

Appendix 1. Overview of MAF's Animal Welfare Activities

Purpose

1. This document provides information on MAF's animal welfare activities and resources.

Animal welfare activities and resources

2. The *MAF Animal Welfare Strategy for 2009-2013* describes MAF's animal welfare activities. These include:
 - Supporting the expectations of New Zealand society for the welfare and humane treatment of animals.
 - Administering the Animal Welfare Act 1999 in an effective, responsible and fair manner.
 - Supporting the development of animal welfare standards that address risks to animal welfare and promote improved welfare outcomes.
 - Encouraging voluntary compliance with animal welfare standards and, where necessary, to enforce the law.
 - Contributing to New Zealand's reputation as a trusted and sustainable producer of animals and animal products.

Animal welfare activities are performed across MAF and Biosecurity New Zealand. The main groups and the functions they perform are presented below.

MAF Animal Welfare Directorate

3. MAF's Animal Welfare Directorate has 8.75 FTEs (including the Director). The Directorate develops standards appropriate to society's expectations for the humane treatment of animals. It also provides secretariat and scientific support, and advice for the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) and the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC). It works closely with these committees, and other parts of MAF, to develop codes of welfare and review codes of ethical conduct, as required by the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
4. In addition, the Animal Welfare Directorate focuses on:
 - identifying emerging animal welfare issues and priorities,
 - liaising with New Zealand and international agencies involved in animal welfare, and
 - developing a New Zealand position in relation to animal welfare and international trade.

MAF Enforcement Directorate

5. The Animal Welfare Team in MAF's Enforcement Directorate:
 - responds to complaints about offences against animals,
 - encourages compliance with animal welfare standards and requirements,
 - manages and oversees the mitigation of pain and suffering to animals (where required), and
 - helps to manage MAF's operational relationships with other animal welfare organisations, such as the RNZSPCA.
6. There are 7 FTEs in the MAF Enforcement Animal Welfare Team. Five are based in the North Island and two in the South Island. Of these 7 FTEs, five are full-time animal welfare inspectors who respond to a high number of complaints. These inspectors are supported by a manager and an animal welfare coordinator who are based in Auckland. The team is also supported by seven casual contractors when they are needed and available.
7. There is also a 5 person prosecution team that assists with both Biosecurity and Animal Welfare prosecutions.

MAFBNZ Policy & Risk Directorate

8. MAFBNZ's Policy & Risk Directorate provides policy advice and economic analysis to the Minister and other parts of MAF. This includes developing or amending animal welfare legislation, regulations and standards, including codes of welfare. By following good decision-making processes, the Policy & Risk Directorate helps ensure that animal welfare decisions are based on accurate and timely information. It also helps ensure that scientific, social, cultural, environmental and economic values are taken into account when any decisions are made.
9. MAFBNZ Policy & Risk. has 0.2 FTE Policy Manager and 1.8 FTE Policy Analysts dedicated to animal welfare.

MAF Communications

10. Within the Communications team, one person at 0.5 FTE is assigned to animal welfare issues. This person provides communications support on animal welfare issues for the Director General and other parts of MAF.

MAF funding for animal welfare activities and resources

11. MAF's animal welfare activities are funded from Vote Agriculture and Forestry. For 2009/2010, these activities have been funded as follows:

Activity	Total cost
Animal welfare standards (Animal Welfare Directorate)	\$1,527,000
Animal welfare investigations	\$1,360,000
Animal welfare prosecutions	\$192,000
Animal welfare policy advice (MAFBNZ Policy & Risk)	\$121,000
Total	\$3,200,000

12. The Animal Welfare Directorate provides approximately \$132,000 per year from its budget to the RNZSPCA for the training of their inspectors. In 2009/2010, MAF also reprioritised \$250,000 from its overall budget to fund the RNZSPCA for their increased activities in the rural and animal production sector (in 2008/2009 MAF provided \$300,000).

What external animal welfare resources are available?

13. Inspectors appointed to the RNZSPCA and NZFSA Verification Agency provide additional animal welfare enforcement capability.
14. The RNZSPCA has, over recent times, assumed an increasing role in supporting MAF's activities in the rural and animal production sector. However, RNZSPCA inspectors are also often stretched due to the number of complaints they receive about the treatment of companion animals.
15. NZFSA Verification Agency inspectors assess the welfare of production animals prior to processing. They also provide some on-farm assessment of animal welfare conditions. MAF may at times request the Verification Agency to undertake an initial assessment of complaints if a MAF inspector is not otherwise available.