

- management practices, etc;
- vi) to deal fairly with members in the dissemination of professional information and advice;
 - vii) to promote public education programmes and cultural recreational activities of zoos and aquaria;
 - viii) to work progressively towards achieving all professional guidelines established by the WZO.

The code further specifies that at all times members will act in accordance with all local, national and international law and will strive for the highest standards of operation in all areas, including the following:

- i) animal welfare – whilst recognizing the variation in culture and customs within which the WZO operates, it is incumbent upon all members to exercise the highest standards of animal welfare and to encourage these standards in others. Training staff to the highest level possible represents one method of ensuring this aim;
- ii) acquisition of animals – all members will endeavour to ensure that the source of animals is confined to those born in captivity and this will be best achieved by direct zoo to zoo contact. This will not preclude the receipt of animals resulting from confiscation or rescues. It is recognized that there is a legitimate need for conservation breeding programmes, education programmes or basic biological studies to obtain animals from the wild. Members must be confident that such acquisitions will not have a deleterious effect upon the wild population.

The WZO has members in zoos from all parts of the world. It acts to help coordinate and promote links between the regional associations of zoos and aquaria (which cover Europe, North and South America, Africa, southeast Asia, and Australia and New Zealand). The agreement of this new code of ethics, which emphasizes commitment to animal welfare, is a good foundation for further work by the WZO in encouraging developments and improvements in zoo animal husbandry around the world.

World Zoo Organization Code of Ethics. 1999. World Zoo Organization Ethics Group. 2pp. A4. Available from: World Zoo Organization, c/o ISIS International Secretariat, 12101 Johnny Cake, Apple Valley, MN 55124, USA (E-mail: secretariat@wzo.org).

New Zealand's new Animal Welfare Act

On 1 January 2000, New Zealand's new animal welfare legislation – the Animal Welfare Act 1999 – came into force. The Act itself, with its accompanying schedules, is 121 pages of, to the non-legal eye, somewhat dense and demanding text. Fortunately, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has published a useful accompanying guide (see below for details) which helps to introduce the Act and explain its rationale, scope and layout. The Act, so the guide tells us, '*is a clear statement to New Zealanders and the rest of the world that animals in New Zealand have a right to expect proper and sufficient care*'.

The new Act was required because, although New Zealand has had balanced and comprehensive legislation on the protection of animals for over 100 years, it was considered that the existing legislation (the Animals Protection Act 1960) no longer met the expectations of New Zealanders or international consumers. The law was reviewed in response to changing practice, advances in scientific knowledge and shifts in society's values. The new Act has a much wider scope than its predecessor. It applies to most animals capable of feeling pain, whether domesticated or wild, and its primary focus has moved from reacting to cases of cruelty to the positive obligations of animal keepers: the prevention of ill-treatment and the responsibility for meeting physical, health and behavioural needs (the five freedoms).

The Act embodies changes in policy in some areas, including the use of animals in research, testing and teaching, the export of animals and the relationship between Government and animal welfare organizations. It sets out the core obligations of people responsible for animals and makes provision for codes of welfare to be used to establish minimum standards and promote best practice. It also establishes two Ministerial advisory committees: the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. One of the roles of the former is to establish welfare codes, and one of the roles of the latter is to advise on ethical issues arising from the use of animals in research, testing and teaching.

The philosophy of the Act is to provide protection to all sentient animals, and it includes within its definition of 'animal' mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and, in contrast to the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, all octopus, squid, lobster and crayfish species, and any other member of the animal kingdom declared by the Governor-General to be an animal for the purposes of the Act. Special protection is given to non-human hominids (gorilla, chimpanzee, orangutan). These animals may not be used for research, testing or teaching except with the approval of the Director-General (the Chief Executive of the Ministry) and only where it is in the best interests of the individual or its species, ie these species may not be used in research for the benefit of humans per se under any circumstances.

The guide provides useful background to aid understanding of, and navigating through, the Act. Animal welfare legislation is developing throughout the world and this new legislation in New Zealand will, no doubt, be of more than just local interest.

Guide to the Animal Welfare Act 1999. December 1999. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Policy Information Paper No. 27. 28pp. A4 paperback. ISBN 0478075510. Available from: the Manager, MAF Information Bureau, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand and on the MAF website at <http://www.maf.govt.nz>.

Trap, Neuter and Return: a Humane Approach to Feral Cat Control

Trap, neuter and return (TNR) is widely recognized as the most humane method of controlling and managing feral cat populations. This training video, made by the US non-profit organization Alley Cat Allies, details the rationale behind TNR and shows a TNR programme being implemented. Most of the points the video seeks to make are put very clearly, and reinforced by on-screen text and relevant footage. The video is primarily aimed at those seeking advice on how to set up and run a TNR programme, and details best practice in a step-by-step manner. Whilst some may have minor quibbles with aspects of the video, eg the promotion of remote box traps over the more selective (but time consuming) manually triggered trap, most would agree that it gives sound and sensible advice. One noticeable omission is that the video comes without supporting notes: however, this information can easily be accessed by anyone able to visit the Alley Cat Allies website (<http://www.alleycat.org>), which contains factual information on all aspects of feral cat management, including rabies control, zoonotic diseases, predation, and guidelines for veterinarians.

Trap, Neuter and Return: a Humane Approach to Feral Cat Control. 1999. Alley Cat Allies – The National Feral Cat Network. VHS (PAL and NTSC) video (42min). Available from: Alley Cat Allies, 1801 Belmont Road, NW Suite 201, Washington, DC 20009, USA. Price US\$16.00.