

31st May 2023
Australian Welfare Task Group Secretariat
E: awtg@agriculture.gov.au

Attention Allison Crook, Chair AWTG

RE: Seeking inclusion on consultation

Dear Ms Crook,

Animal Care Australia (ACA) is a national incorporated association established to consult with government in advocating for real animal welfare by those who keep, breed and care for animals. Our goal is to promote and encourage high standards in all interactions with the animals in our care.

Animal Care Australia is seeking assurances of our inclusion as a stakeholder who are to be consulted during the reviews of all upcoming Model Codes of Practices -Standards and Guidelines.

While Animal Care Australia’s primary care group are animals kept as pets, many members of the public keep livestock as pets and consideration of their capabilities to meet Standards & Guidelines that are predominantly aimed at the commercial keepers of livestock has not been provided within each State & territory. This has resulted in great confusion as to what Codes of Practice are most suited to their individual situation and particularly applies to equine keepers.

Animal Care Australia has contributed to the most recent review: ‘*Review of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock (horses only)*’ and we note a stakeholder reference group is being sought for the ‘*Virtual fencing technology Review*’. We seek to be included in that review and others as listed below:

- Ongoing involvement in the development of the renewed Australian Animal Welfare Strategy
- Review and consider options for the development of national standards and guidelines for animal welfare.
- Review of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock (for all species)
- Review of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep
- Development of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Pigs
- Development of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Horses

Again, Animal Care Australia acknowledges the primary focus of these Codes is for the commercial keeping of each species, however sheep, pigs and horses are kept as pets by many people.

The development of National Standards and Guidelines for Animal Welfare will be of great interest for our organisation as we have seen the incursion of animal rights ideologies at state & territory level, and we would be looking to provide a more balanced input at the national level.

Animal Care Australia is also consulting as part of the development of the National Horse Traceability Register.

We respectfully request your consideration and welcome all opportunities to consult and participate in the reviews and development of each policy.

Please do not hesitate to make contact if we can assist further.

Kind regards,



Michael Donnelly
President
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