

Appendices include concepts and definitions of pain, animal technician courses in New Zealand, and use of an animal welfare score sheet.

This guide to good practice will be an essential introduction for all those using animals for scientific purposes and teaching in New Zealand as it makes clear obligations under various pieces of New Zealand's legislation; for example, regarding transport of animals and their acquisition from other countries. It sets out the important ethical principles such as responsibilities of animal care staff and investigators, measures to minimise harm to welfare, and basic requirements for good husbandry, but is, inevitably, extremely brief on the details of 'good practice' in the day-to-day management of animals. For example, the section on food and water goes little beyond stating that animals should "receive appropriate, uncontaminated and nutritionally adequate food according to accepted requirements for the species" and that food "should be in sufficient quantity and of appropriate composition to maintain normal growth of immature animals or normal weight of adult animals and to provide for the requirements of pregnancy or lactation".

In New Zealand, animal ethics committee approval has to be obtained before any animals can be used in teaching at schools or universities. The guidance provided here sets out principles that should, however, be observed wherever animals are used in teaching.

Good Practice Guide for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching (September 2002) Published by the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee, New Zealand. 45 pp A4 (ISBN 0 478 07683 5). Available from the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee, c/o MAF, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand.

Code of Recommendations for the welfare of pigs in England

Like the new Code of Recommendations for the welfare of cattle (see pp 411–412), the new code concerning the welfare of pigs, issued under Section 3 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, aims to encourage all those who care for farm animals in England to adopt the highest standards of husbandry.

The Code of Recommendations for the welfare of pigs, which incidentally covers all porcine animals kept for farming purposes including wild boars, is divided into two sections. The first contains recommendations for all pigs under the following headings: stockmanship, health, accommodation, feed, water and other substances, and management. The second section concerns recommendations for specific categories of animals: farrowing sows and piglets, weaners and rearing pigs, dry sows and gilts, boars, and pigs kept in outdoor husbandry systems. Appendices are provided on other DEFRA publications relating to pig welfare and on legislation related to pig welfare.

Like the cattle code, the last edition of the code of recommendations for pigs was published in 1983, so this new edition covers a number of new issues reflecting developments in husbandry and understanding of pigs' welfare needs during the past 20 years, and new legal provisions, notably those under the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003. Castration is discouraged: "Stock keepers should consider carefully whether castration is necessary. Castration is a mutilation and should be avoided wherever possible"; and it is recommended that nose ringing be avoided for the same reason. There is a section on environmental enrichment, which includes: "Environmental enrichment provides pigs with the opportunity to root, investigate, chew and play. Straw is an excellent material for environmental enrichment as it can satisfy many of the pigs' behavioural and physical needs. It provides a

fibrous material which the pig can eat; the pig is able to root in and play with long straw; and when used as bedding, straw can provide the pig with physical and thermal comfort.”

Although this code, like that for cattle, makes recommendations rather than specifying legal requirements, the breach of a provision, whilst not an offence in itself, can nevertheless be used in evidence as tending to establish the guilt of anyone accused of the offence of causing unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968.

Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Pigs (March 2003) Published by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. 35 pp A4. Available, free of charge, from DEFRA Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX, UK and via the DEFRA website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk>.