

regarding beak trimming, velvet antler removal, and the castration and tail docking of pigs can be found.

The legal obligations of those who own or are responsible for animals are set out, with minimum standards that must be met. The Code can be used to assist in prosecution if it can be shown that the minimum standards have not been reached, as well as in the defence against a charge if it can be shown that minimum standards have been adhered to.

The first minimum standard refers to the 'Justification for Painful Procedures'. Alternatives should be sought to the procedures, and also to the farm management systems that necessitate them. The benefit to animal welfare, farm management, animal product or human safety must outweigh the pain and distress a procedure may cause, as judged by the operator. The Code states that "painful husbandry procedures should be looked upon as transitional management practices", and in the long-term the need for them should be removed completely. Next, a minimum standard is set for 'Minimising Harmful Consequences' by acting to limit the pain and distress caused. In particular it is specified that newborn animals should not be operated on. The minimum standard regarding 'Castration and the Shortening of the Scrotum (cryptorchid)' states that pain relief must be used if an animal is over six months old, but that pain relief is required, regardless of age, with the use of high tension bands (although these are not recommended for use on young animals). Lists giving the least to most painful methods of castration for both lambs and calves are provided. Guidance on 'Tail Docking' states that this should only be carried out if it is deemed necessary after careful consideration. Specific guidance is given for cattle and sheep, the latter requiring pain relief if over six months as with castration, but the best practice recommendation is that this should be done by six weeks. The minimum standards also cover disbudding and dehorning. Finally minimum standards for 'operator training, stockmanship and facilities' are described.

**Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005, Code of Welfare No. 7.** ISBN 0 478 29800 5. The Code is available from the Executive Co-ordinator, Animal Welfare, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand. Telephone: +64 4 819 0366; email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz

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### Proceedings of the ISAZ 2004 Conference

A special issue of the journal *Anthrozoös* was published in 2005 which featured papers and posters presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the International Society for Anthrozoology on *Advances in the Science and Application of Animal Training*, organised in conjunction with UFAW. Papers cover a range of welfare-related issues, and include:

- Effects of breed, sex, and neuter status on trainability in dogs. James Serpell and Yuying Hsu;

- What's in a word? A review of the attributes of a command affecting the performance of pet dogs. Daniel Mills;

- Multisensory learning: from experimental psychology to animal training. Candy Rowe;

- The positive aspects of correct negative reinforcement. Andrew McLean;

- Variations in the timing of reinforcement as a training technique for foals (*Equus caballus*). Amanda Warren-Smith, Andrew McLean, Helen Nicol and Paul McGreevy;

- Training of laboratory-housed non-human primates in the UK. Mark Prescott, Hannah Buchanan-Smith and Anita Rennie;

- Can training zoo-housed primates compromise their conservation? A case study using Abyssinian colobus monkeys (*Colobus guereza*). Vicky Melfi and Sian Thomas.

**Anthrozoös Special Issue Proceedings of the ISAZ 2004 Conference Advances in the Science and Application of Animal Training.** 2005. *Journal of the International Society for Anthrozoology* 18(3). ISSN 0892-7936. Published by Purdue University Press, PO Box 388, Ashland, OH 44805, USA. Telephone: 800 247 6553; email: orders@bookmasters.com; website: www.thepress.purdue.edu. ISAZ website: http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAB/isaz.htm

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### New Welfare Guidelines for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys

This updated compendium, produced by the National Equine Welfare Council, sets out to "promote sound welfare and management practices" throughout the equine industry, and provides extensive guidance on all aspects of equine care. Although similar guidelines on the care of agricultural animals are available, equine species are classed as non-agricultural and therefore are not covered by these. Throughout the book relevant legislation is highlighted in the text, and appendices give details of Government Publications, Codes of Practice, Orders and Statutory Instruments, EU Legislation and Governing Bodies. Contact addresses for the Governing Bodies, as well as many other organisations, are given in the 'Useful Contacts' section at the end of the book.

Horse management, including the provision of feed and water are looked at first, followed by a section on health issues. This includes advice on inspection protocols and condition scoring (a graphical representation of which is provided as an appendix for both horses and donkeys). The section on dental care emphasises the importance of annual inspections and also outlines the development of training courses being run by the British Equine Veterinary Association and the Worldwide Association of Equine Dentists. If existing regulations, currently being looked at by Defra, are changed, these courses will qualify suitably trained non-veterinarians to perform an increased range of dental care procedures, including practices that are currently illegal unless performed by a veterinarian. The

section on vaccinations describes the five diseases for which vaccinations are available (influenza, equine herpesvirus, equine viral arteritis, strangles and tetanus), with information about the infectious agent, symptoms, which animals will be most at risk and vaccination programs; there follows a list of notifiable diseases. Details are also given on how to treat casualties, carry out humane destruction and dispose of fallen stock.

The section on management outlines requirements with regard to shelter, horse passports, identification and handling as well as issues relating to fencing, noxious weeds and tethering practices. Pregnancy and foaling are also covered in detail. The section on housing requirements goes into further detail about what kind of space allowances, lighting, ventilation, mechanical equipment and emergency precautions should be in place, and how these should be maintained. This is followed by sections on the export and transportation of horses, and the main body of the book concludes with guidance aimed at those who work with horses in livery yards, riding schools, circuses and entertainment.

**Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys (2nd Edition).** 2005. Copies are available from the National Equine Welfare Council, Stanton, 10 Wales Street, King Sutton, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 3RR, UK. Telephone: 01295 810060; email: [secretary@newc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@newc.co.uk); website [www.newc.co.uk](http://www.newc.co.uk)

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### **UK Working Group Report on Assessing the Welfare of Genetically Altered Mice**

A UK working group established to investigate assessment of the welfare of genetically altered mice published a report detailing their findings and recommendations in April 2006. The term 'genetically altered' (GA) encompasses genetically modified mice and mice generated by mutagenesis (spontaneous and induced). The number of procedures that are carried out on genetically modified animals is increasing each year and the vast majority of these procedures involve mice. Understanding the effects of genetic alterations on the welfare of mice is therefore important from a "scientific, ethical and legal" perspective.

It was found that although GA mice do not necessarily experience compromised welfare, there is the potential for some genetic alterations to result in mice having a predisposition to health and welfare problems. Twelve specific recommendations are made in the report, under two primary themes. First is that a standard welfare assessment scheme should be adopted so that the welfare of all new lines of GA mice is routinely and systematically assessed in a non-invasive way. Any welfare concerns should be recorded and reported appropriately. Second, a 'mouse passport' scheme is proposed, whereby a document

containing information relevant to a particular line of GA mice is compiled and maintained, to be passed to animal care staff when mice are moved between research establishments. Templates for the passport, and for a welfare assessment checklist, are provided as appendices to the report. It is emphasised that information gained from welfare assessments should be disseminated within and between establishments to ensure that husbandry practice and humane end-point decisions can be informed.

**Assessing the Welfare of Genetically Altered Mice Working Group Report.** April 2006. Copies available from the NC3Rs website: [www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=231](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/page.asp?id=231)

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### **European Code of Good Practice for Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Organisations**

A Code of Good Practice for Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Organisations in Europe was launched in March 2006. It is intended for use throughout Europe as a tool for clarifying and implementing good practice, as well as increasing the transparency that exists between the activities of such organisations and the general public. Uptake of the code is voluntary, and it will be updated every two years by the European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders (EFFAB). EFFAB is made up of a number of animal reproduction and selection organisations, and was previously known as the Farm Animal Industrial Platform. These organisations are interested in "pre-competitive research at the European level", and in disseminating information regarding relevant technologies to a wider audience. Areas covered by the code include food safety and public health, product quality, genetic diversity, efficiency, environmental impact, animal health and welfare, and breeding and reproduction technologies. These are arranged in three sections: 'General Statements', 'Sustainability' and 'Technology'. The general statements refer to national and European legislation, biosecurity measures, and animal health and welfare, and organisations must comply with these if they take up the code. The section on sustainability examines all the issues that must be balanced in an economically viable way in order for breeding and reproduction to be sustainable, and finally examples of breeding and reproduction technologies are outlined. These are to be used without reducing the welfare of the animals involved and should be improved upon to increase sustainability.

**Code of Good Practice for Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Organisations.** 2006. European Forum of Farm Animal Breeders. Copies of the code and further information are available on the website: [www.code-efabar.org](http://www.code-efabar.org)

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