The journey of animal welfare improvement: New Zealand’s experience

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Animal welfare in New Zealand

- Animal Welfare Act 1999
  - Regulations provide directly enforceable standards
  - Codes of welfare provide detail

- Minister of Agriculture
- Ministry for Primary Industries
Animal welfare in New Zealand

- *Animal Welfare Matters* Strategy to support care of animals and reputation for integrity
- OIE Regional Animal Welfare Strategy and Collaborating Centre
- Emergency management
- History of close collaboration with the EU
How we got here:

- Animal Protection Act 1960
- Animal Welfare Act 1999
- Animal Welfare Review
- Animal Welfare Strategy
- Animal Welfare Amendment Act
- Animal Welfare Regulations
Animal welfare regulations

- **Codes of Welfare**
  - Detailed minimum standards for specific species and situations
  - Not directly enforceable

- **Regulations**
  - More specific than the Animal Welfare Act
  - More enforceable than Codes of Welfare

- **Animal Welfare Act**
  - High level obligations to provide for an animals physical, health, and behavioural needs
  - Act offences

**New responses**
- Infringement $300
- Infringement $500
- Regulation prosecution
Animal welfare regulations

- Serious offending could be dealt with under the Animal Welfare Act.

- But low to medium level offending sometimes difficult to deal with:
  - Codes of Welfare (and their minimum standards) difficult to enforce.

- The Animal Welfare Act was amended in May 2015 to enable directly enforceable regulations to be made.

- Regulations, for the most part, reflected existing minimum standards:
  - Six went beyond minimum standards to reflect updated good practice and scientific knowledge (e.g. dog tail docking and disbudding / dehorning regulations).
Animal welfare regulations

2018 regulations cover a very diverse range of requirements including:

- Restrictions on transporting animals
- Killing crabs, rock lobster, crayfish and kōura
- Dogs on moving vehicles
- Tethering (goats and horses)
- Use of equipment that may injure llama or alpaca
- Pigs access to shelter and dry lying area
- Prohibition on fireworks at rodeos
- Docking tails (cattle, dogs and pigs)
Young calf Regulations
Education & collaboration

Objective:

- Animal owners, persons in charge of animals, transport operators and vets are aware of their responsibilities
- Develop and deliver guidance and training to help people understand and comply with the new regulations
- Raise public awareness of AW system and compliance requirements
Education & collaboration

Key messages and visuals used in:
- Social media
- Mainstream media
- Industry publications
- Pamphlets
- Vet practices
- Events
- Presentations
- Videos
- App
Animals must not be transported unless they are fit enough to withstand the entire journey without suffering unreasonable journey pain or distress.

If an animal displays any injuries, signs of disease, abnormal behaviour or physical abnormalities that could compromise their welfare during the journey then they should only be transported if a veterinary declaration of fitness has been completed.

An animal may not be transported.
Education & collaboration

We're not horsing around!
There's new animal welfare regulations for all animals

That's no prob-llama!
There's new animal welfare regulations for all animals

Have you herd?
There's new animal welfare regulations for all animals

Look for the pamphlets at your rural supply store or Ask Reg at www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs
The journey continues…

- The next round of regulations is due in 2019/2020 and will apply to surgical and painful procedures
- Emergency management
- Understanding effective behaviour change
- Positive welfare