

lactation; care of claws and coat; care of older cats; behavioural problems and methods of identification.

The majority of sections are laid out in a format comprising introduction, minimum standard, recommended best practice and general information. The layout is clear and the advice practical, eg suggestions are given when moving home on how best to keep any stress to a minimum. All sections are informative but it is noticeable that some are more thorough and descriptive than others.

It is hoped that this document will offer all those involved with cats practical and helpful advice for caring for their pets as well as laying out minimum standards to ensure compliance with the law. The level of guidance is basic in some areas but the main issues that are important for appropriate cat care and handling are covered and it is therefore a useful and supportive document.

Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007

Drafted by the Deer Industry New Zealand (an organisation responsible for promoting and assisting with the orderly development of the deer industry) the Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007 is intended for all individuals involved with managing and rearing farmed deer. Farmed deer are considered to be all those kept behind any boundary fence, including deer held within game estates or safari parks.

The code is an extensive document that deals with a wide range of considerations for deer husbandry on-farm. Two areas not covered are the removal of velvet and castration of males; these procedures are covered in the Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Deer during the Removal of Antlers, and Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005, respectively.

There are 9 sections to the code and within these sections a total of 15 minimum standards. These standards cover: training; food; water; shelter; handling facilities; holding facilities; restraint and handling practices; restraint equipment; mixing of deer; hard antler; hand-reared fawns; weaning; health; inspections and pre-transport selection.

Many of the sections covering minimum standards are subdivided into several parts and these are then followed by recommended best practices and a useful general information section. For example, within 'Food and Water', feeding is thoroughly covered with 13 suggested best practices and a lengthy general information and feeding management section, including guidance tables showing energy needs for a range of deer in a variety of situations. This section is very comprehensive; especially when considering the comparable UK code of recommendation for the welfare of deer in which feeding and watering is given a scant 6 paragraphs.

The code is helpful and practical and includes a wealth of information (52 pages in all). A high level of emphasis is placed on good stockmanship which, it is acknowledged, relies on a thorough knowledge and understanding of deer and is built upon through experience and training. The behavioural needs of deer are also appreciated and many minimum standards and recommendations to improve deer

welfare are given with these needs in mind, eg following birth fawns must have access to sufficient ground cover for 2 weeks to allow them to express their natural hiding behaviour (Minimum Standard No. 4 – Shelter, part 'c').

Although written for New Zealand farmers it would still be a valuable read for any person interested in, or involved with, deer farming.

Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007 (March 2007) National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. ISBN 978-0-478-29870-3 (print) ISBN 978-0-478-29871-0 (online). 41 pages, A4. Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand and available for download at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/welfare or on request by email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz.

Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007 (May 2007) National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. ISBN 978-0-478-29872-7 (print) ISBN 978-0-478-29873-4 (online). 52 pages A4. Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, New Zealand and available for download at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/codes/welfare or on request by email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz.

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Attitudes of EU citizens towards Animal Welfare

Building on a previous 2005 publication, this report discusses the finding of a survey conducted in Autumn 2006 into the attitude of EU citizens towards the welfare and protection of farmed animals. As with the previous survey, the welfare of farmed animals is reported as something which appears to matter to most EU citizens and one that most felt they knew something about but which the majority would also like to receive more information on. The report also gives some interesting insights into national perceptions that underlie these broad concerns and the extent to which the animal welfare message has been taken up by different countries. As such, for those working in this field, it identifies countries where further activity and educational initiatives are likely to be both welcomed and influential. The report will also undoubtedly inform the future thinking of the European Commission and areas for further activity.

Based on the findings of interviews with 29,152 citizens of the 25 EU Member States and 4 accession and candidate countries, the major themes examined in the report are: 'the importance of animal welfare in the public mind', 'knowledge of animal welfare', 'perceptions of national animal welfare standards', 'the impact of higher animal welfare standards on producers' and 'consumer shopping habits and labelling'. For each, the report discusses the results in terms of the European average before considering a breakdown based on individual country and socio-demographic variables. Cross analyses of the responses against specific questions relating to reported self-knowledge of the conditions under which animals are farmed in the respondent's country, the desire to be more informed about national conditions under which animals are farmed, the

importance of protecting the welfare of farmed animals and the need to improve the welfare protection in the respondent's country is also given for each theme.

A majority of the respondents questioned answered that the protection of the welfare of farmed animals was important to them, with the average rating across all countries being 7.8 out of 10 where 10 is 'very important'. Indeed, over a third of respondents indicated it was the highest importance to them (10/10). The Scandinavian countries – Sweden, Finland and Denmark – all gave above average ratings as did the respondents from Cyprus, Malta and Greece. Lithuania and Spain gave the lowest (6.9/10). The importance of this subject appeared unrelated to social or demographic factors, such as rural living over large towns or political stance. Those who felt most strongly on the issues were those who reported that they knew 'a lot' about farming conditions.

With respect to level of knowledge, 12% of all respondents indicated that they felt they knew 'a lot', while the majority of respondents indicated that they knew 'a little' (57%). Countries which had the highest levels of respondents claiming knowledge were the Nordic, with 9 out of 10 Danes indicating that they possessed at least some knowledge. The country with the lowest level of reported knowledge was Spain, with 49% of those surveyed indicating they knew 'nothing at all' about farming conditions in their country. Malta was the next lowest (45%). The report makes a link between this level of knowledge and the proportion of individuals in these countries who had never visited a farm; respondents from the Nordic countries were more likely than other EU citizens to have done so (90%). In Spain, over 40% indicated that they had not and the figure was as high as 50% in Cyprus and 66% in Greece.

Other findings were as follows: The majority of EU citizens (58%) indicated that they would like to receive more information about farming conditions in their country. Citizens of the Mediterranean States were particularly keen to receive such information, with 85% of Greeks saying they would 'probably' or 'certainly' like to receive such information. Over three quarters of citizens in Portugal, Italy and Cyprus indicated similarly. The Dutch were the least likely to want information, with 69% saying they would 'probably' or 'certainly' not. From the responses the survey characterises countries into four groups, based upon variations from the average: uninformed but interested (Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta); informed but desiring more (Greece, France, Austria, Romania and Croatia); disinterested (Czech Republic, Estonia and Hungary) and those that have reached information saturation point (Denmark, Netherlands, Finland, UK).

Across the EU, the most commonly held perception is that over the past 10 years the protection of farmed animal welfare has improved within the respondents' country (60%). The greatest perceived improvements are in Sweden (79%), Cyprus (77%), Malta (73%) and the Netherlands (71%). Spaniards, Bulgarians and the Irish were most likely

to report that they did not know if there had been an improvement. Demographically, those who reported the most knowledge of farming conditions were also those most likely to indicate that there had been an improvement; a belief the survey attributes to being based on a real knowledge of farming conditions. Nonetheless, 77% of respondents believe that there is a need for further improvements – with over 9 out of 10 Greeks, Cypriots and Portuguese holding this view. Swedes and Finns are least likely to hold this view, with a third believing there is no need for improvement. Farmers (40%) were perceived as being best placed to ensure food products were produced in welfare-friendly ways, with vets (26%), national governments (25%) and animal protection organisations (24%) next highlighted. Given this, it is perhaps unsurprising that 72% of EU citizens agreed that farmers should be financially compensated for any higher production costs linked to farming animals under more welfare-friendly conditions and that 89% of EU citizens believe that food produced outside the EU but imported into it should respect the same conditions of animal-welfare protection as those applied in the EU; a position that may significantly inform and influence future EU regulation in this area.

Attitudes of EU citizens towards Animal Welfare. Special Eurobarometer 270/Wave 66.1: TNS Opinion & Social. European Commission. Available as a pdf download from: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/survey/index_en.htm

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Equine Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain

This report details the ten year Equine Health and Welfare strategy for the horse industry in England and Wales. Backed by the UK Government bodies and leading equine organisations, this strategy seeks to achieve high standards of health and welfare for all horses in Britain, whatever their breed, type or usage and to ensure that everyone responsible for equine health and welfare understands and fulfils their duty of care, as is required by the recently enacted 2006 Animal Welfare Act. The strategy has eight broad aims, including 'Review of health and welfare standards', 'Horse welfare observation arrangements' and 'Research requirements' and a list of action points for each. Tasked with ensuring these are achieved are so-called 'champions', national organisations or bodies who have agreed to take responsibility for delivering each. For example, championing Aim 1, the 'Review of health and welfare standards' is the National Equine Welfare Council who will oversee and report on the achievement of the aim's three action points. Specific details about current position, desired outcome and action in progress against each of the aims' action points are listed in Annexe A of the report. The report states that it "firmly believes" the Strategy will only succeed if everyone involved with equine needs engages with it and works together to achieve its aims, and thus the report