

products to the EC. Furthermore, EC producers could be vulnerable to US competition in dried egg products prior to 2012, when the space requirements change in EC legislation in 2003. However, the report suggests that if EC producers are adequately compensated for the additional costs of welfare, their overall competitiveness should be unaffected. On the other hand, if no support is given, 15 per cent of EC production could be replaced by lower-welfare imports; this percentage could increase as the demand for egg products increases.

Ways of reducing the economic impact of higher welfare standards are then discussed in the document; these include compensation payments, border adjustments, product labelling/marketing, market incentives, conversion of export subsidies, international standards, reducing feed costs, and the introduction of a special safeguard clause for eggs. The report raises some interesting issues and paves the way for further analysis of the costs and difficulties associated with improving standards of animal welfare in a global market place.

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*Hard Boiled Reality — Animal Welfare-Friendly Egg Production in a Global Market* (2001) Report available from the RSPCA, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9RS, UK.

### **General standards for exhibiting animals in New South Wales, Australia**

The Animal Welfare Unit within the New South Wales Department of Agriculture gives specialist advice to the Government of New South Wales on legislation to protect animals from cruelty, ill treatment or danger. The unit also licences and inspects animal research establishments such as universities and pharmaceutical manufacturers and animal exhibits such as zoos and circuses. The unit has produced a set of general standards for exhibiting animals in New South Wales to complement the Exhibited Animals Protection Act. The publication sets out minimum standards for wildlife management. The guidelines cover general standards, nutrition and hygiene, health, husbandry and management, and safety and security.

Part one, entitled 'General', covers a wide range of topics including the manner in which animals are displayed, the provision of climatic shelter, space requirements, structure of enclosures, electrical equipment, drainage and visitor facilities. The second element of the document looks at general aspects of diet, preparation, storage and presentation of food, water provision, waste disposal, infectious diseases, and pest and predator control. Section three includes minimum acceptable standards about health checks and reports, veterinary attention, new arrivals, and procedures regarding the death of an animal. With regard to husbandry and management, part four details standards concerning enclosure design, indoor housing facilities, animal handling techniques, and signage for visitors. Finally, minimum standards regarding safety and security are detailed; subject matter includes construction of enclosures, outer fencing, gates, doors and slides, visitor barriers, warning signs and a section on dangerous animals and drive-through areas.

The manuscript documents minimum standards for a large variety of areas associated with exhibiting animals. It is a comprehensive review of the most important aspects of animal management and may be a useful starting point for exhibitors when creating their own standards. The animal welfare unit has also produced regulations laying down minimum standards for circus animals, carnivores, dolphins, koalas, macropods, raptors and primates.

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*General Standards for Exhibiting Animals in New South Wales, Australia: Exhibited Animals Protection Act* (2001) Publication of the Director-General, NSW Agriculture (pursuant to Clause 8[1] of the Exhibited Animals Act Regulation 1995). Document available at: [www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/1218](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/1218)