrates should be weighed as one dipper of feed does not equate to one kilogram.	
<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.13 Persons inexperienced in horse care should consult a registered veterinary practitioner or an <b>appropriate organisation</b> such as an <b>experienced equine professional</b> about selection of suitable foodstuffs for horses used for a particular purpose.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appropriate organisation: Suggest including example of an appropriate organisation. Could this include an individual professional?</li> <li>• experienced equine professional: Concerns including this terminology as there are no industry standards on what an 'equine professional' is.</li> </ul>	
<b>Food</b>	<p>Table 1 Approximate <b>minimum daily feed requirements</b> of adult horses</p> <p>Table contents: <b>idle, hay, grain, oats, 4-6 kg of grain, *Good quality pasture hay rich in clover, or lucerne hay</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• minimum daily feed requirements: Questions what the % are based on. Suggest % of body weight included for clear reference.</li> <li>• idle: 'idle' is not a term commonly used by horse owners. Suggest 'horse not in work'/spelling/retired' may be more appropriate.</li> <li>• hay: Suggest replacing 'hay with 'roughage for example grass, hay, chaff'.</li> <li>• grain: Suggest replacing 'grain' with 'concentrates for example grains/pellets' as more appropriate terminology and add to definitions.</li> <li>• oats: Suggest use 'pellets/grains' here instead of 'oats' which is only one type of grain. Oats is an old-fashioned feed type with most now feeding commercial pellets/grain mixes.</li> <li>• 4-6 kg of grain: 6kg of grain is quite high that would likely to produce sloppy/loose/unformed manure and would be only suitable for racehorses/high level performance horses in intense daily training.</li> <li>• *Good quality pasture hay rich in clover, or lucerne hay: We recommend caution for this point as this would make many horses overweight if just fed lucerne/clover and causing laminitis/loose manure. Most horses need to be fed a mix of meadow/rye/teff hay and lucerne hay, if any lucerne at all.</li> </ul>	
<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.14 Protein, mineral and vitamin supplements should be provided <b>when required</b>. Horses should <b>have access to a source of salt</b> when it is not provided in foodstuffs.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• when required: Suggest greater clarity be provided for when this is, including outlining/defining how much to feed as above table. For example, if only on a roughage diet without commercial concentrates, when required for the level of work, and at a maintenance level.</li> </ul>	

- access to a source of salt: We recommend caution for this point and recommend rewording. Many owners include tablespoons of salt in daily diet, but horses should be able to select for themselves for example by provide salt grains separately to lick or as a mineral lick in a block. It is not appropriate to just give random amounts of salt the horse is forced to ingest in the concentrate feed. A balanced high quality commercial vitamin and mineral mix is more appropriate.

<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.15 Adequate, good quality food is necessary for growth of young horses. At six months of age horses require as much energy-rich food and more protein than <b>idle</b>, adult horses.</i>
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'idle' is not a term commonly used by horse owners. Suggest 'horse not in work'/spelling/retired' may be more appropriate.

<b>Food</b>	<i>G5.16 Lactating mares require about 70% more energy than <b>idle</b>, adult horses.</i>
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'idle' is not a term commonly used by horse owners. Suggest 'horse not in work'/spelling/retired' may be more appropriate.

<b>Exercise</b>	<i>S6.1 Stabled or <b>yarded</b> horses must be <b>exercised daily</b>, except where the exercise may be detrimental to the health and welfare of the horse.</i>
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Suggest defining the terms 'yarded' and 'exercise daily', for example as appropriate for their level of fitness.

<b>Exercise</b>	<i>S6.3 Horses on <b>mechanical exercising</b> devices, such as walking machines, must be continuously monitored by a competent person to <b>prevent excessive strain or injury</b>.</i>
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Suggest rewording S6.3 to include:

- Horses must be conditioned and trained to mechanical exercising devices and be under constant supervision by a competent person.
- Mechanical devices must have regular upkeep and servicing.
- To intervene if the horse becomes distressed.

Suggest removing 'prevent excessive strain or injury' as its not characteristic wording or a minimum standard.

<b>Exercise</b>	<i>G6.1 Horses should not be subjected to excessive strenuous exercise, particularly <b>immature horses</b>.</i>
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Suggest rewording G6.1 to:

- Define 'immature' and 'excessive' in this context.
- Move 'particularly immature horses' to the beginning of the sentence (Horses, particularly immature horses, should not be...)

<p>We note this guideline would mean a horse under 6 years old should be raced. Racing is inherently excessive strenuous exercise and horse musculoskeletal systems are immature until 5 to 6 years of age.</p>	
<b>Exercise</b>	<p>G6.2 Rider's size and weight should be <b>appropriate for the size and condition of the horse.</b></p>
<p>Horses must not carry weight that is inappropriate for their size, condition and the activity. We suggest the guideline defines this point and provide examples.</p> <p>We note recent scientific papers are defining how much weight certain horses can safely carry and recommend referencing them. For example, <a href="#">Guide to Horse Capacity – Size of Athlete</a>.</p>	
<b>Exercise</b>	<p>G6.3 <b>Horses may be exercised by riding, driving, lunging or releasing them into a large yard or paddock for at least one hour a day.</b> In some circumstances, due to injury or convalescence, horses may need to be stabled for extended periods.</p>
<p>Suggest clear definition of 'exercise' provided at start of the CoP in a definitions section.</p> <p>Suggest clarifying 'large yard or paddock' as this contradicts with S6.1 that horses housed in yards need daily exercise.</p> <p>Questions how 'at least one hour a day' was determined, where was this recommended period sourced from? Suggest referencing.</p>	
<b>Exercise</b>	<p>G6.4 Stabled horses should be <b>spelled outside at least once a year, for at least two to four weeks.</b></p>
<p>Greater clarity and definition are required for G6.4 of what constitutes 'outside' (where and in what), as this could be a small yard.</p>	
<b>Exercise</b>	<p>G6.5 When introducing <b>new or spelled horses to exercise</b>, their workload should be <b>increased gradually</b> to prevent injury and stress.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to 'When reintroducing horses to exercise/training/work after a spell or commencing exercise/training/work, their workload...'</p> <p>Suggest defining 'increase gradually' as it's open to varying interpretations.</p>	
<b>Housing, shelter structures and yards (HSSY)</b>	<p><b>S7.2 Horses must have access to an adequate number of paddocks or yards to permit animals of similar age, sex, size and compatible temperament to be grouped, see S2.2.</b></p>
<p>We have several concerns for S7.2, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where have these standards been sourced from and what is the scientific basis? Suggest referencing.</li> </ul>	

- Questions the appropriateness of S7.2 as a minimum standard rather than a guideline.
- We note horses do not have to be housed with similar age/sex/size to be content in a herd situation. For example, a young horse can be housed with an older horse.
- S7.2 appears to contradict other standards regarding housing in stables.
- The current wording is unclear. The property where horse is housed needs to have adequate number of paddocks, not horse have access to them. The horse is only in the paddock where it is placed and S7.2 implies it can move between paddocks by choice.

<b>HSSY</b>	<i>S7.3 Horses must not be overcrowded in confinement, they must have freedom of movement to stand, stretch, turn around, walk forward, lie down and roll.</i>
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Suggest rewording and provide clarification as S7.3 is unclear if 'overcrowded in confinement' implies in a group situation. If a horse could only walk forward and just turn around in confinement with another horse, that is not providing it with room to move away from aggression. Is S7.3 in relation to stable size?

<b>HSSY</b>	<i>S7.4 Yards and loose boxes must have sufficient room to allow the horse to display natural behaviours, stand freely in the normal position with the head fully raised, walk forward and turn, lie down, roll, stretch and groom themselves without restrictions.</i>
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Suggest defining or replacing the phrase 'loose box' as it is older terminology and not commonly used now.

<b>HSSY</b>	<i>S7.5 Loose-boxes for horses must provide a floor area of at least 12 square metres (9 square metres for ponies) and be at least 2.4 metres high for horses and ponies.</i>
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Suggest defining or replacing the phrase 'loose box' as it is older terminology and not commonly used now.

Suggest defining 'ponies' including the size of pony and horse.

<b>HSSY</b>	<i>S7.6 Appropriate clean bedding must be provided in stables and loose boxes for warmth, insulation and protection from abrasion.</i>
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Suggest the CoP include guidance to define the suitable amounts for 'warmth, insulation and protection from abrasion'.

<b>HSSY</b>	<i>S7.7 Horses must have access to proper and sufficient shade and shelter at all times.</i>
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Suggest defining what is sufficient shade and shelter (windbreak from hill, tree, shed?).

We note that many of the ACT government paddocks/yards do not provide shade/shelter.

<b>HSSY</b>	S7.8 <b>Horses must not be kept in stalls or other small, confined spaces on a permanent basis, see S6.1 and G6.4.</b>
<p>The CoP mention's stalls/stables that are multiple words for the same housing type. Suggest defining at the start and use of same term when referenced throughout the CoP.</p>	
<b>HSSY</b>	S7.9 <i>Adequate firefighting equipment should be available and easy to access. Persons in charge of stabled horses should be trained and practised in use of fire-fighting equipment. There should be ready access to horses to enable them to be <b>released</b> quickly in case of fire.</i>
<p>Suggest after 'released' adding 'or moved/relocated'.</p>	
<b>HSSY</b>	G7.1 <b>Accommodation</b> of horses in stables is not likely to meet the full spectrum of horses' behavioural and social needs. If stabling is used, provision of exercise, time out at pasture, a high fibre diet, social interaction (such as allowing these horses to see other horses), and stimulation through environmental enrichment may reduce stress, boredom and the risk of stereotypic behaviour, and should be provided.
<p>Suggest defining and using consistent language for housing/accommodation and use the same terminology throughout the CoP. The varying use of stable, shed, stall, loose box, yard, pen etc can be confusing. Suggest using housing or 'where horses are held' as more appropriate terms.</p>	
<b>HSSY</b>	G7.3 <b>Sheds</b> should be constructed and maintained so as to provide adequate security and minimise risk of injury and disease.
<p>Suggest changing 'sheds' to 'structures/buildings where horses are housed' as this will include individual stables, barns, sheds, etc (capturing structures whether they be brick or timber).</p>	
<b>HSSY</b>	G7.4 <b>Stables, stalls and loose boxes</b> should have <b>adequate lighting</b> that permits inspection of a horse.
<p>As suggested previously to consistently use 'accommodation/housing/or structures/buildings where horses are housed' instead of 'stables, stalls, and loose boxes, etc'. Or provide definition for each term used stables, stalls and loose boxes. Suggest defining what is 'adequate lighting'.</p>	
<b>HSSY</b>	G7.5 The floors of <b>yards, sheds and stalls</b> should have surfaces that permit adequate drainage and provide <b>firm footing</b> for horses.
<p>As suggested previously to consistently use 'accommodation/housing/or structures/buildings where horses are housed' instead of 'stables, stalls, and loose boxes, etc'. Or provide definitions for each term used yards, sheds and stalls.</p>	

Suggest adding 'and even' as some floors could be dug out or dipped in the middle. For example, an old stable with dirt floor.	
<b>HSSY</b>	<i>G7.6 Stables and stalls should give adequate natural ventilation. Air vents on opposite sides of the box are preferred. Dust levels in stables and stalls should be kept to a minimum to reduce the risk of respiratory disease.</i>
As suggested previously to consistently use 'accommodation/housing/or structures/buildings where horses are housed' instead of 'stables, stalls, and loose boxes, etc'. Or provide definitions for each term used stables and stalls.	
<b>HSSY</b>	<i>G7.7 Horses should be accommodated singly if in loose boxes and tied if in stalls. During weaning it is acceptable to have two weanlings together in a loose box.</i>
Suggest defining or replacing the phrase 'loose box' as it is older terminology and not commonly used now.	
<b>HSSY</b>	<i>G7.8 Dirty bedding and stale or contaminated feed and water should be removed each day. Disposal of washings, urine and dung should be made in compliance with the requirements of statutory authorities.</i>
Suggest defining 'washings'	
Suggest using the term 'manure' instead of 'dung' as it is more commonly used term. Suggest include a definition.	
<b>HSSY</b>	<i>G7.9 Paddocks and yards should be kept free of noxious plants, rubbish and debris that may injure horses.</i>
We note there maybe issues with G7.9 as many paddocks in the ACT, including ACT Government paddocks are infested by a numerous noxious weeds (for example, Patterson's curse, flatweeds, St John's wort).	
<b>Agistment</b>	
Suggest including a definition of 'agistment'.	
<b>Agistment</b>	<i>G9.1 An agistment property owner should record the full name, street address and contact telephone number of the owner of every horse agisted on their property.</i>
Suggest replacing 'should record' with 'should keep current records of'.	
<b>Agistment</b>	<i>G9.3 The owner of the agistment property should advise the horse owner of the persons responsible, and the provisions made for safety and care of the animals, the supply of feed and water, the treatment of injured or ill horses, general paddock maintenance, and routine measures for control of parasites and prevention of overstocking.</i>

<p>G9.3 assumes the agistment owner is responsible for organising/maintaining for the safety and care of the animals (supplying food &amp; water). However, often it is the horse owner who does these activities.</p> <p>Suggest rewording G9.3 given the responsibilities varies greatly depending on the agreement/facility.</p>	
<b>Tethering and hobbling</b>	<p><i>S10.1 Horses must not be tethered or hobbled for continuous <b>periods more</b> than 12 hours in any 24 hour period.</i></p>
<p>Suggest replacing 'periods more' with 'periods of more'.</p>	
<b>Tethering and hobbling</b>	<p><i><b>S10.5</b> Hobbled horses must not have access to <b>deep water</b> due to the risk of injury or death, unless under direct supervision.</i></p>
<p>Suggest defining 'deep water' and including in S10.5 'and tools needed for rescue if needed'.</p>	
<b>Tethering and hobbling</b>	<p><i>G10.3 Tethering and hobbling of horses should only be a <b>short-term practice</b> and should not be used to restrain horses constantly because fencing is inadequate.</i></p>
<p>Suggest defining what constitutes as 'short-term practice'.</p>	
<b>Tethering and hobbling</b>	<p><i>G10.5 "<b>Hobbling</b>" referred to in this section does not refer to the practice of "<b>hoppling</b>" of harness racing horses during racing and training.</i></p>
<p>Suggest defining 'hobbling' and 'hoppling'.</p>	
<b>Rugging</b>	<p><i>S11.3 Rugs must be removed <b>at least weekly</b> for inspection of the <b>horse's body condition</b>, skin health and rubbing or injury caused by the rug.</i></p>
<p>We question where the frequency of rugs removed weekly for inspection was sourced from? Suggest including a reference for this standard.</p> <p>It appears an excessively long period between checking underneath a rug for rubbing or injury (horses can have star picket injuries or other occur underneath a rug).</p>	
<b>Rugging</b>	<p>Guidelines</p>
<p>Suggest including heat stress in the guidelines as it is referenced in the standards.</p>	

<b>Rugging</b>	<i>G11.1 Rugs should be fit for purpose, particularly in extremes of hot, cold or wet weather. Rugs used in wet weather should be waterproof.</i>
Suggest including 'and replaced if soaked/saturated/leaking/not repelling water'.	
<b>Health</b>	<b>Minimum standards</b>
Suggest including vaccination against preventable conditions in the minimum standards.	
<b>Health</b>	<i>S12.2 Where treatment and appropriate aftercare of sick or injured horses is not possible, the animals must not be left to suffer, but must be humanely euthanased. The person in charge must be able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all possible treatment options including transfer of ownership/custody to another person able to provide appropriate care, and that it would be inhumane to keep the animal alive under the circumstances.</i>
This particular point would not be widely known by horse owners who may request euthanasia without trying to rehome a horse that is chronically or acutely lame and unable to perform at the intended level, assuming it could not be rehomed due to lameness or unsuitability due to temperament.	
<b>Health</b>	<i>S12.3 Horses losing body condition that do not respond to special feeding must be examined by a registered veterinary practitioner.</i>
<p>Question what the standard means by 'special feeding'?</p> <p>Suggest changing 'special feeding' to 'do not respond to increased feeding/caloric provision must be...'. Suggest changing to maintain consistency 'registered veterinary practitioner' to 'registered veterinarian'.</p>	
<b>Health</b>	<i>S 12.4 Horses must receive regular health checks and treatment as appropriate, see S12.1</i>
<p>Suggest S12.4 be expanded to include clarity on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What determines 'regular health checks' (routine health screens annually, biannually, specification?)</li> <li>• Who conducts the 'regular health check' (by a registered veterinary practitioner?)</li> </ul> <p>We note some aged horses in ACT have never been attended to by a veterinarian.</p>	
<b>Health</b>	<i>S.12.5 If a person has reasonable grounds for believing that a horse is infected with an exotic or declared endemic disease, the person must immediately notify the ACT chief veterinary officer in writing.</i>

Question, does 'declared endemic disease' mean reportable/declared notifiable endemic disease? If so, suggest including.

The 'in writing' requirement should be expanded to include other forms of modern communications.

We note in other jurisdictions farmers/land holders are advised/legislated to call the Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) hotline. S12.5 could be confusing as it conflicts with other state requirements. We suggest the ACT align with other state arrangements for contacting the EAD who would then notify the ACT Chief Veterinary Officer.

<b>Health</b>	<i>S12.6 If the owner or person in charge of an animal has reasonable grounds for believing that the animal is infected with an exotic disease or <b>declared endemic disease</b>, the person must immediately separate the animal from any other animal that is not infected with the disease.</i>
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Question, does 'declared endemic disease' mean reportable/declared notifiable endemic disease? If so, suggest including.

<b>Health</b>	<p><i>G12.1 Examples of conditions that may require prompt veterinary attention:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- acute <b>abdominal pain or colic</b> seen as pawing, kicking at the stomach or rolling, often accompanied by <b>straining</b>, teeth-grinding and patchy or generalised sweating</li> <li>- serious injuries, including deep wounds, severe haemorrhage, suspected bone fractures, or <b>eye injuries</b></li> <li>- <b>straining for more than 30 minutes by a mare that has not foaled</b></li> <li>- inability or difficulty rising or standing</li> <li>- retained foetal <b>membranes</b></li> <li>- marked lameness or injuries not responding <b>to treatment</b> within 24 hours</li> <li>- signs of respiratory disease (<b>colds</b>) such as discharges from eyes, nostrils, or swollen <b>glands</b> under the <b>throat</b>; these are indications of respiratory disease and may be accompanied by a cough, fever, loss of appetite</li> <li>- <b>diarrhoea</b> or persistent weight loss</li> <li>- <b>constipation</b></li> <li>- signs of <b>laminitis</b>, including <b>lameness, increased pulse to the affected hooves, reluctance to stand on affected feet and reluctance to move</b></li> <li>- inactivity or <b>unresponsiveness</b>.</li> </ul>
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Several suggestions and comments on S12.1:

- abdominal pain or colic: Suggest adding commonly present with inappetence and dullness/dull demeanour
- straining: Question, straining to do what? Horses do not usually strain to pass manure or urinate. They may repeatedly posture to urinate however due to pressure from distended bowel on the bladder.
- eye injuries: Suggest move eye injuries to another point and define further. As any issue with a horse's eye is considered an emergency by veterinarians, for example closed eyelids, discharge/tearing from the eye, swollen eye, red eye
- straining for more than 30 minutes by a mare that has not foaled: Question, this is unclear as it implies the mare has never foaled as opposed to trying to foal. Suggest including pregnant or possibly pregnant mare.
- membranes: Suggest adding 'after foaling'. Suggest instead grouping foaling related points together in its own list.
- to treatment: Isn't treatment prescribed by a veterinarian in the first place and that vet should outline at time of prescription when to contact them for further advice/examination is not responding to the treatment?
- colds: Suggest definition for respiratory disease as use of 'colds' seems inappropriate.
- glands: Suggest use the term lymph nodes and include in definitions.
- throat: Suggest adding 'and jaw' after throat.
- diarrhoea: Suggest including a definition
- constipation: Suggest adding 'or reduced/absent manure output for 24 hours'
- laminitis: Suggest including a definition
- lameness, increased pulse to the affected hooves, reluctance to stand on affected feet and reluctance to move: There are other recognised signs of laminitis including repeated shifting of weight in the forefeet or hindfeet, the 'sawhorse stance' and increased periods of lying down. Note that only one hoof may be affected by laminitis.
- unresponsiveness: Suggest including fever, inappetence, dull demeanour.

**Health**

*G12.3 Prompt **appropriate preventive treatment** should be given to horses for diseases that may be common in a district or occurring **in a mob**.*

- appropriate preventative treatment: We note in reference to strangles, when cases of strangles have occurred in the region owners have rushed out to purchase strangles vaccinations over the counter from feed stores/saddleries without veterinary advice. Vaccinating a horse that has already been exposed to strangles can cause purpura haemorrhagica.
- in a mob: Suggest changing to 'herd' as it's a more commonly used term.

<b>Health</b>	<i>G12.4 A new horse to a property should be <b>isolated away</b> from the established group for 10-14 days to reduce the risk of introducing disease. Husbandry and handling of isolated horses should be undertaken only after the care of non-isolated horses; equipment should not be transferred between the two groups.</i>
Suggest defining 'isolated away. For example, distance of at least 10 metres (commonly used for preventing spread of respiratory disease) between two fences, avoiding nose-to-nose contact or solid wall between other horses.	
<b>Health</b>	<i>G12.5 Appropriate regular treatment for internal worm parasites and early treatment of external parasites such as lice, should be practised. The effectiveness of treatment should be evaluated by veterinary examination if the response to routine treatment is poor.</i>
Suggest amending G12.5 to include details that faecal testing and deworming should be administered regularly in consultation with a veterinarian and current advice (recommended four times per year and at a minimum twice a year)	
<b>Health</b>	<i>G12.6 Good hygiene and cleanliness in and around stables, yards and paddocks, including disposal of <b>effluent and litter</b>, will reduce the risk of parasitism and disease.</i>
Suggest replacing 'effluent and litter' with 'manure, urine and bedding' as they are more commonly used terms in horse husbandry.	
<b>Health</b>	<i>G12.7 <b>Aged and geriatric</b> horses should be assessed by a registered veterinary practitioner or person experienced in the care of horses for general health, and be given a full dental examination and treatment, <b>every 12 months</b>.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aged and geriatric: Suggest including definitions for these terms.</li> <li>• every 12 months: Many equine dental veterinarians recommend at least 6 monthly dental examinations of all horses, and definitely of older horses or horses with oral conditions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Health</b>	<i>G12.9 <b>Unhealthy</b> horses should not be offered for sale.</i>
Suggest the rewording of G12.9 as the term 'unhealthy is vague. We note, lame horses are regularly put on the market or owners maybe unaware horse is unhealthy (for example undetected cardiac condition such as atrial fibrillation).	
<b>Foot Care</b>	<i>S13.1 Horses' hooves must be maintained to permit normal mobility and to <b>maintain hoof shape</b> and function.</i>
Suggest adding 'natural' to read as 'maintain natural hoof shape'	

<b>Foot Care</b>	<i>G13.1 Horses ridden or driven on rough or stony surfaces should be <b>shod or</b> have been accustomed to being unshod on such surfaces.</i>
Suggest adding 'have boots or glue-on shoes placed on the hooves' as it's a common practice.	
<b>Foot Care</b>	<i>G13.2 Shoeing or trimming should not cause any abnormality of gait or conformation. Shoeing should be practised only by <b>experienced</b> farriers.</i>
Concerns the G13.2 requires shoeing or trimming be only practiced by an experienced farrier and not considering the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the qualification or minimum experience for G13.2 requirement of a 'experienced farrier'.</li> <li>• A veterinarian may not have been trained as a farrier but may replace a shoe if required during treatment.</li> <li>• What about during developing skill/experience stage and apprenticeships?</li> </ul>	
<b>Foot Care</b>	<i>G13.3 Hooves of <b>horses in work</b> should be inspected <b>each day</b> for signs of injury, loose shoes or impacted stones.</i>
Suggest changing 'each day' with 'every 24 hours' and adding to G13.3 'and immediately before exercise/work'. We question why G13.3 is not expanded for all horses, as a stone stuck to a paddocked horse hoof will still cause a stone bruise.	
<b>Foot Care</b>	<i>G13.4 Loose shoes and those with <b>risen clenches (shoe nails)</b> should be promptly removed, to prevent possible <b>foot</b> injury. <b>Clenches</b> remaining in the hoof should be promptly removed. The shoes should be replaced prior to work on roads, stony or hard surfaces.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• risen clenches (shoe nails): Suggest clarity and rewording as this is not clear terminology and not commonly used. Does it mean nails that have penetrated into the laminae/sensitive tissue of the hoof? Better to use bent or dislodged nails. Or is G13.4 referring to toe clips which some people call clenches? These are a feature on the shoe and can occasionally become embedded in the sole if the shoes slips due to loose nails?</li> <li>• foot: Suggest using consistence terminology throughout the CoP of hoof or foot.</li> <li>• Clenches: Greater clarity/definition is required on the term clenches. Some people use clenches for toe-clips which are attachments on the shoe which secure the shoe on the hoof. Occasionally they move and bend under the sole, causing bruising when a shoe becomes dislodged. It appears the term clenches is perhaps being used for nails?</li> </ul>	
<b>Foot Care</b>	<i>G13.5 Shod horses should be inspected at least every six weeks for replacement or adjustment of shoes. Shoes should be removed or <b>inspected regularly</b> when horses are <b>not in use for a particular purpose</b>.</i>

- inspected regularly: It does not matter if horse is in use for a particular purpose/in work (more common term), shoes should be inspected at least every 24 hours regardless. Some horses are re-shod every 4 weeks, some 6, some can go for 8. Depends on hoof growth. 6 weeks however is average. Suggest defining 'regularly'.
- not in use for a particular purpose: Suggest amending to 'not in regular work'.

<b>Dental Care</b>	<i>S14.2 A person must not attempt any dental procedure that they are not <b>competent</b> to perform.</i>
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Suggest adding after 'competent' 'and qualified'.

<b>Dental Care</b>	<i>S14.3 <b>The need for analgesia or anaesthesia must be considered</b> before undertaking any equine dental procedure, and dental procedures likely to cause unreasonable pain must be performed with suitable analgesia or anaesthesia. Drugs used for sedation must be stored, administered and disposed of in accordance with the ACT Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008.</i>
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Suggest defining sedation, analgesia and anaesthesia.

Suggest including in S14.3 the following 'Analgesia or anaesthesia must only performed by, or under the direct supervision of, a registered veterinarian'.

<b>Dental Care</b>	<i>S14.4 Horses must have their teeth examined at least once a year by a veterinarian or person <b>suitably experienced and skilled</b> in equine dentistry. The frequency of checks should be increased for young horses, stable fed horses and aged horses.</i>
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Suggest amending 'suitably experienced and skilled' to 'suitably experienced and qualified' and include clarification of qualifications necessary.

<b>Dental Care</b>	<i>S14.5 The <b>following dental procedures</b> must only be <b>performed by a registered veterinarian</b></i> <i>a) making an incision through the skin or oral mucosa; or</i> <i>(b) extracting a tooth by repulsion; or</i> <i>(c) entry below the gum line or into the tooth cavity; or</i> <i>(d) using a power tool to maintain or restore correct dental function</i>
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We note there are 'equine dentists' who currently regularly perform these procedures in the ACT. We suggest further consultation on these proposed dental procedures outlined in S14.5.

<b>Dental Care</b>	<i>The following procedures can be performed by a or person suitably experienced and skilled in equine dentistry.:</i> <i>(e) cleaning, rasping, grinding the horse's teeth (manual float)</i>
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	<i>(f) removing a lose loose tooth or deciduous tooth cap from the horse</i>
<p>Lose loose typo, suggest removing 'lose'.</p> <p>Suggest greater clarity in C14.5f in consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be digitally loose and without gingival attachment, if still attached then the gum must be cut and should be done under local etc.</li> <li>• Some loose teeth would need surgical techniques to be removed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Dental Care</b>	<p><b>G14.2</b> <i>Good practice equine dental service may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>inquiry into the horse's general and dental history</i></li> <li>- <i>full mouth examination with assistance of palpation, illumination, mirror and probe</i></li> <li>- <i>diagnosis of, and advice on, all detected abnormalities</i></li> <li>- <i>advice on treatment options and further investigative procedures</i></li> <li>- <i>completion of the above or referral to other appropriate practitioners where agreed and indicated.</i></li> </ul>
<p>G14.2 requires amendment as diagnosis and recommend treatments are acts of veterinary science and such dental services shouldn't be undertaken by dental practitioners who are not veterinarians. If this guideline is referring to non- veterinarian dental technicians, the word 'diagnosis' must be removed.</p> <p>We note a full mouth examination is impossible without sedation and as such can only be provided by a veterinarian.</p> <p>Suggest removing 'appropriate practitioners' as this can only be a veterinarian.</p>	
<b>Dental Care</b>	<p><b>G14.3</b> <i>Use of power tools:</i></p> <p><i>Due to the danger of tooth fracture and pulp exposure, the use of dental shears, molar cutters and inertia hammers should be avoided. Great care should be taken with the use of power tools due to the risks of thermal damage, pulp exposure and tooth damage.</i></p>
<p>Suggest changing 'should' to 'must'.</p>	
<b>Dental Care</b>	<p><b>G14.6</b> <i>Removal of large dental overgrowths should only be performed by a person trained and competent to visually monitor cheek teeth (via methods such as sedation, illumination and mirror) to manage risks, and recognise and treat pulp exposure.</i></p>
<p>Suggest changing 'person' to 'veterinarian' given the need to supply, administer and store sedative drugs.</p>	

<p><b>Dental Care</b></p>	<p><i>G14.7 Indications for removal of 'wolf' teeth (PM1 or premolar 1) are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- abnormally large or displaced PM1</li> <li>- horses that require PM2 rostral border reshaping ('bit seating') <i>such as those ridden in double bridles</i></li> <li>- loose or diseased PM1 (inflamed, painful or discharging adjacent soft tissues).</li> </ul>
<p>Suggest further consultation with Equine Dental Veterinarians regarding removal of wolf teeth and double bridles.</p>	
<p><b>Dental Care</b></p>	<p><i>G14.8 Shearing off or filing off 'wolf' teeth is not recommended.</i></p>
<p>Wolf teeth should be removed appropriately with analgesia and sedation. G14.8 should be under the standards, not a guideline.</p>	
<p><b>Treatment and surgical procedures</b></p>	<p><i>S15.3 Docking of a horse's tail and any invasive procedure to alter the tail set of a horse is not permitted unless by a registered veterinary practitioner for therapeutic reasons.</i></p>
<p>Suggest changing 'Docking' to 'Amputation' and add a definition Suggest changing 'unless by a' to 'unless performed by a' Suggest changing 'reason' to 'purpose'</p>	
<p><b>Treatment and surgical procedures</b></p>	<p><i>G15.1 Restraint methods used on horses should always be the minimum necessary to carry out routine management procedures. Prolonged or over-zealous use of restraints, such as nose-twitches, may cause severe reaction in many horses.</i></p>
<p>We note that nose twitches can be used appropriately and are sometimes necessary for diagnostic/therapeutic procedures. Suggest amending to 'inappropriate use of nose-twitches' Suggest defining and providing greater clarity for 'reactions' and what it is referring to. For example, acute distress with vocalisation, rearing, medium term skin inflammation/soreness, long term damage to the lip/musculature/nerve supply, and any other relevant reactions.</p>	
<p><b>Treatment and surgical procedures</b></p>	<p><i>G15.3 Internal medication such as vaccines, drenches, food additives, and external medications such as liniments, lotions and insecticides, should be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturers or veterinarian's instructions - overdosing may cause harm; underdosing may be ineffective. Treatments should be administered in a hygienic manner.</i></p>
<p>Suggest amend to the possessive use of 'manufacturer's'.</p>	

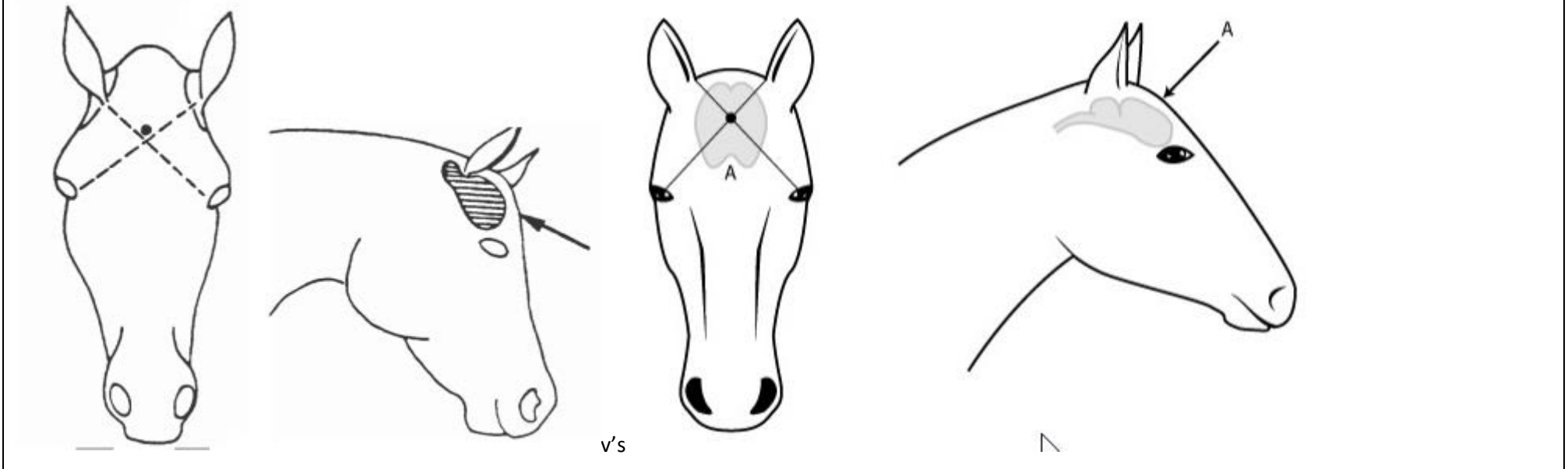
<b>Identification</b>	<i>S16.2 All horses must be microchipped and microchips must be inserted by a registered and authorised veterinary practitioner.</i>
We note this is new legislation and not known by most horse owners' Suggest referencing the legislation.	
<b>Identification</b>	<i>G16.1 Microchipping with animal owner details recorded on a licensed microchip registry, freeze-branding, DNA profiling and blood type profiling are acceptable methods of permanent identification.</i>
Suggest further consultation for G16.1 as there are a suite of complex issues in the ACT regarding microchip registration, including current poor uptake of registering microchips, multiple microchip registers, and impacts from the development of a national registration system.	
<b>Identification</b>	<i>G16.5 Horse owners should regularly check that their contact details are correctly recorded with the licensed animal microchip identification registry. This information will be available two days after the horse has been microchipped.</i>
Question if the statement is achievable and able to be guaranteed given it will depend on when the paperwork is completed and submitted and on the efficiency of the microchip database.	
<b>Breeding</b>	<i>S17.1 Behaviour management of horses during breeding, including for dangerous stallions, must not cause unreasonable or unjustifiable pain, suffering, distress or injury. Management procedures with the potential to cause pain, distress or injury must only be performed to protect the safety of the animal itself, another animal, or human; they must be performed for the shortest duration possible to stop or prevent the undesirable behaviour.</i>
Suggest adding after 'dangerous stallions' 'and mares' We are concerned about the sentence regarding management procedures. Under what circumstances does a management procedure that has the potential to cause injury become justified? Does this justify flogging, roping down?	
<b>Breeding</b>	<i>S17.3 Horses with known or potentially inherited conditions which have potential to result in adverse welfare must not be used for breeding.</i>
Whilst we support the intention on this standard it requires significant rewording and greater clarification. Many horses are bred with a range of inherited conditions, the CoP would need to provide clear details of what inherited conditions would be covered by it. We suggest further consultation on this standard.	

<p>As S17.3 is a standard not a guideline, how would this be policed? Suggest changing to a guideline and use wording similar to the <a href="#">draft CoP for the welfare of dogs in the ACT</a> G10.6 <i>Breeding of dogs with exaggerated features (e.g. brachycephalic breeds) can come with specific risks to the welfare of the parents and puppies and should not be undertaken without due consideration to the welfare of the animals and preferably with veterinary advice.</i></p> <p>Please note the AVA policy on <a href="#">Genetic defects in domestic animals</a> and the <a href="#">Victorian CoP for the Breeding of animals with heritable defects that cause disease</a>.</p>	
<b>Breeding</b>	<i>G17.5 Mares should be monitored perinatally to ensure they pass the <b>placenta</b> within three hours.</i>
<p>Suggest definition and consistency in terminology as foetal membranes used previously.</p>	
<b>Training and Handling</b>	<i>S18.1 Training methods used must be humane and must not cause unreasonable pain or suffering to the horse. Training methods and tools that have the potential to cause pain, distress or injury must only be used to protect the safety of the animal itself, another animal, or human; they must be performed/used for the shortest duration possible to stop or prevent the undesirable <b>behaviour</b>.</i>
<p>As this is CoP not an animal welfare act, we suggest this section refer to and advocate for fear free, force free and rewards based (positive reinforcement) training.</p>	
<b>Training and Handling</b>	<i>G18.2 Persons engaged in the education and training of horses should <b>be experienced</b>, or under direct supervision of an experienced person.</i>
<p>G18.2 will be difficult to monitor and control. We note many examples of inexperienced people obtain ex-racehorses to retrain and ride them with limited supervision.</p>	
<b>Training and Handling</b>	<i>G18.4 Most horses <b>respond best to firm but gentle techniques</b> and to rewards when the horse responds correctly. People training horses should be confident and instil this confidence in the horses they train.</i>
<p>G18.4 may require rewording and we suggest further consultation with an equine veterinary behaviour specialist.</p>	
<b>Training and Handling</b>	<i>G18.6 Some <b>behavioural management measures may be necessary to establish the hierarchy of a relationship</b> between horses and people.</i>
<p>G18.6 is very open, provides no guidance and it may be seen to provide freedom to use methods which should otherwise be discouraged or banned. We suggest further consultation with an equine veterinary behaviour specialist, for example <a href="#">Professor Paul McGreevy</a>.</p>	

<b>Training and Handling</b>	<i>G18.9 When accompanied by their mothers, foals less than four or five months of age <b>may</b> be handled to accustom them to being caught, tied up and led, to having their legs and feet handled and to being confined within a yard, stable or horse float. Handling of foals from the earliest possible age is recommended.</i>
Suggest changing 'may' to 'should'. Of note, the next guideline 18.10 seems to also imply this 'G18.10 Horses require regular exercise for a period of months before they are adequately conditioned for strenuous exercise. Experience and skill are required to ride or drive horses to their utmost ability in competitive horse sports without inducing distress, injury or illness.'	
<b>Transport</b>	<i>S19.1 Horses must be transported in accordance with the relevant ACT's Mandatory Code regarding the land transport of horses, the <b>Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock</b>.</i>
Question what the saleyard document included as appendix to the CoP and not the land transport of livestock guidelines? Suggest including the guideline as an appendix to the CoP.	
<b>Euthanasia or slaughter</b>	<b>Minimum Standards</b>
Suggest including in the minimum standards: Should the need for immediate euthanasia for an open fracture/ruptured intestine/fractured spine resulting in paralysis or other non-treatable emergency event where the horse cannot be transported be outlined to require immediate on-farm euthanasia and not the option to relocate the horse to a slaughter-house.	
<b>Euthanasia or slaughter</b>	<i>S20.1 Before euthanasia or slaughter is undertaken, the <b>person in charge must be able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all possible options including treatment for injury or illness, or transfer of ownership/custody to another person able to provide appropriate care.</b></i>
<p>The AVA opposes the standard in its current form and have several concerns, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be the owner responsibility for the standard, but the onus would be on veterinarians.</li> <li>• Requires significant rewording to include sensible approaches to euthanasia requirements and responsibilities.</li> <li>• Animal welfare issues can be caused by delaying euthanasia.</li> <li>• These burdensome requirements are not required for euthanising a companion animal.</li> <li>• How would this standard be policed? Suggest changing to a guideline.</li> </ul>	
<b>Euthanasia or slaughter</b>	<i>S20.4 Where possible, horses must be euthanased <b>on-farm</b> to avoid the need for transportation to a slaughterhouse. [Note this is mandatory for racehorses (see S20.9)].</i>

Suggest adding after 'on-farm' , at a veterinary hospital or in situ where the injury has occurred and the horse is currently located'	
<b>Euthanasia or slaughter</b>	<b>20.5 Euthanasia must be undertaken away from any other animals i.e., out of view</b>
Suggest adding an S to reference S20.5 S20.5 may be impossible in a paddock situation where horses cannot be moved or cause distress to separate the horses at this time for herd-bonded animals. Also, horses are generally allowed/encouraged to approach their paddock-mates after euthanasia, especially mares/foals, to let them observe the horse has died.	
<b>Euthanasia or slaughter</b>	<b>20.6 Only the following methods of euthanasia are permitted for horses:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Injectable pentobarbital euthanasia solution, administered by a registered veterinarian</i></li> <li>• <i>A head shot using appropriate firearm and ammunition by a person competent to know the landmarks, and resulting in immediate death (see guidelines, add diagram).</i></li> </ul>
Suggest adding an S to reference S20.6 Suggest the use of lignocaine epidural under anaesthesia, or intravenous KCl (Potassium chloride) under deep general anaesthesia be included in the list of euthanasia methods for horses – these can and must only be administered by a veterinarian. Question, why captive bolts, exsanguination and pithing are described in appendix but not listed in this summary?	
<b>Euthanasia or slaughter</b>	<b>G20.2 Acceptable methods of euthanasia or slaughter include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>rapid intravenous injection of concentrated barbiturate solutions; it should be noted that tissue residues will render the carcass unfit for human or pet consumption if this technique is used</i></li> </ul>
Suggest the use of lignocaine epidural under anaesthesia, or intravenous KCl (Potassium chloride) under deep general anaesthesia be included in the list of euthanasia methods for horses – these can and must only be administered by a veterinarian. We note pentobarbitone is a major killer of scavenging wildlife / raptors etc and suggest G20.2 include 'and appropriate burial site away from water sources and deep enough that the burial site cannot be accessed by dogs or other scavenging animals or birds'.	
<b>Euthanasia or slaughter</b>	<b>Figures 1 and 2</b>

The figures provided in the CoP are different to the Appendix B Figures in A1.4, we suggest providing consistency across the guidelines.



### Contact:

Australian Veterinary Association

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [TCCS\\_GMS Boards&Committees](#)  
**Subject:** RE: AVA Submission: Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT  
**Date:** Friday, 29 September 2023 12:33:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
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[ATT0001.png](#)  
[ATT0002.png](#)  
[ATT0003.png](#)  
[ATT0004.png](#)  
[ATT0005.png](#)  
[AVA Submission - Small Mammal Codes of Practice in the ACT.Final.05.09.23.pdf](#)

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Good Afternoon,

I am just following up on the AVA Submission: Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT which was submitted back on the 6 September.

I was just wondering if the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee had an opportunity review this at yet? Look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  


**Australian Veterinary Association**

T 02 9431 5000 D [REDACTED] E [REDACTED]  
Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 September 2023 7:51 AM  
**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: AVA Submission: Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

Dear Erin,

On behalf of the AVA, we wish to thank the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) for the opportunity to provide comment on four newly proposed Small Mammal Codes of Practice including:

- the Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT; and
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice (Rodents) in the ACT.

We note the committee aims that the newly proposed codes address an identified gap in the current legislation and supporting instruments and that the outcomes of consultation with stakeholders will help inform the Committee's review of the Small Mammal Codes of Practice.

The AVA has consulted with the ACT Division Committee and the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians (UPAV) Executive Committee to seek expert member input to inform this submission on the proposed new Small Mammal Code of Practice (CoP). Members of the AVA ACT Division Committee and the UPAV Executive Committee who have extensive expertise and experience in this area have been the contributors to this feedback.

Please find attached our formal submission and we look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Should you have any question please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Monday, 4 September 2023 11:59 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

OFFICIAL

Good morning [REDACTED]  
Apologies for the delay in responding.  
How about we push the due date to COB Wednesday, this will allow sufficient time for your teams to review?  
Please let us know if you will have any issues meeting this timeframe.  
Many thanks

**Erin Barker**

Director | **Boards and Committees**

Phone: 02 6207 2000 | Email: [Erin.Barker@act.gov.au](mailto:Erin.Barker@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 September 2023 6:27 PM  
**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

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Hi Jill,  
Thank you very much for your email and for granting an extension.  
I have just today finished drafting the AVA Submission and it will now go back to the UPAV executive committee and the ACT Division Committee for a final review.  
If possible, could you please allow an extra day so that final edits can be made on Monday and then can submit to you by COB Tuesday, 5 September.  
Warm regards,



[REDACTED]  
**Australian Veterinary Association**

T 02 9431 5000 D [REDACTED] E [REDACTED]  
Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

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**From:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 August 2023 12:16 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

**OFFICIAL**

Dear [REDACTED]  
My apologies for not getting back to you until now. Thanks so much for your email and introducing yourself.  
Feedback from organisations such as yours are important to us to ensure we are providing the best advice possible to the public.  
We are looking forward to receiving your feedback and are happy to provide an extension. If you still require further time, we would be happy to provide, otherwise we look forward to hearing from you by cob **Monday 4 August 2023**.  
Happy to discuss if required.  
Kind regards

Jill

Jill Slaven | Secretariat, Boards and Committees

Phone 02 6205 4434 | Email: [TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au) / [jill.slaven@act.gov.au](mailto:jill.slaven@act.gov.au)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 25 August 2023 10:25 AM

**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

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Dear Jill,

Just following up on my email on Wednesday. Can you please advise if you are able to offer a small extension as we are working with key stakeholders to collate specific feedback and comments on the codes but will struggle to get this into a submission format by the deadline date of Monday.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



**Australian Veterinary Association**

T 02 9431 5000 D [REDACTED] E [REDACTED]  
Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 23 August 2023 6:27 PM

**To:** [TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

Dear Jill,

I hope this email finds you well?

By way of introduction, [REDACTED] the Unusual and Avian Veterinarians Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association.

[REDACTED] copied into this email is the [REDACTED] here at the AVA. [REDACTED] has been Liaising with the AVA ACT Division Committee and collating feedback/comments on the codes.

I have been liaising directly with the UPAV executive committee on the four newly proposed codes which have been drafted.

We would very much like to provide a written submission on behalf of the AVA but unfortunately a number of key stakeholders have been away.

I am writing to see if there was a possibility of seeking a small extension to the deadline date of Monday, 28 August 2023.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 July 2023 2:20 PM

**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

OFFICI

Dear stakeholders

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee) is established by the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* (the Act) to, among other things:

- advise the Minister about animal welfare legislation; and
- participate in the development of approved codes of practice and mandatory codes of practice.

The Small Mammal Codes of Practice consists of four newly proposed codes drafted by the Committee and have been prepared to address an identified gap in the current legislation and supporting instruments. The four proposed codes of practice include:

- the Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT;

- the Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT; and
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice (Rodents) in the ACT.

Under the Act, the Minister for Transport and City Services, may approve an animal welfare code of practice making part, or all, of that code mandatory. It is an offence under the Act for a person to breach a mandatory code of practice.

#### **Comments and Feedback**

You have been identified as a key stakeholder in relation to reviewing the identified codes of practice and we would like to know any feedback you may have.

Attached is a copy of the four proposed Small Mammals Codes of Practice for your review.

We welcome your comments via written submission to [TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au).

If you would like to speak to someone regarding your submission, we ask that you please request this via writing, and we will arrange for a Committee representative to contact you.

Consultation on the Small Mammal Codes of Practice will run for six weeks, and will **close on Monday, 28 August 2023**.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know of any other key stakeholders we should be consulting with on this code of practice.

#### **Next steps**

The outcomes of consultation with stakeholders will help inform the Committee's review of the Small Mammal Codes of Practice. Once consultation has closed and the Committee's review is complete, the Committee will prepare a report for the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel.

Thanks for taking the time to review and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Kind regards

Jill Slaven | Secretariat, Boards and Committees

Email: [TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)

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## Draft Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

- Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT
- Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT
- Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT
- Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice (Rodents) in the ACT

Submission of the  
Australian Veterinary Association Ltd  
September 2023



## The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the national organisation representing veterinarians in Australia. The AVA consists of members who come from all fields within the veterinary profession. Clinical practitioners work with companion animals, horses, farm animals, such as cattle and sheep, and wildlife. Government veterinarians work with our animal health, public health and quarantine systems while other members work in industry for pharmaceutical and other commercial enterprises. We have members who work in research and teaching in a range of scientific disciplines. Veterinary students are also members of the Association.

The AVA thanks the ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) for the opportunity to provide comment on four newly proposed Small Mammal Codes of Practice including:

- the Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT; and
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice (Rodents) in the ACT.

We note the committee aims that the newly proposed codes address an identified gap in the current legislation and supporting instruments and that the outcomes of consultation with stakeholders will help inform the Committee's review of the Small Mammal Codes of Practice.

The AVA has consulted with the [ACT Division Committee](#) and the [Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians \(UPAV\) Executive Committee](#) to seek expert member input to inform this submission on the proposed new Small Mammal Code of Practice (CoP). Members of the AVA ACT Division Committee and the UPAV Executive Committee who have extensive expertise and experience in this area have been the contributors to this feedback.

The AVA feedback has been structured in the following way, the grey boxes are the proposed wording for the CoP and AVA comments related to that specific wording is immediately below in the white boxes.



**AVA Comments:**  
**Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT**

<p><b>1. General guidelines</b></p>	<p>The <i>Code of Practice for the Sale of Animals in the ACT other than Stock and Commercial Scale Poultry (2021)</i> requires that a person rehoming an animal, whether by sale or otherwise, must provide the new owner with relevant information on the care of the animal rehomed.</p>
<p>Clarification required: That the above is observed in the breach rather than by compliance, with little regulation.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S2.2 - Ferrets do not have well-developed sweat glands, and can experience heat stress and exhaustion. To avoid heat stress and exhaustion, ferrets must be kept in a cool area and must not be exposed to high temperatures. It is recommended ferrets are maintained in the temperature range of 15 °C to 24 °C.</p>
<p>Suggest that as the section in yellow is explanatory it should not be in the mandatory standards. Suggest: Escape proof housing should be in mandatory standards to protect wildlife and the ferret from harm.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G2.4 Ferrets require daily exercise. Ferrets living in a small hutch should have access to an exercise area that is safe and can be left in for at least two hours each day. If ferrets roam in the house or backyard they must be supervised as they can chew and swallow hazardous objects.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Ferrets require daily exercise. Ferrets living in a small hutch should have access to an exercise area that is safe and in which they can be left for at least two hours each day. If ferrets roam in the house or backyard they must be supervised to prevent them chewing and swallowing hazardous objects.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G2.5 If you have more than one ferret, which is recommended, then you need to factor that in when deciding on the appropriate size of the enclosure. The recommended minimum size is 2m<sup>2</sup> or more. This will accommodate two (2) ferrets. The enclosure should also allow the ferret to reach up to the full length of their body and climb. A larger cage is recommended wherever possible.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: If you have more than one ferret, which is recommended, then you need to meet social needs and to provide stimulation and to factor that that in when deciding on the appropriate size of the enclosure. The recommended minimum size is 2m<sup>2</sup> or more. This will accommodate two (2) ferrets. The enclosure should also allow the ferret to reach up to the full length of their body and climb. A larger cage is recommended wherever possible. <b>OR</b> Ferrets need social contact and stimulation, and therefore it is recommended to keep at least two, compatible, ferrets. An enclosure for two ferrets should be at least 2 m<sup>2</sup> and be tall enough that they can reach to their full body length, and climb. Larger cages are required to house more than two ferrets, and are preferable for smaller numbers.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G2.11 Ferrets benefit from a normal day/night cycle and can be stressed if kept in an area which is continually exposed to light conditions. Ferrets also prefer having areas where they can hide in low light which will minimise stress.</p>
<p>Suggest that ferrets are crepuscular, so that new owners have a reasonable expectation of their times of activity and rest, and meet the ferrets needs in respect of this.</p>	



<p><b>3. Handling</b></p>	<p>S3.4 Ferrets must never be tethered. This means not securing an animal to an object or running line by means of a leash, chain, rope or other material. An animal fighting against a fixed tether can suffer serious injuries that can result in death.</p>
<p>Should have a note to say tethering is not harness and lead walking with an owner.</p>	
<p><b>3. Handling</b></p>	<p><b>How to handle a ferret:</b> Ferrets benefit from regular and confident (gentle but firm) handling. It is important to handle ferrets often, especially when they are young. <b>The best way to pick up a ferret is to hold them around and under their front shoulders,</b> while supporting their hind legs with the other hand.</p>
<p>As opposed to their "back shoulders" - needs rewording. Suggest: Ferrets should be picked up with two hands one under the chest with the fingers and thumb enclosing the front legs, and once supporting the hind quarters</p>	
<p><b>3. Handling Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G3.3 - Ferrets should be allowed to familiarise themselves with any new experience or environment. They should also be socialised with other ferrets, ideally of the same litter (see environment and <b>housing</b>) and humans when it is safe to do so. <i>Note: Family, friends and children may need to be shown how to interact and properly handle <b>ferrets</b>.</i></p>
<p>"of the same litter" is not mentioned in environment and housing - these should be structured better. Suggest that the note section would be better stated as all visitors must/should be instructed in and supervised while interacting with and handling ferrets.</p>	
<p><b>4. Hygiene</b></p>	<p>Hygiene is important for the health of your ferret and you as the owner/carer. Ferrets can harbour disease that can be passed onto humans and other animals, so it is important to maintain high levels of hygiene to minimise the risk of disease.</p>
<p>Introduction should advise that ferrets are also at risk of disease, particularly respiratory diseases, from humans not just the ferrets giving diseases to humans.</p>	
<p><b>4. Hygiene Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S4.1 (a) Regularly washing the ferret's food and water <b>bowls;</b></p>
<p>specific about how often.</p>	
<p><b>4. Hygiene Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S4.2 A person responsible for a ferret must properly groom and <b>maintain</b> the ferret.</p>
<p>erret? Suggest rewording to: A person responsible for a ferret must properly groom and maintain the hygiene / cleanliness of the ferret</p>	



<p>4. Hygiene Guidelines</p>	<p>G4.5 Cleaning and disinfecting agents should be chosen on the basis of their suitability, safety and effectiveness. Bleach or chlorine-based disinfectants are effective against common ferret pathogens. Manufacturers' instructions for the use of cleaning and disinfecting agents should be followed, overly diluted a solution may be ineffective and too concentrated a solution may be toxic to animals. All disinfectants should be thoroughly rinsed away with water following application.</p>
<p>Can this be changed to "An overly dilute" or "overly diluting a"</p>	
<p>4. Hygiene Guidelines</p>	<p>G4.7 Litter trays should be large enough for the ferret to turn around comfortably, have sides low enough for the ferret to easily hop in and out and a minimum of 5 centimetres of litter.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Should be easy to enter and exit, allow the ferret to turn around, and contain at least 5 cm depth of litter.</p>	
<p>4. Hygiene Guidelines</p>	<p>G4.10 Substrate should be completely changed at least weekly, ideally after the cage has been washed. If stocking density is high then more regular replacement will be required. Higher quality substrate allows ferrets to turn over the litter so that the top remains dry and the soiled moist bedding is underneath.</p>
<p>Specify this means cage substrate, not litter.  When the cage is washed (don't wash the cage then change the substrate - they must happen together.</p>	
<p>4. Hygiene Guidelines</p>	<p>G4.12 If substrate or nesting material becomes wet i.e. from a leaky water container, it must be replaced quickly to minimise the risk of the ferrets suffering from hyperthermia and mould growing in the cage.</p>
<p>Clarification required: Do you mean hypothermia due to wet bedding? Or hyperthermia due to excess humidity?</p>	
<p>4. Hygiene Guidelines</p>	<p>G4.13 Soiled cage bases should be cleaned separately from water and food containers.</p>
<p>This is already stated in G4.8, and perhaps would be better combined into a single statement/recommendation.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition Guidelines</p>	<p>G5.1 Ferrets are obligatory carnivores, which means they eat only meat. Specially formulated commercial ferret dry and wet food is available.</p>
<p>Guidelines should include a point to say that raw food diets must be very carefully balanced as they are often deficient in some nutrients and too high in others and advice should be sort from an appropriately trained veterinarian or nutritionist.  Don't believe a specially formulated commercial ferret wet food exists in Australia (non-raw/small scale)</p>	



<p><b>5. Nutrition Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G5.2 The amount of food a ferret consumes and the ferret's body condition should be monitored to ensure the ferret is neither overeating nor undereating.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording: the ferrets body condition (and body weight should be monitored - overweight animals require less food; underweight animals may require more food, but may also need veterinary intervention to diagnose and treat. Owners should also monitor access to food (ensure a bully is not consuming the majority of the food)</p>	
<p><b>6. Health Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S6.2 A person responsible for a ferret must provide ongoing health care to maintain the good health of the ferret.</p>
<p>New standard -all ferrets must be vaccinated by a veterinarian against Distemper Virus using an appropriate vaccine and dose.</p>	
<p><b>6. Health Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S6.3 Ferrets can develop conditions with their reproductive system which can be fatal. Female ferrets who are not bred from may develop health concerns related to recurring heat cycles (hyperoestrogenism). For this reason, non-breeding female ferrets must be desexed at a young age.</p>
<p>We feel that this is a little too specific when there are various options for "desexing" ferrets and a blanket desexing from a young age Mandatory standard is an issue.</p> <p>Suggest replacing with - "all female ferrets must be desexed or have their reproductive cycles managed in conjunction with a veterinarian."</p> <p>Hormone implants are used for ferrets who would never be bred but are using these instead of desexing to try to reduce the risk of desexing related diseases.</p> <p>New Standard - Ferrets must not have their anal sacs removed unless because of infection or tumour.</p>	
<p><b>6. Health Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G6.4 Ferrets should be desexed around 6 months of age. Ferrets who are desexed will not produce unwanted litters, are less aggressive and have a milder scent.</p>
<p>The old guidelines are out of date as newer, reliable hormone contraception implants are available. Can add Deslorelin implants into the reliable section. Or if aiming to keep the act usable into the future as more research is done, I would leave the specifics of reliable or not out and advise to discuss with an experienced veterinarian.</p>	
<p><b>7. Behavioural and Social interactions Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>Additional point to be added.</p>
<p>Should include a point to state that humans with respiratory infections should put extra hygiene [redacted] in place to avoid infecting the ferret such as hand washing and wearing masks.</p>	
<p><b>7. Behavioural and social interactions Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G7.4 Males will be less likely to fight each other if introduced at a young age. Females and males can be prone to fighting amongst each other so make sure you accustom new ferrets</p>



	with each other in a supervised environment or through a mesh fence before they live together.
	"amongst each other "is not necessary. Suggest new sentence - Ferrets being introduced must be supervised carefully and separated when direct supervision is not possible. Advice on socialising (helping animals become accustomed to each other) should be sought from a veterinarian or experienced ferret keeper.
<b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted ferrets</b>	<b>Mandatory standards</b>
	Suggest microchipping of ferrets should be mandatory.
<b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted ferrets Guidelines</b>	G8.1 Ferrets should be micro-chipped by a suitably qualified person such as a veterinarian specialising in the care of ferrets. Details of the microchip should be registered on the relevant database.
	It is problematic to use the phrase "specialising in" as the word "specialist" has a legal meaning of someone recognised by a State or Territory Veterinary Practitioner's Board as a Specialist in a certain field. While the phrase "specialising in" is not the same, it would be preferable to use "experienced in or with" (throughout the document).  A relevant database be replaced with - A national microchip database.  This should be a "must" statement. Without registration on a database (a national database with ready access by all relevant parties), the microchip is useless.
<b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted ferrets Guidelines</b>	G8.4 Keepers should provide information about their lost ferret to animal welfare shelters or organisations and private veterinarians in the area.
	Include DAS,RSPCA, any ferret rescue groups, and Canberra Lost Pet Database Canberra Lost Pet Database <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CanberraLostPetDatabase/">https://www.facebook.com/CanberraLostPetDatabase/</a>
<b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted ferrets Guidelines</b>	G8.5 Persons finding a lost domesticated ferret should attempt to find the usual carer. This could include taking the ferret to a local veterinary practice to be scanned for a microchip and contacting organisations that keepers of lost pets may have already contacted.
	How would the finder know who the owner may have tried to contact? Better to list the places the finder should investigate.
<b>9. Breeding Mandatory standards</b>	S9.2 Potential breeding animals must be:  b) not have any known heritable defects such as malocclusion or splayed legs.
	Find that the examples would be better suited under the guidelines.
<b>9. Breeding Guidelines</b>	G9.1 Potential breeding animals should be:  a) Checked by a veterinarian experienced in ferrets for sound health and physical maturity; and  b) an appropriate weight to avoid added risks of dystocia,  c) vaccinated; and  d) wormed.



<p>AVA advice for vaccinating Ferrets Canine distemper vaccine for ferrets 1) Dose: One quarter to one sixth of the canine dose which will vary with the manufacturer of the vaccine. 2) Site: Subcutaneous injection 3) Frequency: 1) 6-12 weeks of age – two doses 4 weeks apart and repeat annually 2) Over 12 weeks of age – single dose and repeat annually <a href="https://www.ava.com.au/policy-advocacy/policies/unusual-pets-and-avian/vaccination-of-rabbits-and-ferrets/">https://www.ava.com.au/policy-advocacy/policies/unusual-pets-and-avian/vaccination-of-rabbits-and-ferrets/</a> Worming is probably not necessary - although round, hook and tapeworms are possible, they are considered rare. Dipylidium caninum may occur if the animal is infested with fleas. Ear mites and fleas are relatively common, and can be managed with topical ecto-parasiticides like Revolution or Advocate under veterinary advice. Ferrets can suffer from protozoal parasites like Coccidia, Giardia, Toxoplasma and Cryptosporidium, some of which can be transmitted to humans or other pets. Sick ferrets should be examined by a veterinarian. <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7152190/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7152190/</a> <a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24768317/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24768317/</a></p>	
10. Transport	<p>S10.4 Transportation must be undertaken in the shortest time possible. If transported for longer than six hours, drinking water must be provided in a water vessel securely fixed to the side of the container. If in transport for 12 hours or longer, provision must be made for food to be provided. Animals under the age of three months and pregnant females must not be fasted for more than four hours.</p>
<p>We strongly feel that six hours without drinking water and 12 hours without food is far too long for a ferret and serious complications could arise. We suggest 2 hours without water and 4 hours without food being the maximum.</p>	
10. Transport	<p>Guidelines</p> <p>G10.1 If transporting a ferret, the mode of transport will be determined in part by the distance to be travelled, the familiarity of the animal with travel, and its health status. When transporting a found or injured animal there may not be time or opportunity to follow all the suggestions included in these guidelines.</p> <p>Note: If transporting animals beyond the ACT the owner should check the legislation and requirements of other states and territories. It is illegal to keep ferrets as pets in some Australian states.</p>
<p>For example Queensland.</p>	
11. Ending a ferret's life	<p>S11.2 If a person responsible for a ferret chooses (in accordance with Standard 11.1) to have the ferret euthanised: a) the person must engage a registered veterinary surgeon.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to "A ferret may only be euthanised by a registered veterinarian".</p>	



**AVA Comments:**

**Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT**

<p><b>Introduction</b></p>	<p>This Code is a mandatory code of practice approved under section 23. Sections 24A and 24B of the Animal Welfare Act 1992 provide that it is an offence to fail to comply with a mandatory code of practice. Compliance with this Code is compulsory for all pet guinea pigs in the ACT. For penalty units see Legislation Act 2001, section 133.</p>
<p>Suggest insert after for: the owners of all pet guinea pigs in the ACT.</p>	
<p><b>Relation to other Codes</b></p>	<p>A number of Codes of Practice for animal welfare have been published over time by the ACT Government. Taken together, the Codes create a matrix of animal welfare provisions that provide guidance on most of the acute animal welfare issues in the ACT. The Codes are subject to reviews and updates and additional codes may be developed as industries, technologies, attitudes and best practice animal welfare evolves.</p>
<p>Acute means recent in onset, of immediate import -it refers to time frames. The codes should and do refer to the whole of the animal's life, so acute is not an appropriate word. Suggest replacing with the word "critical", "crucial" or "important".</p>	
<p><b>Overall welfare objectives</b></p>	<p>Animal welfare considerations are essential in the keeping of animals. This Code is based on established experience and current scientific knowledge and is open to future review as appropriate. Animal welfare in a modern context describes how an animal is coping both mentally and physically. Achieving good animal welfare relies on recognising the five domains of welfare for animals.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Animal welfare in a modern context describes how well an animal is both mentally and physically . We are aiming for more than 'coping'.</p>	
<p><b>1. General guidelines</b></p>	<p><i>The Code of Practice for the Sale of Animals in the ACT other than Stock and Commercial Scale Poultry (2021)</i> requires that a person rehoming an animal, whether by sale or otherwise, must provide the new owner with relevant information on the care of the animal rehomed. In the case of a guinea pig for whom a new home has been found, that information should cover diet, accurate sex of the guinea pig, when to desex, grooming, housing, identification and general health care. Providing this Code to the new carer is advisable.</p>
<p>Suggest adding accurate identification of sex of the guinea pig,</p>	



<p><b>2. Environment and housing</b> <i>Mandatory standards</i></p>	
<p>Under mandatory standards – Requires a stronger emphasis on having a minimum of 2 guinea pigs. In some countries this is a legal requirement.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing</b> <i>Mandatory standards</i></p>	<p>S2.1 e) Safety <b>from</b> predators, this includes not living in close proximity to predators such as dogs and cats.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Safety from both the physical risks and the fear of predators, this includes not living in close proximity to predators such as dogs and cats.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing</b> <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G2.7 Guinea pigs may be either housed in outdoor hutches or enclosures, or live indoors where they can be trained to use a litter tray. Litter trays should be lined with wood or paper-based litter; other types can be harmful if ingested by guinea pigs.</p>
<p>Hay and straw are also appropriate litter.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing</b> <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G2.8 Sleeping areas, whether indoors or outdoors, should include bedding material in the form of straw or hay with an underlay of absorbent substrate such as wood shavings that is kept clean and dry, and is replaced regularly. <b>Textile style</b> beds such as those used for dogs and cats may not be suitable for guinea pigs as they may chew and eat them, potentially obstructing the gut.</p>
<p>This is not clear - better to say "bedding made of fabric" or similar.</p>	
<p><b>3. Handling</b> <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G3.2 Some owners may wish to exercise their guinea pig with a harness and a lead. Before taking a guinea pig outdoors or into a public space, the guinea pig should be trained to accept a harness. The lead should be attached to a harness <b>and not to a collar.</b></p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: The lead should be attached to a harness and collars must not be used.</p>	
<p><b>4. Hygiene</b> <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G4.1 Regular grooming of guinea pigs assists with the detection of some diseases and parasite problems. Semi-long-haired and longhaired guinea pigs should be groomed twice per week. Shorthaired guinea pigs may need grooming only once per <b>fortnight.</b></p>
<p>pw GPs are groomed -brushing (what kind of brush?), bathing? (with what?)</p>	
<p><b>4. Hygiene</b> <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G4.7 Litter trays (or toileting area) should be large enough for the guinea pig to turn around comfortably, have sides low enough for the guinea pig to easily hop in and out, <b>and contain a minimum depth of 5 centimetres of litter.</b></p>



<p>This seems very deep and may cause issues with the height of the litter tray, many GP litter trays are not this tall as the GP couldn't climb over the edge.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition <i>Mandatory standards</i></p>	<p>S5.3 Guinea pigs must be provided with adequate Vitamin C to maintain good health. Guinea pigs are unable to synthesise vitamin C (ascorbic acid) and require a daily and reliable dietary source of vitamin C. A combination of fresh leafy greens and small amounts of citrus fruit or kiwi fruit each day are reliable sources of vitamin C. Vitamin C supplements placed in drinking water or included in pelleted feeds are less reliable as the vitamin quickly degrades when exposed to organic matter or when it comes into contact with metal.</p>
<p>The list of Vit C containing foods is very small in this. As it is a mandatory section the list should be increased or at least mention that other high vitamin C foods are available.</p> <p>Some of the foods on the do not feed list are incorrect. There is no mention that seed based diets cause illness and should not be fed.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G5.3 To ensure the guinea pig's gastrointestinal tract remains healthy, a fresh supply of roughage (e.g. meadow hay, oaten or Timothy hay) should always be available and should make up 80-90% of the diet. Preferably roughage should be provided in a suspended net or rack to avoid contamination with urine and faeces. Dry roughage should be provided even when guinea pigs have access to fresh grass.</p>
<p>Grass clippings can be fed but must be fresh (fed same day only) rather than "should not be fed as they ferment".</p> <p>G5.3 and G5.4 and the associated comments have significant overlaps and should be restructured.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G5.8 A guinea pigs' diet <b>may</b> be supplemented with fresh vegetables such as bok choy, broccoli, parsley, pumpkin, celery, carrot tops and cabbage.</p>
<p>Replace may with should.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G5.9 Fresh produce can be associated with parasitic and bacterial infections and should be washed prior to <b>feeding</b>.</p>
<p>This statement "can be associated with parasitic and bacterial infections " refers to a low risk in practice and may discourage an owner from using this valuable / necessary resource for GPs. It should be deleted (or moved to a smaller comment/note)</p>	
<p>6. Health <i>Mandatory standards</i></p>	<p>S6.3 Overgrown or broken teeth must be treated by a veterinarian as they <b>may impact upon the guinea pigs ability to feed properly and can cause serious pain.</b></p>
<p>Suggest rewording to " are highly likely to cause pain and difficulty eating leading to malnutrition and weight loss"</p>	



<p><b>6. Health Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G6.2 Guinea pigs should be desexed not only to prevent unwanted offspring but also to reduce stress <b>levels driven by</b> hormones, which make guinea pigs more prone to fighting and displaying other territorial behaviour.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: G6.2 Guinea pigs should be desexed not only to prevent unwanted offspring but also to reduce stress associated with high levels of hormones, which make guinea pigs more prone to fighting and displaying other territorial behaviour.</p>	
<p><b>6. Health Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G6.4 A guinea pig's teeth, including the incisors (front teeth) and cheek teeth (molars) grow continually and should be checked monthly to ensure they are wearing <b>correctly.</b></p>
<p>Add an additional sentence: This should be performed by a veterinarian or experienced GP owner until the carer is competent to assess the teeth.</p>	
<p><b>7. Behavioural and social interactions Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G7.2 Guinea pigs should equally have time to rest and the opportunity to hide from contact with other animals and people should they choose to do so.</p>
<p>A section should be provided discussing/advising on environmental enrichment - see <a href="https://awionline.org/content/environmental-enrichment-guinea-pigs-discussion-laboratory-animal-refinement-enrichment-foru#:~:text=%22Hay%20is%20the%20perfect%20environmental,also%20nibble%20and%20eat%20it">https://awionline.org/content/environmental-enrichment-guinea-pigs-discussion-laboratory-animal-refinement-enrichment-foru#:~:text=%22Hay%20is%20the%20perfect%20environmental,also%20nibble%20and%20eat%20it</a> AND <a href="https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-exercise-and-environmental-enrichment-do-guinea-pigs-need/#:~:text=Provide%20them%20with%20foraging%20opportunities,things%20like%20ramps%20and%20boxes.">https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-exercise-and-environmental-enrichment-do-guinea-pigs-need/#:~:text=Provide%20them%20with%20foraging%20opportunities,things%20like%20ramps%20and%20boxes.</a></p>	
<p><b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted guinea pigs Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G8.1 Guinea pigs should be micro-chipped by a <b>suitably qualified person</b> such as a veterinarian specialising in the care of guinea pigs. Details of the microchip should be registered on the <b>relevant database.</b></p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Guinea pigs should be micro-chipped by a veterinarian with knowledge of care of guinea pigs. Details of the microchip should be registered on national database.</p>	
<p><b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted guinea pigs Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G8.5 Persons finding a lost domesticated guinea pig should attempt to find the usual carer. This could include taking the guinea pig to a local veterinary practice to be scanned for a microchip and contacting organisations that keepers of lost pets may have already <b>contacted.</b></p>
<p>How does the finder know who the keeper may have already contacted? Instead, provide examples of shelters (RSPCA, DAS) and, for example, the Canberra Lost Pets database.</p>	
<p><b>9. Breeding Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G9.1 Potential breeding animals should: a) be checked by a veterinarian for sound health and physical maturity; and <b>b) not be obese,</b> to avoid added risks of dystocia (difficulty giving birth).</p>
<p>It may be helpful to give definitions of obesity in guinea pigs, see suggestion <a href="https://www.oxbowaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Guinea-Pig-Score-Card-2022-Website-Version.pdf">https://www.oxbowaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Guinea-Pig-Score-Card-2022-Website-Version.pdf</a></p>	



<p>9. <b>Breeding Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G9.8 A varied semi-solid diet should be available to pups within hours of birth to ensure they become accustomed to eating a range of food.</p>
<p>Feel that this is unclear, what does this mean for a GP, examples should be provided.</p>	
<p>9. <b>Breeding Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G9.9 Large open water containers are not ideal for pups as they can drown or become soaked and cold, encouraging pups to use a sipper water bottle is ideal. Ensure it is low enough for pups to reach from birth.</p>
<p>Suggest replacing not ideal with not appropriate.</p>	
<p>9. <b>Breeding Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G9.12 Allowing sows to mate again soon after birth is not ideal as it does not allow the sow time to recover and improve her condition.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Sows should not be allowed to mate until the pups have been weaned and the sow has regained normal body weight and condition. Keep boars separate until mating is appropriate and planned.</p>	
<p>9. <b>Breeding Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G9.15 The person in charge is responsible for finding suitable homes for all pups produced by their guinea pigs, including pups of any unintended breeding or pups with no commercial value.</p>
<p>Suggest adding such as the owner of the guinea pigs.</p>	
<p>9. <b>Breeding Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G9.16 Pups are best raised where they have extensive contact with their carer to ensure that they will be well conditioned as pets. Pups should be trained to use a toilet tray, to accept grooming, to relate to other guinea pigs, and to respond positively to humans. Longhaired and semi-long-haired pups should be groomed daily from 3 weeks of age to accustom them to grooming.</p>
<p>Conditioned refers to body condition. Suggest using socialised instead.</p>	
<p>9. <b>Breeding Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G9.17 A person should only permanently remove a pup from their mother if the pup has reached 3 weeks of age. This might not apply if the person has veterinary advice recommending the pup be removed before they have reached 3 weeks of age.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: A person should only permanently remove a pup from their mother if the pup has reached 3 weeks of age, except under veterinary advice.</p>	
<p>10. <b>Transport Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S10.4 Transportation must be undertaken in the shortest time possible. If transported for longer than one hour, drinking water must be provided in a water vessel securely fixed to the side of the container. If in transport for 12 hours or longer, provision must be made for food to also be provided.</p>
<p>We strongly feel that six hours without drinking water and 12 hours without food is far too long for a GP and serious complications could arise. We suggest 2 hours without water and 4 hours without food being the maximum.</p>	



Suggest adding and additional comment: Sufficient moisture may be provided with soft food such as boiled pumpkin, fruits etc, avoiding spillage of water.

**11. Ending a guinea pig's life**  
**Mandatory standards**

S11.1 Euthanasia must only occur if justified and with a good reason. A person must not without a good reason choose to have a guinea pig euthanised. This applies to guinea pigs in general, including unwanted guinea pigs and trapped guinea pigs.

S11.2 If a person responsible for a guinea pig chooses (in accordance with Standard 10.1) to have the guinea pig euthanised:  
a) the person must engage a veterinary surgeon; or  
b) if the guinea pig is in acute and unrelievable pain, and engaging a veterinary surgeon is not practicable or possible, the person may use the most humane means available to end the guinea pig's life.

S11.1 - and with good reason is the same as justified so would remove.

S11.2 - If this statement is made, then an appropriate method or methods should be listed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**AVA Comments:**  
**Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT**

<p><b>Structure of the Code Guidelines</b></p>	<p>In this Code of Practice, Guidelines are recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes. The guidelines complement the mandatory standards and should be used as guidance for all owners. Guidelines use the word 'should'. Non-compliance with one or more guidelines will not in itself constitute an offence under law but may be used to help inform decision-makers of what is considered appropriate care in the event of prosecution.</p>
<p>Suggest keeping the use of quotes consistent: used above 'must", used here 'should'.</p>	
<p><b>Relation to other Codes</b></p>	<p>A number of Codes of Practice for animal welfare have been published over time by the ACT Government. Taken together, the Codes create a matrix of animal welfare provisions that provide guidance on most of the acute animal welfare issues in the ACT. The Codes are subject to reviews and updates and additional codes may be developed as industries, technologies, attitudes and best practice animal welfare evolves.</p>
<p>Not sure what acute animal welfare issues are. Perhaps the wording could be changed to: primary, pre-eminent, most important, most significant.</p>	
<p><b>1. General guidelines</b></p>	<p>Rabbits are considered prey animals and as such will often hide signs of injury or illness so as not to appear weak. Thorough daily checks of an animal's wellbeing and becoming familiar with their normal behaviour is critical in identifying any issues early as changes are often hidden and therefore subtle. It is important that anyone keeping rabbits as pets can identify the signs of fear and distress. Acute signs may include freezing, distress vocalisation, rapid shallow breathing, trembling, biting, scratching and foot thumping and lunging in rabbits. Longer term, fear and distress may manifest into health issues such as weight loss, dehydration, failure to nest, overgrooming, failure to groom, increased aggression towards humans and fighting with other animals in their environment. It is important that the person in charge monitors their animals closely and takes the appropriate action to ensure fear and distress is minimised by: providing safe hiding places, gradual introductions to new people,/ handling, /environments and /cage mates, reducing noise, minimisation and avoiding the sight, smell and sound of potential predator species e.g., keeping cats and dogs away.</p>
<p>Suggested rewording to: Rabbits are considered prey animals and as such will often hide signs of injury or illness so as not to appear vulnerable. Thorough daily checks of an animal's wellbeing and becoming familiar with their normal behaviour is critical in identifying any issues early as changes are often hidden and therefore subtle. It is important that anyone keeping rabbits as pets can identify the signs of fear and distress. Acute signs may include freezing, distress vocalisation, rapid shallow breathing, trembling, biting, scratching and foot thumping and lunging in rabbits.</p>	



<p>Longer term, fear and distress may manifest as health issues such as weight loss, dehydration, failure to nest, overgrooming, failure to groom, increased aggression towards humans and fighting with other animals in their environment. It is important that the <b>person in charge</b> monitors their animals closely and takes the appropriate action to ensure fear and distress is minimised by: providing safe hiding places, gradual introductions to new people, handling, environments and cage mates, reducing noise, and avoiding the sight, smell and sound of potential predator species e.g., cats and dogs.</p> <p>Person in charge - Can this be defined, and / or referred to consistently throughout the document? Also referred to as keeper, carer, owner, etc. throughout the document.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S2.1 All rabbits must be provided with a living environment that minimises stress and provides the following: c) Mental stimulation through the provision of enrichment such as varied diet, gnaw blocks, toys and play <b>with a keeper or carer</b>;</p>
<p>Person in charge? See comment above. Should be consistent throughout.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S2.2 Rabbits housed outdoors must have protection from extremes of weather <b>including by providing</b> appropriate shade, and shelter, but also allowing access to sun in colder months.</p> <p>S2.3 Rabbits are prone to heat <b>stress; during</b> summer and warmer temperatures enclosures must not be positioned in direct sunlight or in warm areas where <b>they</b> cannot seek respite from the heat. Rabbits must be moved indoors, or extra provision made for managing temperatures in extremely hot or cold conditions.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Rabbits are prone to heat stress. During summer and warmer temperatures enclosures must not be positioned in direct sunlight or in warm areas where rabbits cannot seek respite from the heat. Rabbits must be moved indoors, or extra provision made for managing temperatures in extremely hot or cold conditions.</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G2.1 b) Minimise the impact of the rabbit on wildlife and the environment through de-sexing and the implementation of appropriate control and/or containment; and  d) Provide a level of hygiene that supports good health and <b>prevents</b> minimises the risk of illness and disease</p>
<p>b) Clarification needed: Does this mean by keeping the rabbit contained appropriately, on the owner's property? (e.g. similar to cats). If so, maybe state this. d) Provide a level of hygiene that supports good health and <b>minimises the risk of</b> illness and disease</p>	
<p><b>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G2.3 Unrelated female rabbits or desexed rabbits can be housed together but should be monitored closely to ensure they are not fighting or dominating feeding, hiding and sleeping spaces <b>and ensure they bond with each other.</b></p>
<p>Suggest this be reworded: and determining if the rabbits are bonding. The bonding issue is important, so it is worth covering here or in G2.6</p>	



<p>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</p>	<p>G2.5 Rabbits are social animals, and their wellbeing is greatly increased if they can be housed with other compatible rabbits. Rabbits should not be housed with guinea pigs as rabbits can asymptotically harbour the disease Bordetella bronchiseptica that is potentially fatal to guinea pigs. Rabbits may also physically harm guinea pigs and dominate the living environment. *</p>
<p>Suggest adding – and have different dietary requirements.</p>	
<p>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</p>	<p>G2.11 Rabbits should be given regular opportunity to roam and run freely in large spaces.* If the large space is outside, the area should be escape-proof and protected from predators, or rabbits will need to be supervised. Persons responsible should be mindful that rabbits can dig under fences.</p>
<p>Suggest adding, as described in G2.12.</p>	
<p>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</p>	<p>G2.12 Outdoor enclosures or hutches should be large enough to allow rabbits to stand upright on their hind limbs, turn around while jumping in the air (binky), lie down in a full stretch and perform 10 hops in a straight line. Enclosures should also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) provide an enclosed waterproof area (ideally raised off the ground) with only a small opening, where the rabbit can hide, nest, keep dry, warm or cool;</li> <li>b) be sturdy and secure to protect rabbits from predators such as cats, dogs, foxes and birds;</li> <li>c) prevent escape; and</li> <li>d) be covered with insect proof mesh to protect rabbits from insects that can spread disease to rabbits, such as mosquitos that can infect rabbits with myxomatosis.</li> </ul>
<p>10 hops is considerable for a medium to large rabbit (at full hop). It is also quite subjective and owners might not be sure what 10 hops looks like for their rabbit.</p> <p>Rabbits should also be kept out of direct (for example, nose to nose) contact with wild rabbits, to reduce the transmission of rabbit fleas which can also transmit Myxomatosis.</p>	
<p>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</p>	<p>G2.13 The position of the hutch should be changed regularly to rest the ground and allow grass to recover; this also provides enrichment for the rabbit and allows for removal of faecal matter.</p> <p>Table 1. Floor space requirements for pet rabbits agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets/other-pets/rabbits/guidelines-on-keeping-pet-rabbitsd) be covered with insect proof mesh to protect rabbits from insects that can spread disease to rabbits, such as mosquitos that can infect rabbits with myxomatosis.</p>
<p>These guidelines are adopted from the VIC government guidelines. (<a href="#">Guidelines for keeping pet rabbits   Rabbits   Other pets   Animal Welfare Victoria   Livestock and animals   Agriculture Victoria</a>) which reference the Victorian minimum standard for lab animal housing guidelines (<a href="#">Code of Practice for the Housing and Care of Laboratory Mice, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Rabbits   Victorian codes of practice for animal welfare   Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Act   Animal Welfare Victoria   Livestock and animals   Agriculture Vi</a>).</p>	



<p>There is more detail in the document that is worth mentioning here:</p> <p>* The animal weight provides an indication of the age and activity of the rabbits which is the important determinant of space requirements.</p> <p>** Minimum area includes the area of any shelving in the animal enclosure that doesn't reduce the total available area. Enclosures must be wide and long enough to permit rabbits to lie fully outstretched – minimum of 80cm clear space in at least one direction, and to provide a clear area to facilitate 1 to 3 complete hops for normal exercise requirements.</p> <p>*** The minimum height must refer to a cage/pen high enough for rabbits to stand upright unhindered (with ears not touching the roof).</p>	
<p><b>3. Handling Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S3.4 Rabbits must never be <b>tethered</b>. This means not securing a rabbit to an object or running line by means of a leash, chain, rope or other material. A rabbit fighting against a fixed tether can cause itself serious injuries that can result in death.</p>
<p>Please add clarification that tethering is not the same as harness and lead walking.</p>	
<p><b>3. Handling Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>How to handle a rabbit: Techniques used to safely pick up a rabbit include: a) <b>picking up the scruff</b> while fully supporting the hindquarters, taking care to keep the rabbit close to the handler's body;</p>
<p>Suggest remove or reword this. The way it is currently written starting with 'picking up the scruff' is not clear. Rabbits should not be held in a weight bearing fashion by their scruff. Suggest either elaborate on this section, or remove it. Too little information with no picture may be difficult for rabbit owners to interpret.</p>	
<p><b>3. Handling Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G3.3 While rabbits do not require obedience training, they should be allowed to familiarise themselves, or be given appropriate training, with any new experience or environment. They should also be socialised with other rabbits, animals and humans when it is safe to do so. *</p>
<p>Suggest adding a section: Rabbits can easily fracture their own spines by struggling when restrained. Perhaps this should be above the Mandatory section.</p>	
<p><b>4. Hygiene Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p>S4.2 A person responsible for a rabbit must properly groom and <b>maintain</b> the rabbit.</p>
<p>Suggested rewording to: A person responsible for a rabbit must properly groom and maintain the hygiene/cleanliness of the rabbit.</p>	
<p><b>4. Hygiene Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G4.1 Regular grooming of rabbits assists with the detection of some diseases and parasite problems. Semi-long-haired and longhaired rabbits should be groomed twice per week. Shorthaired rabbits may need grooming only once <b>per fortnight</b>.</p>
<p>Rabbits will need to be groomed more frequently when moulting, to avoid knots and clumps of fur.</p>	



<p>4. Hygiene Guidelines</p>	<p>G4.5 Cleaning and disinfecting agents should be chosen based on their suitability, safety and effectiveness. Bleach or chlorine-based disinfectants are effective against common rabbit pathogens. Manufacturers' instructions for the use of cleaning and disinfecting agents should be followed; overly diluting a solution may be ineffective, and too concentrated a solution may be toxic to animals. All disinfectants should be thoroughly rinsed away with water following application.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Cleaning and disinfecting agents should be chosen based on their suitability, safety and effectiveness. Bleach or chlorine-based disinfectants are effective against common rabbit pathogens. Manufacturers' instructions for the use of cleaning and disinfecting agents should be followed; including dilution rates and contact time. All disinfectants should be thoroughly rinsed away with water following application.</p> <p>Chlorine-based: This is not an exhaustive list and other cleaning chemicals are also suitable. Suggest clarifying or remove explicit mentions.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition Guidelines</p>	<p>Additional guideline to be added</p>
<p>Suggest an additional guideline to incorporate enrichment to allow rabbits to express foraging behaviours while feeding.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition Guidelines</p>	<p>Note: Roughage also helps to maintain the health of teeth and prevent behavioural problems related to boredom such as hair pulling and barbering. A rabbit's teeth grow continually, chewing prevents teeth from overgrowing. Grass clippings should not be fed to rabbits as they ferment quickly and can cause serious health problems.</p>
<p>Adequate dietary fibre is also critical to gut function and health.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition Guidelines</p>	<p>G5.2 The diet should be based on roughage (e.g. hay), a good quality commercial dry pelleted food that contains a minimum of 15% crude fibre, fresh grass and or fresh greens. Pelleted feed should be provided in a container that prevents spoilage (e.g. a hopper slightly suspended on the side of the enclosure).</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: The diet should be based on roughage (e.g. Timothy, meadow or oaten hay), a good quality hay-based pelleted food that contains a minimum of 15% crude fibre, fresh grass and/or fresh greens. Pelleted feed should be provided in a container that prevents spoilage (e.g. a hopper slightly suspended on the side of the enclosure). Note: In general, Lucerne Hay should not be fed to rabbits.</p>	
<p>5. Nutrition Guidelines</p>	<p>Note: A guide to the amount of pellets to feed daily is 25 grams per kilo of bodyweight per day. Old, mouldy, wet or contaminated pellets should never be fed and should be removed from the enclosure to prevent illness.</p>
<p>is high, e.g. desexed or sedentary/inadequate option to exercise rabbits probably require [redacted] ble unit, e.g. 1 tablespoon/kg/day (with hay/grass and vegetables making up the rest of the diet). It is easier for owners to measure in scoops as not all have scales.</p>	



<p><b>5. Nutrition Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G5.6 A rabbit's diet may be supplemented with fresh vegetables such as bok choy, broccoli, parsley, celery, and kale.</p>
<p>Offer a variety of low calcium leafy greens such as Asian green vegetables, broccoli, celery leaves, etc. Avoid parsley, kale and spinach every day as they are high in calcium. Can be used as a treat food.</p>	
<p><b>5. Nutrition Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G5.6 A rabbit's diet may be supplemented with fresh vegetables such as bok choy, broccoli, parsley, celery, and kale.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Food containing seed or muesli, or labelled for guinea pigs, should be avoided.</p>	
<p><b>5. Nutrition Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G5.9 The amount of food a rabbit consumes, and the rabbit's body condition should be monitored to ensure the rabbit is neither overeating nor under eating. This is important if more than one rabbit is being fed in the same area.</p>
<p>Suggest more emphasis should be placed on recognising obesity. About 1/3 of rabbits presenting to practice in one study are obese (in Chitty 2023 In Practice; this article cites other reports). This can have many flow on effects for health and welfare. Reducing rabbit BCS could offer good 'bang for buck' for mitigating welfare impacts on pet rabbits. Possible link to: <a href="#">Rabbit Size-O-Meter   UK Pet Food</a></p>	
<p><b>6. Health Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G6.1 Disease prevention should be discussed with a veterinarian. At a minimum, vaccination against Calicivirus is required every 6-12 months or as advised by a veterinarian, and an effective flea and worm control program with approved products for use on rabbits.</p>
<p>Suggest annual health check with veterinarian to detect issues early. Suggest vaccination is a separate point.</p>	
<p><b>6. Health Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G6.2 Rabbits should be desexed not only to prevent unwanted offspring but also to reduce stress levels driven by hormones, which make rabbits more prone to fighting and displaying other territorial behaviour. *</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Rabbits should be desexed to prevent unwanted offspring and reduce undesirable behaviours, such as destructive burrowing (through carpets etc), fighting and displaying territorial behaviour.  Suggest adding addition sentence: Undesexed female rabbits are also at a very high risk of diseases such as cancers and uterine bleeding which lead to significant illness and even death.</p>	
<p><b>6. Health Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G6.3 Rabbits who over groom themselves may develop gastric trichobezoars (hair balls in the stomach) which can cause discomfort and a blockage in the stomach. This condition should be treated by a veterinarian as rabbits are unable to vomit and cannot clear the obstruction themselves. Over-grooming should be prevented by ensuring the rabbit is not bored or stressed, has an appropriate high fibre diet, fresh water and adequate exercise.</p>
<p>Suggest drawing the reader's attention to monitoring food intake and being aware of a rabbit that is not eating. The owner should contact a veterinarian as a priority if the rabbit is not eating.</p>	



<p><b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted rabbits</b> <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G7.1 Compatible companions should preferably be of the same species wherever possible.</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Rabbits should be micro-chipped by a suitably qualified person or a veterinarian. Details of the microchip should be registered on a national microchip database.</p> <p>Note: It is problematic to use the phrase "specialising in" as the word "specialist" has a legal meaning of someone recognised by a State or Territory Veterinary Practitioner's Board as a Specialist in a certain field. While the phrase "specialising in" is not the same, it would be preferable to use "experienced in or with" (throughout the document).</p>	
<p><b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted rabbits</b> <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G8.2 Keepers who lose a rabbit should act promptly to attempt to locate their lost pet for the rabbit's safety and to minimise the time the rabbit may be in distress.</p>
<p>This should be a "must" statement. Without registration on a national database with ready access by all relevant parties), the microchip is useless. Include DAS,RSPCA, any rabbit rescue groups, and Canberra Lost Pet Database <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CanberraLostPetDatabase/">https://www.facebook.com/CanberraLostPetDatabase/</a></p>	
<p><b>9. Breeding</b> <i>Mandatory standards</i></p>	<p>S9.5 If a doe does not feed her kittens within a few hours of birth then veterinary advice must be sought as hand rearing may be necessary. Prompt advice should be obtained as the kittens are at risk of death if they do not feed shortly after birth.</p>
<p>Not sure about this. BSAVA Rabbit manual states the following key points: 'the doe will feed the kits once or sometimes twice daily....it is very common for owners to think that a litter has been abandoned if they do not see the doe with her kits...it is unusual to observe a doe suckling her kits and it can be difficult to determine whether kits have been fed for the first 48 hours'. My concern is this mandatory standard may over-state the roll of hand-rearing, which BSAVA states: '(Hand rearing) should only be taken as a last resort ....hand-reared newborn kits rarely survive to become fit, healthy adults'.</p> <p>Suggestion for revision of this standard, perhaps if owner is concerned about kitten health, to discuss with veterinarian 1) methods for assessing kitten health; and 2) options for providing extra support to kittens without necessarily opting for hand reading. BSAVA has ideas on this, but they probably too detailed for this standard.</p> <p>Final statement from BSAVA on hand rearing: 'Kits should only be completely hand reared if the doe dies, is too unwell to care for them or is damaging them'.</p>	
<p><b>9. Breeding</b> <i>Mandatory standards</i></p>	<p>S9.6 A kitten must not be permanently removed from its mother until it is 8 weeks of age and eating solid food, unless on veterinary advice.</p>
<p>See comment below G9.16 re. weaning.</p>	
<p><b>9. Breeding</b> <i>Guidelines</i></p>	<p>G9.6 From about 15 days post mating extra nesting material such as hay and straw should be provided, the doe may also pull fur from her chest, belly, flanks and forelegs to line the nest. Once nest building commences, the nesting area should not be disturbed until after young can leave the nest</p>



	(approx. 3 weeks). An exception to this is if the doe excessively urinates and defecates in the nest in the lead up to the birth, or the nest becomes wet or <b>infested with vermin</b> .
Uncertain of meaning - Vermin as in cockroaches, rabbit mites, etc? Suggest remove or clarify.	
<b>9. Breeding Guidelines</b>	G9.10 <b>Kittens are born hairless and blind and obtain everything they require from the doe.</b>
This is a statement not a guideline. Perhaps could use this point to explain that does feed their kittens once or twice a day and the owner may not observe this happening.	
<b>9. Breeding Guidelines</b>	G9.15 Kittens should be raised with <b>extensive contact</b> with their carer to ensure that they will be well <b>conditioned</b> as pets. Kittens should be trained to use a litter tray, to accept grooming, to relate to other rabbits, and to respond positively to humans. Longhaired and semi-long haired kittens should be groomed daily from 5 weeks of age to accustom them to grooming.
Suggest rewording to: Kittens should be raised with regular interaction with their carer (but not handled unnecessarily immediately after birth) to ensure that they will be well socialised as pets. Kittens should be trained to use a litter tray, to accept grooming, to relate to other rabbits, and to respond positively to humans. Longhaired and semi-long haired kittens should be groomed daily from 5 weeks of age to accustom them to grooming.	
<b>9. Breeding Guidelines</b>	G9.16 Kittens should be weaned, vaccinated (at five weeks) and wormed prior to re-homing. This might not apply if the person has veterinary advice recommending the kitten be removed before the rabbit has reached 8 weeks of age or is eating solid food. <b>Kittens need to be at least 6 weeks old before leaving their mother to facilitate physical, immunological, behavioural, social and mental development in the young animal.</b>
This statement of 6 weeks seems to conflict with the mandatory guideline (S 9.6) of minimum age of 8 weeks for time before removal from mother. 6 weeks is adequate (BSAVA Manual of Rabbit Medicine states 'weaning takes place at 4-6 weeks' but doesn't explicitly indicate if the kittens should have a period of time with their mother post-weaning).	
<b>10. Transport Mandatory standards</b>	S10.4 Transportation must be undertaken in the shortest time possible. If transported for longer than one hour, drinking water must be provided in a water vessel securely fixed to the side of the container. <b>If in transport for 12 hours or longer, provision must be made for food to also be provided.</b>
We strongly feel that 12 hours without food is far too long for a rabbit and serious complications could arise. We suggest 2 hours without water and 4 hours without food being the maximum.	
<b>10. Transport Guidelines</b>	G10.6 Rabbits are best transported singularly as transport containers do not allow enough space for them to move away from each other and the risk of stress and injury <b>increases</b> .  G10.7 Advice should be sought from the shipping, airline or railway or coach service when transporting a rabbit interstate or overseas. International transport will be required to adhere to the <b>Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and</b>



	International Air Transport Associations (IATA) standards and requirements.
G10.6 - This section mixes up transport by an owner (e.g. for vet care) with shipping unaccompanied. Labels are not required for a trip to the vet.	
G10.7 - This department changes name from time to time. Can this be generalised, so the COP doesn't date? 'Relevant Australian Government Agriculture Agency' or similar?	
<b>11. Ending a rabbit's life Guidelines</b>	G11.2 Circumstances in which it might be reasonable to euthanise an unwanted rabbit include, but are not limited to, where the keeper has been unable to rehome the rabbit despite having made a reasonable effort as set out in Guideline 8.1 of this Code.
Guideline 8.1 is about microchips. We believe the reference should be to Standard 8.1 (not G8.1)	

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**AVA Comments:**  
**Code of Practice for the Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice (Rodents) in the ACT**

<p><b>2. Environment and housing Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G2.1 In addition to providing for the rodent's needs, a keeper or carer has a responsibility to:</p> <p>a) Protect them from direct risk of harm, such as being attacked by other animals or humans;</p> <p>b) Minimise the impact of the rodent on wildlife and the environment through appropriate control and/or containment; and</p> <p>c) Provide the animal with adequate and appropriate food and water to maintain the animal's good health and comfort; and</p> <p>d) Provide a level of hygiene that supports good health and prevents illness and disease.</p> <p><b>*additional point to be added</b></p>
<p>e) Provide a sturdy shelter that will protect the animal/s from the elements should they be housed outside (noting that rats and mice are nocturnal). This should be able to with stand strong winds, heavy rainfall, keep them all dry, and provide shade and protection in the hottest parts of the day.</p>	
<p><b>4. Hygiene Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G4.10 Nesting material should be discarded and replaced once per week (unless there are young pups in the nest in which case it is important not to disturb the nest). <b>*additional point to be added</b></p>
<p>Additional: ventilation should be sufficient to prevent the build-up of dusts, infectious agents, humidity, and ammonia.</p>	
<p><b>5. Nutrition Mandatory standards</b></p>	<p><b>S5.1 Clean water must always be available; water must be checked daily and topped up as necessary. Rats require up to 50ml of water daily, or more if the diet is dry. Mice require up to 5ml per day each.</b></p>
<p>Should this be in mL/kg/day to account for variation in rodent weights?</p>	
<p><b>5. Nutrition Guidelines</b></p>	<p><b>G5.3 Mice require 5-10g of food per day, rats require 15-20g of food per day.</b> A complete pelleted diet assists in ensuring rodents receive their nutritional requirements in the small quantity required.</p>
<p>Mice require 5-10g (again, should this be in g/kg/day? Or even kcal ME/BWkg<sup>0.75</sup>/day. See National Research Council 'Nutrient Requirements of the Mouse' which suggests an estimated maintenance daily ME of 160 kcal/BWkg<sup>0.75</sup>/day) of food per day, rats require 15-20g (as above) of food per day.</p>	
<p><b>5. Nutrition Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G5.9 Diets containing birdseed should only be fed occasionally as a treat.</p>
<p>Recommend changing to: "Diets containing seed are inappropriate and contribute to obesity and poor health. They should not be fed birdseed".</p>	
<p><b>5. Nutrition Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G5.15 Water should be replaced daily; it should be kept clean and out of direct sunlight and should be thawed or replaced if frozen.*</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Water should be replaced daily; it should be kept clean and out of direct sunlight and should be thawed or replaced if frozen or contaminated.</p>	



<p><b>6. Health Guidelines</b></p>	<p>G6.2 Healthy, short-haired rodents do not require grooming. However, some fancy breeds with longer hair are likely to require regular grooming. *</p>
<p>Suggest rewording to: Healthy, short-haired rodents do not require grooming given this is an important behavioural phenotype of the rodent. However, some exotic? breeds with longer hair are likely to require regular grooming. Lack of grooming or overgrooming may be a sign of moderate arousal or high stress states that elicit freezing, flight, or fight responses (Song C, Berridge, K.C, and Kalueff, A. V, 2016 Nat Rey Neurosci).</p>	
<p><b>6. Health Guidelines</b></p>	<p>Additional guideline should be added.</p>
<p>Please add another guideline stating that "Desexing of rats, particularly females, is strongly recommended to reduce risk of reproductive based diseases and hormonal aggression. Mice can be desexed but this is usually performed only when required for an individual animal's health or wellbeing."</p>	
<p><b>8. Identification, lost and unwanted rodents Guidelines</b></p>	<p>Note: It is unusual to microchip a mouse due to the size of the microchip however it is possible for rats, usually under anaesthesia by a veterinarian.</p>
<p>It was mentioned above that rodents should not wear collars, and that it is unusual for them to be microchipped. Given this is the case, what are the best means for identification? This should be listed here as an alternative.</p>	
<p><b>10. Transport Guidelines</b></p>	<p>S10.4 Transportation must be undertaken in the shortest time possible. If transported for longer than one hour, drinking water must be provided in a water vessel securely fixed to the side of the container. If in transport for 6 hours or longer, provision must be made for food to also be provided.</p>
<p>6 hours off food is likely to cause illness in rats and mice. It is recommended that they be transported with food and water except for very short journeys of less than 1 hour. S10.5 is not needed as the above should be adopted. Should quarantine period be added in this section?</p>	

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



Contact:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Australian Veterinary Association

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Australian Veterinary Association

[Redacted]

**From:** [ConservatorFloraFauna](#)  
**To:** [TCCS\\_GMS\\_Boards&Committees](#)  
**Subject:** Conservator of Flora and Fauna COMMENTS - Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT  
**Date:** Thursday, 3 August 2023 9:44:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

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OFFICIAL

Good morning,

Thank you for providing the Conservator of Flora and Fauna the opportunity to review these codes of practice.

Guinea pigs, rabbits, rats and mice are all exempt animals under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* so the below comments are from a licensing perspective as a non-exempt animal relate to Ferrets only.

As mentioned in the General Guidelines a licence is required under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* to import, keep, sell or export ferrets in the ACT. We currently have 68 licence holders who have a ferret/ferrets listed on their Nature Conservation Act licence to keep a non-exempt animal.

I would question the statement under **section 9. Breeding** “*Animal shelters and rescue groups are placed under immense pressure to find homes for the large number of unwanted ferrets in the ACT*”

Of the 68 current ferret licences in total that we have issued, only 7 of those were granted in 2023. I recognise that there will be some occurrences of people not abiding by the legislation to obtain a licence, but of those 7 licences, 3 of those ferrets were imported from NSW. That leaves 4 licences for ferrets this year where the ferrets have been sourced in the ACT.

In relation to **Section 12. Ferreting**

S12.1 You must not use ferrets to attack or kill other animals. Ferrets may only be used to flush rabbits from burrows.  
S12.2 Ferrets who show any behaviour that indicates they are likely to physically attack and injure rabbits, or other feral or native wild animals, must not be used for ferreting.  
S12.3 Ferrets who are used for ferreting must be checked after each use to ensure they have not sustained any injuries.  
S12.4 Ferrets used for ferreting must be kept and cared for as per the other standards and guidelines in this code.

It is preferred that the code of practice stay silent on ferreting as an activity for the following reasons.

- S12.1 and S12.2 Mandatory standards are unrealistic, as you cannot guarantee that a ferret will not attack or kill other animals. The mention of not using an animal that shows behaviours of being likely to injure or kill a licence will come down to instinct, the same instinct that a ferret will have to enter burrows regardless of its previously shown behaviours.
- Wild ferrets are listed as a pest animal under the Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005 [Pest Plants and Animals \(Pest Animals\) Declaration 2021 \(No 1\) | Disallowable instruments \(act.gov.au\)](#) .
- A licence for the activity would be required under The Nature Conservation Act 2014 to “release an animal from captivity”. Granting a licence to release a ferret to flush out rabbits from burrows would be highly unlikely and other methods of pest control for rabbits would be more suitable.
- The wording of S12.1 and S12.2 makes the activity of ferreting (if no attack has taken place) an exception to the offence of a violent animal activity. My interpretation of ferreting regardless if they physically injure rabbits or not is

similar to the definition of live baiting which *means using an animal, whether alive or dead, to train another animal to chase real or simulated animals when racing or hunting.*

Relevant parts of the Animal Welfare Act are listed below

### 17 Violent animal activities

(1) A person commits an offence if the person takes part in a violent animal activity.

Maximum penalty: 300 penalty units, imprisonment for 3 years or both.

(2) A person commits an offence if the person—

(a) is at a place when a violent animal activity is happening; and

(b) knows, or ought to know, that the activity is happening.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units, imprisonment for 1 year or both.

(3) A person commits an offence if the person—

(a) is at a place where a violent animal activity happens within 2 hours before the activity happens; and

(b) knows, or ought to know, that the activity is happening at the place.

Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units, imprisonment for 1 year or both.

(4) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse.

(5) This section does not apply to—

(a) the rehabilitation of native animals for release into the wild in a way authorised under a territory law; or

(b) the keeping and display of animals whose normal diet includes live food; or

(c) the mustering and working of stock; or

(d) the hunting or control of animals in a way authorised under a Commonwealth or territory law; or

(e) the catching of fish in a way authorised under a Commonwealth or territory law; or

(f) the use of a trained animal to train or exercise another animal of the same species in accordance with accepted animal husbandry practice in relation to the animal.

*Note* The defendant has an evidential burden in relation to the matters mentioned in s (4) and s (5) (see [Criminal Code](#), s 58).

(6) In this section:

**live baiting** means using an animal, whether alive or dead, to train another animal to chase real or simulated animals when racing or hunting.

**stock**—see the [Stock Act 2005](#), dictionary.

**takes part in**—a person **takes part in** an activity if the person does 1 or more of the following:

(a) organises or conducts the activity;

(b) promotes the activity;

(c) allows the activity to happen on premises, or in a place, owned or occupied by

the person;

(d) provides an animal or thing to be used in relation to the activity;

(e) undertakes any other activity relating to the activity.

*use*, an animal, includes capture, contain or release the animal.

***violent animal activity*** means—

(a) the use of an animal to fight, injure or kill another animal; or

(b) live baiting.

**20 Exception—conduct in accordance with approved code of practice or mandatory code of practice**

This part (other than the following provisions) does not apply if the conduct making up the offence was in accordance with an approved code of practice or a mandatory code of practice:

(a) section 9A (Keeping laying fowls for commercial egg production—appropriate accommodation);

(b) section 9B (Keeping pigs—appropriate accommodation);

(c) section 9C (Removing or trimming beak of fowl);

(d) section 14 (Use or possession of prohibited item);

(e) section 17 (1) or (2) (Violent animal activities);

(f) section 18 (1) or (2) (Rodeos and game parks);

(g) section 19A (Medical and surgical procedures—veterinary practitioners).

Please don't hesitate to contact if you require any additional information or advice.

Regards,

**Karen Taylor**

**Conservator Support Officer**

**Conservator Support | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate**

Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: [Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au](mailto:Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au)

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

480 Northbourne Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.environment.act.gov.au](http://www.environment.act.gov.au) |

[www.planning.act.gov.au](http://www.planning.act.gov.au)

**I acknowledge the Ngannawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.**

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**From:** EPSDD PCS LC <PCS.LicensingandCompliance@act.gov.au>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 2 August 2023 4:55 PM

**To:** ConservatorFloraFauna <ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au>

**Cc:** Hancocks, Bruce <Bruce.Hancocks@act.gov.au>; Garofalow, Frank

<Frank.Garofalow@act.gov.au>; Baines, Greg <Greg.Baines@act.gov.au>; Koch, Richard

<Richard.Koch@act.gov.au>; Glennon, Chris <Chris.Glennon@act.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT - Due 4/8 - Consultation on the Small Mammal codes

of practice in the ACT

OFFICIAL

Hi Karen,

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to comment on the draft Small Mammals Code of Practice. Guinea pigs, rabbits, rats and mice are all exempt animals under the Nature Conservation Act 2014 so the below comments are from a licensing perspective as a non-exempt animal relate to Ferrets only.

As mentioned in the General Guidelines a licence is required under the Nature Conservation Act 2014 to import, keep, sell or export ferrets in the ACT. We currently have 68 licence holders who have a ferret/ferrets listed on their Nature Conservation Act licence to keep a non-exempt animal.

I would question the statement under **section 9. Breeding** "*Animal shelters and rescue groups are placed under immense pressure to find homes for the large number of unwanted ferrets in the ACT*"

Of the 68 current ferret licences in total that we have issued, only 7 of those were granted in 2023. I recognise that there will be some occurrences of people not abiding by the legislation to obtain a licence, but of those 7 licences, 3 of those ferrets were imported from NSW. That leaves 4 licences for ferrets this year where the ferrets have been sourced in the ACT.

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S12.4 Ferrets used for ferreting must be kept and cared for as per the other standards and guidelines in this code.

It is preferred that the code of practice stay silent on ferreting as an activity for the following reasons.

- S12.1 and S12.2 Mandatory standards are unrealistic, as you cannot guarantee that a ferret will not attack or kill other animals. The mention of not using an animal that shows behaviours of being likely to injure or kill a licence will come down to instinct, the same instinct that a ferret will have to enter burrows regardless of it's previously shown behaviours.
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Relevant parts of the Animal Welfare Act are listed below (thanks Richard)

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- (e) section 17 (1) or (2) (Violent animal activities);
- (f) section 18 (1) or (2) (Rodeos and game parks);
- (g) section 19A (Medical and surgical procedures—veterinary practitioners).

Kind regards,

**Edana Sinclair | Licensing Officer**

Licensing and Compliance | Environment, Water and Emissions Reduction

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

Phone: **02 6207 6376** | Email: [pcs.licensingandcompliance@act.gov.au](mailto:pcs.licensingandcompliance@act.gov.au)

Location: Stromlo Depot, 500 Cotter Rd, Weston Creek | Postal: GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601 |

<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/>

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**From:** ConservatorFloraFauna <[ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au](mailto:ConservatorFloraFauna@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 14 July 2023 3:26 PM

**To:** EPSDD PCS LC <[PCS.LicensingandCompliance@act.gov.au](mailto:PCS.LicensingandCompliance@act.gov.au)>; Garofalow, Frank <[Frank.Garofalow@act.gov.au](mailto:Frank.Garofalow@act.gov.au)>; Baines, Greg <[Greg.Baines@act.gov.au](mailto:Greg.Baines@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Hancocks, Bruce <[Bruce.Hancocks@act.gov.au](mailto:Bruce.Hancocks@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT - Due 4/8 - Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon,

We've been provided the attached Codes of Practice for our review and comment:

- the Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT; and
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice (Rodents) in the ACT.

Can you please review and provide any comments by Friday 4 August 2024. Please forward to any other teams or individuals who may have input.

Thanks!

**Karen Taylor**

**Conservator Support Officer**

**Conservator Support | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate**

Phone: +61 2 620 54668 | Email: [Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au](mailto:Karen.Taylor@act.gov.au)

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[www.planning.act.gov.au](http://www.planning.act.gov.au)

**I acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.**

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**From:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 July 2023 2:20 PM

**To:** TCCS\_GMS Boards&Committees <[TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Consultation on the Small Mammal codes of practice in the ACT

**OFFICIAL**

Dear stakeholders

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (the Committee) is established by the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* (the Act) to, among other things:

- advise the Minister about animal welfare legislation; and
- participate in the development of approved codes of practice and mandatory codes of practice.

The Small Mammal Codes of Practice consists of four newly proposed codes drafted by the Committee and have been prepared to address an identified gap in the current legislation and supporting instruments. The four proposed codes of practice include:

- the Keeping and Breeding of Ferrets in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Guinea Pigs in the ACT;
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rabbits in the ACT; and
- the Keeping and Breeding of Rats and Mice (Rodents) in the ACT.

Under the Act, the Minister for Transport and City Services, may approve an animal welfare code of practice making part, or all, of that code mandatory. It is an offence under the Act for a person to breach a mandatory code of practice.

**Comments and Feedback**

You have been identified as a key stakeholder in relation to reviewing the identified codes of practice and we would like to know any feedback you may have.

Attached is a copy of the four proposed Small Mammals Codes of Practice for your review.

We welcome your comments via written submission to [TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au).

If you would like to speak to someone regarding your submission, we ask that you please request this via writing, and we will arrange for a Committee representative to contact you.

Consultation on the Small Mammal Codes of Practice will run for six weeks, and will **close on Monday, 28 August 2023**.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know of any other key stakeholders we should be consulting with on this code of practice.

**Next steps**

The outcomes of consultation with stakeholders will help inform the Committee's review of the Small Mammal Codes of Practice. Once consultation has closed and the Committee's review is complete, the Committee will prepare a report for the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel.

Thanks for taking the time to review and we look forward to receiving your feedback.

Kind regards

Jill Slaven | Secretariat, Boards and Committees

Email: [TCCS\\_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS_GMSBoards-Committees@act.gov.au)

Governance and Ministerial Services | Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | ACT Government

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