



# Goats

Animal Welfare (Goats)

Code of Welfare 2012



Photo courtesy of Richard Stowers

# **Goats**

## **Animal Welfare (Goats) Code of Welfare 2012**

*A code of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999*

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National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

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## Preface

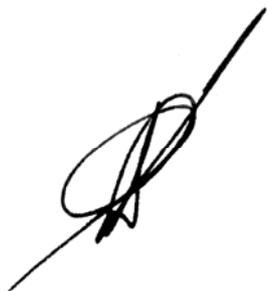
The Animal Welfare Act 1999 came into force on 1 January 2000. It establishes the fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. These obligations are written in general terms. The detail is found in codes of welfare. Codes set out minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of animals. They are developed following an extensive process of public consultation and are reviewed every 10 years, or sooner if necessary.

I recommend that all those who care for animals become familiar with the relevant codes. This is important because failure to meet a minimum standard in a code could lead to legal action being taken.

I issue codes on the recommendation of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The members of this committee collectively possess knowledge and experience in veterinary science; agricultural science; animal science; the commercial use of animals; the care, breeding and management of companion animals; ethical standards and conduct in respect of animals; animal welfare advocacy; the public interest in respect of animals; and environmental and conservation management.

The Animal Welfare (Goats) Code of Welfare 2012 is issued by me, by a notice published in the *Gazette* on 22 March 2012, under section 75 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. This code comes into force on 23 March 2012.

This code is deemed to be a regulation for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989 and is subject to the scrutiny of Parliament's Regulations Review Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Carter', written over a diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the top right.

Hon David Carter  
Minister for Primary Industries

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# **1. Introduction**

## **1.1 What is the purpose of this code of welfare?**

Efficient goat management requires both experience and the observance of high standards of care. Unless management and handling are done well, the welfare of the goats cannot be adequately protected. This code sets out minimum standards that represent society's expectation of that standard of care and that are based on good practice and scientific knowledge. It is intended to encourage all those responsible for its implementation to exceed the minimum standards and to adopt the best industry practices of husbandry, care and handling. Advice is given throughout the code and is designed to encourage owners/operators to strive for a high level of welfare.

## **1.2 Who does this code apply to?**

This code applies to all persons responsible for the welfare of goats. Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 the "owner" of an animal and every "person in charge" of an animal is responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare. Responsibility for meeting minimum standards relating to the provision, design and maintenance of the facilities and equipment, the allocation of operational responsibilities and the competence and supervision of performance of employees, lies with the owner and every person in charge of the goats.

The owner may place the goats in the care of others for purposes such as feeding and management, rearing, breeding, transport or slaughter. Responsibility for meeting minimum standards during the particular tasks lies with the person responsible for carrying out that particular task. In practice, the identification of the person in charge is determined by the minimum standard in question.

## **1.3 What animals does this code apply to?**

This code applies to any goat that is contained for management purposes (e.g. held within any boundary fence), including feral goats after mustering for the purposes of farming or slaughter, goats kept as companion animals (pets), any goat tethered anywhere and goats on game estates or safari parks. This code does not apply to goats defined as "wild animals" by the Wild Animal Control Act 1977. Goats in New Zealand are commonly farmed for the purposes of milk, fibre (mohair and cashmere) and meat production.

## **1.4 What happens if I do not follow the minimum standards in this code?**

Failure to meet a minimum standard in this code may be used as evidence to support a prosecution for an offence under the Animal Welfare Act. A person who is charged with an offence against the Animal Welfare Act can defend himself or herself by showing that he or she has equalled or exceeded the minimum standards in this code. Suggested indicators for the minimum standards do not have a legal effect but they can be used to determine whether minimum standards are being met.

The recommendations for best practice in this code have no legal effect and are included to encourage higher standards of animal welfare.

## **1.5 How does this code relate to other codes of welfare?**

Codes of welfare have been developed, or are being developed, for individual species of animals, painful husbandry procedures, commercial slaughter, and for the transport of animals. Other codes of welfare should be consulted where appropriate (see Appendix IV "Codes of Welfare", to this code and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry website at: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare/)).

## 2. Stockmanship and Animal Handling

Stockmanship and animal handling cover a wide range of skills and personal qualities including having knowledge of animal needs and behaviours, an understanding of the husbandry system and the skills needed to operate within it, a rapport with the animals, an ability to observe them, and skill in the practical aspects of handling, care and manipulation of animals.

### 2.1 Stockmanship

#### *Introduction*

The importance of good stockmanship cannot be over-emphasised. Good stockmanship requires competence, experience and the observance of high standards of animal husbandry. Appropriate knowledge and skills (or ready access to these) are important if the animals' health and welfare requirements are to be met. The knowledge and experience of individuals with livestock and their needs and interests, local climates and weather patterns, topography and shelter and management practices remains one of the prime means of ensuring the welfare of goats is maintained and enhanced.

Owners, managers or persons in charge are required to ensure that their personnel have both the knowledge and training or appropriate supervision so that the health and welfare needs of the goats in their care are met. Personnel should undergo training either formally or on the job by experienced supervisors. Any contract or temporary staff should be trained and competent in the relevant activity.

The owner or person in charge may place the goats in the care of others for the purpose of rearing, breeding, milking, transport or slaughter but this does not absolve them of their responsibility to ensure these tasks are carried out in accordance with this code.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 1 – Stockmanship**

**Goats must be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel, who collectively possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with this code.**

#### ***Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 1 – Stockmanship***

- Goats' health and welfare is in accordance with this code
- Staff training records show that stock handlers and farm managers have completed goat husbandry training courses and/or have had training on the job from supervisors who have competence in the husbandry of the goats within the particular locale and circumstances
- Stock handlers, owners and persons in charge of goats document how they keep up to date with developments in goat husbandry, and review their systems and practices regularly to improve the welfare of goats
- Operational procedures are documented and accurate records are kept of the history of the goats and the treatment that they have received

### **Recommended Best Practice**

Quality assurance programmes should emphasise the importance of staff training to ensure that all staff caring for goats have the knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of animals in their care.

### **General Information**

A number of breed and special interest groups run occasional field days providing training and information on the management of goats kept for different purposes. Details of upcoming field days can be obtained from the internet.

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) also lists a number of training qualifications for stock handlers, some of which include units directly related to specific management practices for goats. These include the National Certificate in Agriculture. Information on these qualifications and accredited training providers is available through the NZQA website: <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/>.

## **2.2 Animal Handling**

### **Introduction**

Goats are intelligent and inquisitive, and are quick to learn new things. A quiet approach when handling goats is important. The amount of stress experienced by the goats and the risk of injury to both goats and their handlers is decreased when good handling facilities are available, as this will reduce the need to apply pressure to move the goats.

### **Minimum Standard No. 2 – Animal Handling**

- (a) Goats must be handled at all times in such a way as to minimise the risk of pain, injury or distress.**
- (b) Goats must not be prodded in sensitive areas, including the udder, eyes, nose, anus, vulva or testicles.**
- (c) Only the minimum force required must be used when moving goats.**
- (d) Electric goads must not be used on goats.**

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 2 – Animal Handling**

- Stock handlers' behaviour towards goats is always patient
- Stock handlers have knowledge of the easiest ways to move goats and do not need to resort to prodding or hitting to make goats move
- Goats are not lifted by the horns
- Stock handlers appreciate how goats may react to and interact with other goats, other animals, humans, strange noises, sights and smells
- Yards and handling systems are designed with knowledge of goat behaviour to ensure that goats will readily move through facilities
- Stock handlers are trained in the use of handling equipment

### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Goats have a strong instinct to herd and individuals should not be unnecessarily isolated. The amount of time that individual goats are kept alone or out of sight of other goats should be minimised.
- (b) Stock handlers should understand and recognise stress factors for goats and take steps to minimise them.
- (c) Aids to facilitate handling of goats, such as vehicles, dogs, sticks and flags (when used as an extension of the arm) should all be used minimally and carefully so as not to distress or injure the goats.
- (d) Tails should not be lifted or twisted when moving goats.
- (e) If it is necessary to use dogs, they should be under control at all times and muzzled where appropriate.
- (f) When performing husbandry procedures on aggressive animals, they should be separated, given additional space and kept in yards for the minimum time necessary to complete the tasks.

### ***General Information***

Human-animal interactions can be enhanced by improving handling procedures and facilities, selecting appropriate animals for the husbandry system, getting them used to human contact, and attending to the skill and training of the handlers.

Knowledge of goats' flight (or safety) zone and the point of balance (the line through the animal's shoulder which determines whether it will move forwards or backwards in the presence of a handler) will help with moving animals and in reducing fear. Animals with large flight zones, such as feral goats, become fearful and agitated when people invade this zone and when they are confined or unable to move away. The size of the flight zone depends on an animal's genotype, its previous contact with people and whether this contact was negative or positive.

Goats that are not accustomed to yarding can become stressed, and those that feel pressured are more likely to bully their herd-mates. Goats with horns present additional risk of injury. These goats require patient handling and plenty of space.

Smothering of goats when yarding is a risk, especially when the goats are not accustomed to routine handling (e.g. feral goats). Goats are also at a particular risk of smothering when contained in groups in confined spaces, when backing boards are used, at pressure points such as gateways and yard corners, or when adults and kids are in the same mob. The risk can be minimised by quiet and patient handling, managing animals in small groups, and by appropriate yard design.

## **2.3 Restraint and Tethering**

### ***Introduction***

The facilities that are available for restraining goats on farm will depend on the farming system used but may include races, backing gates, crushes, cradles and head bails. This equipment can be used to guide a goat in a required direction or to hold it in position to enable efficient examination and treatment. Stock handlers need to be aware that head bails and crushes can cause injury to goats and people if they are not managed properly.

Goats are sometimes tethered or restrained in order to keep areas of land grazed and free of weeds. Goats tethered in this way are usually restrained by a collar or halter and chain or rope. Tethered goats have some particular requirements that must be met in order to ensure that their needs are

satisfied. In addition, the food, water and shelter requirements described in Section 3 Feed and Water and Section 4.1 Shelter, apply to all goats, including tethered goats.

### **Minimum Standard No. 3 – Restraint and Tethering**

- (a) Equipment used for restraining goats must be fit for purpose and applied in such a manner that stress and risk of injury to the goat are avoided.**
- (b) Methods of mechanical restraint must allow for the animal to be released quickly.**
- (c) Goats that are restrained by tethering must be:**
  - (i) placid and trained to the conditions;**
  - (ii) provided with constant access to palatable water, sufficient food and effective shelter;**
  - (iii) able to walk and move around without undue hindrance; and**
  - (iv) inspected at least once every 12 hours.**
- (d) Kids, sick goats, pregnant or nursing does, or goats physiologically compromised in any other way must not be tethered.**
- (e) Tethers used on goats on roadside verges must prevent goats from getting into the path of vehicles.**

#### ***Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 3 – Restraint and Tethering***

- Maintenance of goat restraint equipment is up-to-date and recorded, and there are no protruding parts or sharp-edged parts on the equipment that might injure goats
- If any difficulty is encountered when restraining a goat (e.g. the goat panics, is distressed, or is at risk of sustaining injury to itself), it is released quickly
- Collar is made of leather, nylon or other pliable and durable material
- Goats that are tethered are calm and have been trained as kids to accept approach and handling by humans, and have been trained to accept tethering after weaning, but before one year of age
- Where a goat is on a roadside verge, the placement of the anchor and length of tether is such that the goat cannot get into the path of vehicles but the tether is of sufficient length that the goat is able to exercise and access sufficient amounts of feed
- Sites that are to be used for tethering goats are examined beforehand for potentially harmful objects that a goat could eat such as toxic plants or litter, and for objects or vegetation that might snag or catch on the tether or collar and prevent the animal's movement
- Tethered goats have access to suitable shelter and are not showing signs of cold stress
- Food and water requirements of restrained (including tethered) goats are met according to food and water minimum standards and indicators (see Section 3 Feed and Water)
- Tethered goats have the ability to walk and move around within the constraints of the tethered range

### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Goats should be kept in herds, or at least with one social companion. If this is not possible, goats should be kept where they can see or hear other goats (or other animals).
- (b) Stock handlers should be trained in the safe operation and rapid release of goats from restraints and facilities.
- (c) Backing gates should be used carefully and should not be used in a manner likely to result in pain, injury or distress.
- (d) Goats should not be tethered as they are social animals.
- (e) Chains should not be used as a collar for goats.
- (f) Tripod collars or hobbles should not be used to limit a goat's ability to move.

### ***General Information***

Goats are social animals and need to be provided with one or more companions. While interaction with humans (in the case of pet goats) may provide a substitute for some of their social and behavioural needs, the welfare of goats that are tethered on their own is compromised. Providing a goat with the company of other goats is preferable, however, goats can also live with companions such as sheep, cows or horses. If it is not possible to keep a goat in a herd with social companions, providing goats with the opportunity to see or hear other goats (or other animals) can provide some welfare benefits. When tethering goats in close proximity to other tethered goats, they need to be a sufficient distance away from each other so that the tethers cannot become entangled.

When tethering goats, the use of an aerial running line, in which the chain of the tether is attached to an aerial wire or rope so that the goat can move along the line, can be beneficial and provide a goat with additional space in which to exercise and access feed.

## **2.4 Mustering and Droving**

### ***Introduction***

The mustering and droving of extensively managed or feral goats has the potential to significantly affect their welfare. The handler's skill lies in understanding the behaviour of the animals and adapting their own behaviour (and that of any dogs) in a way that facilitates mustering while minimising stress to the animals. Mustering is best undertaken as slowly and as quietly as possible, although it is recognised that certain categories of goats, e.g. feral goats, will require more encouragement than those more familiar with human contact. Knowledge of camping (resting) areas, grazing patterns and movement routes and times will facilitate the mustering of feral goats.

### **Minimum Standard No. 4 – Mustering and Droving**

**Goats being moved on foot must not be forced to proceed at a pace likely to cause exhaustion, heat stress or injury.**

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 4 – Mustering and Droving**

- Goats are calm and move steadily when mustered
- The pace of mustering or droving is that of the slowest animals in the mob, with particular attention given to kids, goats that are pregnant and those with illness or injury
- If any goat being mustered or driven is seen to have difficulty breathing (mouth open and tongue hanging out) then it is allowed to rest and recover
- Goats are settled and calm when they reach the destination yard, with little bullying
- When injuries occur while mustering, goats receive immediate care and attention

### **Recommended Best Practice**

After mustering or droving, animals should be provided with suitable conditions and time to settle down, mother up or find shelter before further handling takes place or before the onset of darkness.

### **General Information**

Goat farmers/handlers need to be aware of their responsibilities and liabilities with regard to council regulations and road rules when undertaking stock movement activities.

## **2.5 Mixing Goats**

### **Introduction**

Goats like to live in groups in which they establish social hierarchies. Whenever animals are introduced into a herd, they will be challenged as newcomers and will have to establish their place in the group. These challenges can be aggressive and lead to injury and distress, especially where goats have horns. Such behaviour needs to be managed and this is particularly important when introducing young goats into a herd for the first time.

Bucks are potentially dangerous at all times and especially during the mating season. Bucks need to be handled with special care to ensure their own safety and that of other animals.

### **Minimum Standard No. 5 – Mixing Goats**

**Where goats are mixed, they must be managed to minimise the effects of aggression.**

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 5 – Mixing Goats**

- Sufficient space is provided to enable bullied goats to move away from their aggressor
- Goats subjected to persistent bullying are removed from the herd
- Particular care is taken when mixing horned goats

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) The introduction of new animals to the herd should not occur more frequently than necessary, because of the social distress involved while the introduced and resident goats re-establish a hierarchy.

- (b) Goats should be provided with sufficient space so that newcomers can move into free space if pushed or bunted by other animals.

***General Information***

Goats with horns are at a distinct advantage during social challenges and can inflict serious injuries. This is more likely to happen when animals are being yarded or space is restricted. It is preferable that dairy goats are disbudded to limit the opportunity for injury from horns (for further information on disbudding see the Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005). Running goats together in mobs of similar ages will also reduce the impact of social bullying on younger goats.

### 3. Feed and Water

#### 3.1 Food

##### *Introduction*

When considering the amount of food, nutrients and water that a goat requires, a number of different factors need to be taken into account e.g. age, physiological state (growing, pregnant, lactating), and weather conditions.

Feed requirements vary throughout the year, but are generally greatest during lactation, late pregnancy, growth, during periods of excessive cold and following shearing. Pregnant does are especially vulnerable following winter shearing, as are cashmere goats with limited opportunity for hair regrowth, and may require increased feeding for up to six weeks following shearing. Nutritional requirements are best determined by monitoring body condition and liveweight.

Plants, including pasture and browse, are the main source of feed for goats in New Zealand farming systems. There is considerable variation in pastoral management systems associated with seasonal and climatic differences, land and soil types, and whether the system is extensive or intensive.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 6 – Food**

- (a) Goats of all ages must receive sufficient quantities of food and nutrients to enable each animal to:**
  - (i) maintain good health;**
  - (ii) meet their physiological requirements; and**
  - (iii) minimise metabolic and nutritional disorders.**
- (b) If any goat shows signs of emaciation, or if the body condition score of any individual goat (other than kids or yearlings) falls below 2 (on a scale of 0–5), urgent remedial action must be taken to improve condition or the animal must be destroyed humanely.**
- (c) Automated feeding systems must be checked at least once every 24 hours to ensure they are in working order and any problems rectified promptly.**

#### ***Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 6 – Food***

- Goats are given sufficient daily feed to maintain appropriate body condition
- Any goat at a body condition score less than 2 is identified and receives appropriate remedial action through improved nutrition, husbandry practice, veterinary attention, or is culled from the herd
- Recently shorn goats are provided with additional feed
- Staff understand and ensure that they quickly identify, seek advice on and remedy:
  - Nutritional deficiencies and metabolic diseases
  - Conditions that might arise from faulty feeding such as poisoning, rumen acidosis or metabolic disturbance and have the resources to prevent or manage these conditions
- Any automated feeding system supplies the correct amount of feed when tested

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Body condition score at kidding should be at least 3 but not obese (BCS 5), to minimise kidding and metabolic problems.
- (b) Goats should be maintained within the range of body condition scores 2 to 4 inclusive.
- (c) Female goats should be well fed to meet pregnancy requirements, and in summer and autumn to meet lactational and/or fibre growth demands and to ensure that they are in good body condition prior to winter.
- (d) Growing goats should be well fed in all seasons to realise their growth and future production potential.
- (e) When browse and pasture growth are not adequate, alternative or supplementary feed should be provided.
- (f) Changes in diet should be introduced gradually over several days, especially if feeding grain and/or other readily fermentable carbohydrates. This will allow rumen bacteria to adjust and thus prevent digestive problems and reduce the risk of death through grain poisoning (acidosis).
- (g) Feeding methods should be designed to reduce fouling and wastage.
- (h) Measures should be taken to minimise access of goats, and particularly pregnant does, to toxic plants and noxious or harmful materials including:
  - (i) most ornamental garden plants
  - (ii) toxic weeds such as ragwort and tutu (although these may be tolerated in small quantities, meaning that goats may be used in weed control programmes provided they have choice and are not forced to consume excessive amounts)
  - (iii) lead-based paints and toxic timber preservatives
  - (iv) electrical fittings and materials used in buildings such as plastics and papers
  - (v) loose fencing wire
  - (vi) twine and plastic wrap, such as baleage wrapping.
- (i) When feeding brassicas and/or concentrates, a supplementary source of roughage such as hay, barley straw, silage or baleage should be added to the diet to aid proper digestion.
- (j) Goats maintained for long periods of time on diets containing a high proportion of grain should receive appropriate dietary supplementation to ensure they maintain levels of essential vitamins and minerals.
- (k) Supplementary feeds should be conserved and stored in a way that feed quality is preserved, mould-growth is inhibited and contamination by rodents, birds and cats is prevented.
- (l) Mould-contaminated or excessively dusty supplementary feeds should not be fed to goats.
- (m) Animals in ill-health, poor condition, late pregnancy or early lactation should not be deprived of food for longer than 12 hours.

### **General Information**

Regular body condition scoring is an important management tool. Body condition scoring is a useful method of assessment to determine whether animals are receiving adequate nutrition (Appendix I). Hair and fleece may hide body contours, especially in fibre goats, so goats must be handled and the bony points of the ribs, backbone and pelvis palpated for accurate assessment of body condition.

Where animals are housed or fed supplements, herd hierarchy and bullying can limit access of individual goats to feed. This can be dealt with by appropriate design and management (e.g. by segregating animals or providing extra feeder space). Human intervention may be required to ensure all goats have access to feed.

Goats can gain significant condition (1.0 - 1.5 points) on spring and early summer grass and so individuals with access to large amounts of grazing at this time need to be monitored to ensure they do not become obese. Pregnant does may lose body condition during late pregnancy and early lactation and so care needs to be taken to ensure that they are receiving adequate nutrition at this time.

Goats have a high requirement for minerals, especially selenium and iodine.

Goats may be reluctant to leave shelter for extended periods during wet weather so it may be necessary to provide additional supplement feed that the goats can obtain without leaving their shelter. Goats will also not eat muddy or contaminated feed or pasture, and so care needs to be taken to ensure that the available feed is clean.

Many feedstuffs can constitute a danger to animal health. Goats prefer to browse and this may reduce their internal parasite burden, but they will readily eat many toxic plants. Stock handlers need to be aware of the possible dangers such as frothy bloat, nitrate poisoning, effects of toxic plants (including garden prunings), rumen acidosis, choke and the effects of fungal or bacterial contamination of feed.

## 3.2 Water

### *Introduction*

The provision of an adequate supply of water is critical for maintaining goat health and welfare. Water needs for different classes of goats vary widely, and there is seasonal variation as well. If water needs are not met then animal health and welfare both deteriorate.

### **Minimum Standard No. 7 – Water**

- (a) All goats must have access daily to a reliable supply of drinking water that is palatable, sufficient for their needs, and not harmful to their health.**
- (b) In the event of a water delivery system failure, remedial action must be taken to ensure that daily water requirements are met.**
- (c) Any goats retained in yards or barns for longer than 12 hours must have access to drinking water.**
- (d) The water delivery system must be at a height that is accessible to all goats being supplied.**

### *Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 7 – Water*

- Goats are provided with sufficient water
- Water quality is monitored and does not contain any contaminants at a level harmful to the health of goats

- The water reticulation system provides a sufficient volume of water to meet the daily needs of the goats, is monitored and maintained efficiently, and any failure is rectified immediately
- Yards and barns where goats are retained for periods of 12 hours or longer have an adequate water supply to meet the goat's requirements
- The height of troughs and drinkers ensure that goats do not suffer any injuries or distress, and the smallest goat in any herd can reach the water supply

### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Watering facilities should be designed to reduce fouling and wastage.
- (b) Troughs should be cleaned regularly and often to ensure that water is available and uncontaminated.
- (c) Goats held in yards and barns for longer than six hours should have access to drinking water.

### ***General Information***

Water and shade needs increase when goats are grazing dry summer pastures and during drought, especially for young and light-weight goats.

Appropriate water allowance varies with animal size, diet and lactational state. When planning water for dairy goats, ensure that the reticulation system can provide nine litres/head/day. Goats drink less water than sheep when shade is provided, but in the absence of shade they will drink more.

Young goats and kids will often mistakenly jump into troughs during play. Deep troughs may be covered to prevent such accidents. Concrete blocks or bricks can be placed in the trough to enable any goat that falls in to escape.

## 4. Shelter and Housing Facilities

### 4.1 Shelter

#### *Introduction*

Goats do not possess the ability to withstand cold conditions to the same extent as other species of livestock due to a different distribution of fat and consistency of their coat. Goat farmers in New Zealand therefore need to be aware of the animal welfare implications of inadequate shelter, and develop management plans to provide shelter in adverse weather and after shearing to prevent heat and cold stress.

New Zealand pastoral systems may be exposed to the effects of the weather: heat, cold, rain, snow, and wind. While goats are resilient to cold temperatures when conditions are dry, occasions arise when weather extremes can cause stress and goats are particularly prone to hypothermia when conditions are wet. Shelter can also be important when environmental conditions are not extreme. Goats seek shelter for kidding and to hide their young, and a goat that is ill may separate itself from its group to seek protection in a sheltered area.

#### *Signs of cold and heat exposure in goats*

Early signs of significant cold exposure in goats include behavioural changes such as seeking shelter, facing away from the wind or rain with the back hunched, heads down, not eating, shivering, and huddling together. Where animals are exposed to cold conditions with which they cannot cope, their core body temperature drops below the normal range (hypothermia). As hypothermia progresses, animals become depressed and listless and may die. Such depression and listlessness indicates the need for urgent remedial action.

When goats are exposed to conditions that cause heat stress, they will try to find relief in a number of ways. These include increased respiration rate, reduced grazing activity, seeking shade, and increased water consumption. If the heat load continues to rise, animals will progress to open mouth panting with tongues extended when severe. Fibre goats in heavy fleece are more susceptible to heat exposure.

Effective shelter at stock level may be provided in a number of ways including the use of topographical features such as caves and overhangs, gullies or hollows of adequate depth, natural features such as stands of trees or scrub, hedges, shelter belts or thickets of plants like pampas and gorse. Alternatively, artificial structures such as field shelters, buildings or hay stacks can be used. Shelter needs to have the effect of providing goats with the ability to stay dry, to get off wet ground and to get out of the wind.

Management plans for dealing with stressful climatic events include ensuring that goats are in good physical condition to withstand periods of stress and by providing additional feed of appropriate type, e.g. increased roughage to help generate rumen heat and relieve cold stress.

Special attention is needed for:

- newborn kids
- newly-shorn goats – especially cashmere-bearing goats
- does close to kidding and at kidding
- lactating does
- animals in ill-health or stressed from other causes
- goats in areas subject to extreme weather

## Minimum Standard No. 8 – Shelter

- (a) All goats must have access to shelter to reduce the risks to health and welfare caused by exposure to cold or heat.
- (b) Goats close to kidding must be provided with effective shelter to shield the dam and newborn kid from weather conditions.
- (c) Very young kids that have been removed from their mothers for hand rearing must be provided with shelter at all times.
- (d) Newly shorn goats must be provided with extra feed and effective shelter until their fleece has regrown sufficiently to provide some protection.
- (e) Where animals develop problems associated with exposure to adverse weather conditions (including adverse heat or cold), priority must be given to remedial action that will minimise the consequences of such exposure.

### *Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 8 – Shelter*

- There is sufficient accessible shelter available for all goats in the event of adverse weather
- Newborn kids being hand-reared are provided with shelter and additional warmth (e.g. with a heat lamp) where conditions are cold
- Sick goats, kids being hand-reared and goats after shearing have access to shelter during inclement weather
- Where environmental conditions are such that goats start to develop signs of cold stress (e.g. shivering and huddling), immediate action is taken to move goats to effective shelter and provide additional feed, and their condition is monitored until it improves
- Where environmental conditions are such that goats start to develop signs of heat stress (e.g. open mouth panting with tongues extended), immediate action is taken to provide goats with more appropriate shade, and their condition is monitored until it improves
- Planning for shearing includes planning the feed supply and shelter required to meet the goat's additional energy requirements and to ensure that all goats can maintain their body temperature until their fleece has sufficiently regrown
- Goats receive additional inspections when adverse weather occurs after shearing

### *Recommended Best Practice*

- (a) Activities such as mustering, prolonged yarding and transportation should be avoided in hot, sunny and humid conditions likely to result in heat stress.
- (b) Timing of shearing should be managed to minimise the risks associated with bad weather.
- (c) To reduce the animal welfare impact of drought, floods and storms farmers should have an emergency response plan in place that will ensure that they can continue to meet their obligations under this code should any of these environmental extremes eventuate.

### *General Information*

Unweaned kids that are being hand-reared can usually be protected from the effects of adverse weather by housing with dry bedding in a well ventilated building without draughts. Where kids are

suckling from a doe, shelter should be provided so that the doe can ensure that the kid is situated in a sheltered area.

While hypothermia is generally not a problem for a well fed doe with normal hair and fleece cover, it may be a problem for both does and kids when kidding occurs in cold, wet or windy weather. Newborn, wet or sick kids, and those that have been transported or deprived of food, are particularly vulnerable and need to be managed accordingly. Goats up to yearling age are more susceptible to cold than adults. Adult goats can also experience hypothermic stress during cold or wet weather, especially after shearing or if they are thin or unhealthy.

Caution is required where bad weather is prolonged over a number of days, as animals will remain in shelter for extended periods and may not eat, thus increasing the risk of hypothermia.

Subordinate goats may be evicted from housing or shelter by dominant goats. All goats need access to sufficient shelter.

Protection can be provided by the appropriate use of covers, especially for sick animals and kids. Covered animals may be bullied and will need to be monitored. Horned goats may get their horns tangled in covers, and so will need to be monitored and separated if necessary. When covering kids, stock handlers need to ensure that the doe recognises and accepts the kids for feeding.

While ambient temperature and humidity are important factors contributing to heat stress, solar radiation is a major factor contributing to heat loading, especially in dark-coated animals. This is effectively reduced by shade. A substantial increase in body temperature may occur during mustering or when walking long distances on hot days. When goats are yarded in conditions that are hot and dusty there is an increased risk of an outbreak of enzootic pneumonia (a specific pneumonia condition that is linked to handling/management, especially associated with mustering). Shade is especially important to help mitigate this risk.

Information on preparing for emergencies and adverse events can be obtained from Federated Farmers, industry organisations, MAF, local or national goat associations, farm management professionals or veterinarians.

## 4.2 Farm Facilities

### *Introduction*

Farm facilities include fences, gates, holding pens, internal yards, and additional areas such as a milking parlour or shearing facility, depending upon the nature of the goat production system. The proper construction, maintenance and operation of farm facilities are important to facilitate management and provide a safe and hygienic environment for procedures such as milking and shearing. Careful planning and design will assist movement of animals and minimise stress of both animals and handlers.

### **Minimum Standard No. 9 – Farm Facilities**

- (a) All facilities must be designed, constructed, maintained and operated in a manner that minimises the likelihood of distress or injury to animals.**
- (b) All electrical fittings and attachments to mains voltage must be out of reach of goats, or protected from interference or damage by goats.**
- (c) Floors must be constructed of a non-slip material.**

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 9 – Farm Facilities**

- The design and construction of facilities encourages the free movement of goats, enables them to walk comfortably, and prevents injury, crowding or smothering
- Stock handlers are trained and familiar with the operation of farm facilities and understand how incorrect operation may affect the goats in their care
- Floor surfaces are not slippery
- The farm maintenance programme ensures that problems such as damaged flooring, protrusions and sharp objects are removed or repaired in a timely manner
- Where injuries related to facilities occur, the reason is determined and the problem rectified
- There are no toxic health remedies, toxic materials, power cables or fittings in areas to which goats have access
- If sheep and cattle facilities are used, they are adapted to suit goats

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Loading ramps should be constructed with non-slip footing and have side-boards or rails to prevent animals falling off or getting their legs trapped.
- (b) Netting fences that allow goats with horns to become trapped should not be used.
- (c) Excrement should not be permitted to accumulate to an extent that it poses a threat to the health and welfare of goats.
- (d) Toxic paint and timber preservatives should not be used on surfaces or floors that are accessible to goats.
- (e) Any mechanical equipment used in the handling and management of goats should be maintained in sound working order.
- (f) Goat shearing facilities should be designed, constructed, maintained and located in a way that ensures shearing can be conducted in an environment that maximises safety and minimises stress for the animals, shearers and staff.

### **General Information**

Information on the construction and maintenance of farm facilities for goat milk production is available in the *Farm Dairy Code of Practice* (NZCP1) and the *Approved Criteria for Farm Dairies* (DPC2), which can be viewed at <http://foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/>.

## **4.3 Housing for Goats**

### **Introduction**

In New Zealand, many dairy goats are housed full-time in barns and pasture can be “cut and carried” to the animals. While barns provide shelter from inclement weather, the main reason for this practice is to control internal parasites. In these situations animals are totally dependent on their handlers for all their daily requirements, welfare and safety, and farmers need to be aware there are additional responsibilities of care.

The well-being of the animals needs to be a key consideration when goat housing systems are designed and constructed. Does and kids require accommodation that is dry, well ventilated and

draught-free. The optimal space allowances for housed animals vary depending on whether goats receive some or all of their feed supply in the housing area. The important factor is to allow enough area per goat to ensure that they all have the opportunity for adequate rest.

Goats prefer to lie on soft surfaces and are reluctant to lie down when the surface is slippery or wet. If the surface type and area per goat are not adequate there will be reduced lying times, underfeeding and an increased incidence of disease.

### **Minimum Standard No. 10 – Housing for Goats**

- (a) Goats must be able to lie down and rest comfortably for a sufficient time each day to meet their behavioural needs.**
- (b) Group housed goats must be able to stand, move about and lie down without undue interference from each other.**
- (c) Bedding must be of good quality material, friable, and with minimal risk of toxic agent contamination.**
- (d) Goats must be inspected at least once a day in the housing area for signs of discomfort or distress.**
- (e) Ventilation control or other measures must ensure that housed goats do not become overheated or cold stressed and prevent a build up of harmful concentrations of gases such as ammonia and carbon dioxide.**
- (f) Immediate and appropriate action must be taken to reduce ammonia levels if they exceed 25ppm at goat level.**
- (g) Goats must be managed in groups of suitable size and age and with regard to whether they have horns, to minimise injuries resulting from aggressive behaviour.**
- (h) Goats must not be released from prolonged periods indoors without ready access to shelter and shade.**
- (i) Goats must be provided with natural or artificial light of appropriate intensity for a minimum of nine hours each day.**

### ***Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 10 – Housing for Goats***

- Goats are all able to lie down and rest simultaneously
- At least 2 m<sup>2</sup> of space is provided per individual mature housed goat
- Bedding materials are dry and comfortable for goats to lie on
- Humidity, dust, temperature or ammonia (as detected by smell) are kept within acceptable levels
- Immediate corrective action is taken where ammonia levels are 25ppm or greater (by increasing ventilation, reducing litter moisture or reducing stocking density) and instances where this has occurred are documented
- Waste food and contaminated bedding material does not accumulate to an extent that it poses a threat to the health and welfare of the animals (e.g. wet, mouldy or noxious)
- Where thermal stress occurs it is immediately remedied
- Goats do not show signs of excessive bullying such as bite marks on ears and hocks, bare skin patches or ill-thrift

- Group composition and size is organised to avoid excessive bullying
- Inspections of goats show minimal signs of discomfort, distress or disease (e.g. sneezing, coughing, heavy breathing, runny noses or eyes)
- When goats that have been housed indoors for long periods of time are released, they are provided with shelter in weather conditions that are likely to result in heat stress, cold stress or sunburn
- Contingency plans are in place for dealing with any hazards or emergencies and incorporate the ability to rapidly release goats into a secure environment

### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Emergency response plans should be in place for potential hazards, and all stock handlers should be aware of these plans and the routines required to ensure the safety and welfare of goats and handlers in an emergency, e.g. evacuation plans.
- (b) Feeding and watering systems should be constructed to be readily accessible, prevent competition and take into account the feed, stock type and size of the enclosure.
- (c) The bedding area should be dry and covered with material to provide a comfortable resting surface.
- (d) A minimum space allowance of 3 m<sup>2</sup> per mature goat should be provided to reduce the chance that underfoot conditions become wet.
- (e) Ammonia levels should not exceed levels of 10ppm at ground level.
- (f) During inspection periods, natural or artificial light of at least 50 lux should be available at the level of resting goats in loafing barns and houses.
- (g) A feeding space/trough width of 40cm per adult goat should be allowed when all goats need access to feed. If food is continually available then space may be less.
- (h) A separate pen should be provided to hold and treat unwell or injured goats until recovery, or to house goats that persistently bully other goats or are persistently bullied by other goats.
- (i) Environmental enrichment should be used by making 'toys' available such as boxes or rocks on which the goats can climb, or by providing positive human contact or a radio to accustom goats to a range of noises and voices.
- (j) Goats that are unfamiliar to each other should be monitored when mixed, to ensure that fighting is kept to a minimum.

### ***General Information***

As a guide, a level of 10 – 15 ppm of ammonia in the air can be detected by smell and an ammonia level over 25 ppm may cause eye and nasal irritation in people. In general, if the level of noxious gases within a housing facility is uncomfortable for people, it will be uncomfortable for goats. Such levels compromise animal welfare and may predispose goats to respiratory disease and reduced performance.

The material used as bedding, or on surfaces and flooring, for goats needs to be chosen with the aim of minimising the presence of toxic chemicals that could be poisonous to goats (e.g. timber preservatives, some paint) or materials that could cause irritation of the skin (e.g. rimu sawdust).

As a guide, 50 lux is sufficient light to read a newspaper at arm's length.

Signs of bullying include bite marks on ears and hocks, bare skin patches and ill-thrift. These are also an indication that goats do not have good access to feed. Excessively bullied goats will tend to remain outside of the main group.

Care is required where hand-reared kids are group housed as they often crowd together, which can result in smothering of the kids. To help prevent this, corners need to be screened from the pen and if providing an external source of heat, e.g. a heat lamp, measures need to be taken to ensure that kids cannot crowd below the heat source.

## 5. Husbandry Practices

### 5.1 Kidding Does

#### *Introduction*

Kidding is a critical period for the welfare of both doe and kid. Potential compromises to animal welfare at this time are diverse and include feeding levels during pregnancy, disturbance from other animals and humans, predisposition to dystocia (difficulties during birthing), the weather and available shelter. The appropriate level of supervision will differ depending whether does are intensively or extensively managed.

Domestication of the goat has meant that stock handlers have to balance the natural tendencies of goats to give birth undisturbed and often in isolation, with any requirements to assist with difficult births. The requirements of does during kidding may also vary between breeds with some breeds being more likely to exhibit problems during kidding than others. Disturbing or providing assistance to does that are farmed extensively or with minimal intervention may lead to the doe deserting the offspring.

Nutrition around the kidding period is especially important (see Section 3 Feed and Water). Trace element and mineral status need to be considered, as well as feed quality and quantity.

#### **Minimum Standard No. 11 – Kidding Does**

- (a) Intensively farmed goats must be inspected frequently before and after kidding to ensure that they are not experiencing difficulties.**
- (b) If any doe is having difficulty kidding and the stock handler is unable to resolve the problem, expert advice must be sought as soon as possible, or the animal humanely destroyed.**
- (c) Excessive traction must not be used to kid any doe.**

#### ***Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 11 – Kidding Does***

- Mortality rates (kids and does) are documented and minimised
- Sufficient staff with appropriate training are available to inspect animals around the time of kidding
- Farm routines show that inspections occur at least twice every 24 hours in intensive farming situations, that inspection results are analysed and necessary changes are incorporated into future planning
- Stock handlers have knowledge of kidding problems and how to correct them and have appropriate equipment to assist kidding does
- Stock handlers have knowledge of how to access expert advice, and such advice is available and is sought when required

#### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Where animals are unaccustomed to daily supervision such as in extensive systems, breeds or strains suited to easy births and good maternal care should be used. In more intensive systems, where animals are habituated to the presence of humans and management activities,

assistance should be provided to animals experiencing difficulties without unduly disturbing others giving birth in the vicinity.

- (b) Easy-kidding sires should be selected for goatling mating as large kids can cause significant injuries to small does.
- (c) Goats close to kidding should be inspected frequently; preferably at least every 6 hours.
- (d) Kidding paddocks should provide dry ground, shelter and protection from adverse weather.
- (e) Does that have been trying to kid for more than 1 hour without progress should be given assistance or veterinary help (kidding in this context means vigorous abdominal straining).
- (f) To minimise the potential for damage to either doe or kid, controlled traction should only be used if the operator has diagnosed an unrestricted birth canal and the kid is in the normal position for delivery and should be conducted with plenty of lubrication. The amount of traction used should be no more than a single person can apply.

### **General Information**

The important features to be taken into consideration when deciding to assist a doe to kid are:

- an assessment of the size and number of kids, and whether they are alive and in the correct orientation for delivery;
- an assessment of doe health and condition; and
- the amount and direction of traction, which alters as the kid enters and passes through the pelvic canal.

## **5.2 Hand Rearing and Fostering Kids**

### **Introduction**

Newborn and young animals are particularly vulnerable to negative welfare outcomes resulting from adverse environmental conditions and poor management. Consequently, all kids require special attention to ensure they are healthy and to allow their individual needs to be assessed.

In dairying systems, kids are removed from their mothers at a young age. Consideration of the health of the doe, the effects of early weaning on her welfare and the need to be milked regularly are referred to in Section 5.3 Lactating Does and Milking Systems.

Good management of young kids is essential for their welfare. Some are destined to only live a few days before they are killed, but that does not remove the obligation to manage them to the same standard as every other animal on the farm.

Kids from meat or fibre goats that are rejected by their mothers or orphaned may be fostered onto nurse does, hand fed or humanely destroyed.

Colostrum is the first milk produced by the doe after kidding and contains special nutrients and antibodies that are essential to protect the kid from disease. The newborn kid absorbs antibodies from colostrum, but begins to lose this ability from about six hours after birth. In addition, the concentration of antibodies in the colostrum diminishes rapidly after the doe has kidded and is reduced markedly after two milkings.

A newborn kid does not have a functional rumen, and therefore needs to be given liquid feeds until the rumen has developed sufficiently to allow it to utilise solids as its sole source of nutrition.

## Minimum Standard No. 12 – Hand Rearing and Fostering Kids

- (a) Premature kids that are unlikely to survive, and kids that have debilitating congenital defects, must be humanely destroyed immediately.
- (b) Kids must be handled and moved in a manner that minimises distress and avoids injury or suffering.
- (c) Newborn kids must receive sufficient colostrum or a good quality commercial colostrum substitute.
- (d) Hand-reared kids must be given suitable liquid feeds until the rumen has developed sufficiently to allow it to use solids as the sole feed source.

### *Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 12 – Hand Rearing and Fostering Kids*

- Planning for kidding includes ensuring that stocks of colostrum or a suitable substitute are on hand to supplement kids if necessary
- Stock handlers' behaviour towards kids is patient
- Stock handlers understand the importance of colostrum and are trained to provide it when a kid has not received it in sufficient amounts, e.g. by stomach tube
- Farm staff are trained in the humane destruction of kids
- Stock handlers are trained to recognise if a kid is not receiving adequate feed and remedy the situation
- Kid-rearing programmes provide kids with their specific nutritional needs as a pre-ruminant
- Kids are not weaned until they are receiving at least 75% of their daily feed requirements from solid feed

### *Recommended Best Practice*

- (a) Every kid should receive colostrum as soon as possible after birth, preferably within the first six hours. If it is suspected that a kid has not received colostrum, then colostrum or a suitable substitute should be given to the kid within 24 hours of birth.
- (b) Colostrum, milk or milk replacer should be fed at the rate of 10-12% of bodyweight per day, preferably in four or more feeds per day.
- (c) Kids should not be weaned until they are at least six weeks old, and preferably not until they are 8-10 weeks of age.
- (d) Any technique used to foster a kid onto a doe should not compromise the welfare of either doe or kid, should cause minimal stress to both the doe and the kid, and should be closely supervised.
- (e) When two or more kids are fostered onto a nurse doe they should be of a similar size and age.
- (f) Nurse does with kids at foot should be inspected at least once every 24 hours to ensure that both does and kids are in good health.

- (g) During the first 48 hours of life, liquid feeds should be warm, but not above the kid's normal body temperature (39°C).
- (h) Colostrum should not be overheated or micro-waved as this will destroy antibodies.
- (i) Kids should also have access to solid feeds (appropriate concentrates, hay, silage or pasture) from their first week of life. Consumption of these solids will enhance rumen development and will contribute increasingly to satisfying the kid's nutrient requirements.
- (j) Kids should have adequate access to fresh water.

### **General Information**

Colostrum, either fresh or stored, can provide local immunity in the gut and is a highly digestible, high quality food. Note that antibodies cannot be absorbed by the kid beyond 24–36 hours after birth and so colostrum needs to be fed as soon as possible after birth.

Cow colostrum, ewe colostrum, or commercial dried whole colostrum may be used if goat colostrum is unavailable or where a disease management programme is in place. Doe vaccination programmes, e.g. clostridial vaccines to boost the level of antibodies in colostrum, may be considered. These practices can be discussed with a veterinarian.

Hygienic practices are required for the maintenance of feeding equipment, bedding material and toileting areas to keep kids healthy. When kids are fed in groups, care is needed to ensure that all kids, even the slowest drinkers, are consuming what they need.

## **5.3 Lactating Does and Milking Systems**

### **Introduction**

In dairying systems, efficient milking is essential for the good health, welfare and productivity of the doe. The modern dairy goat may produce more milk than its kids can consume and needs to be milked regularly for good udder health; farmers traditionally milk goats twice a day.

The milking process needs to be carried out calmly and with regular routines to create a stress-free environment for the doe. This will ensure that complete milk let-down occurs in the doe before or during milking. Gathering goats from the paddock or housing facility, driving along the race, holding them in the yard, and entering and exiting from the milking bail are all part of this process.

### **Minimum Standard No. 13 – Milking**

- (a) All does must be milked or suckle kids frequently enough during lactation to minimise discomfort and maintain udder health.**
- (b) Milking equipment must be well maintained to minimise the risk of damage and infection of the teats and udder.**

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 13 – Milking**

- Any goat with an over-extended udder or other signs of discomfort (e.g. restlessness, heat or pain on palpation) is examined immediately, the cause determined and remedial action taken
- Upon inspection of teats and udders, minimal damage from milking equipment is observed
- Stock handlers have knowledge of udder health and have procedures in place to recognise and treat problems
- Records show that the milking plant has passed its routine inspection and audit

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Regular routines for milking should be established, in order to minimise or avoid distress.
- (b) Does in dairying systems should be milked within 12 hours of separation from their kids.
- (c) All lactating does, including those being sold or exhibited, should be milked or suckle kids at least once every 24 hours unless good management practices dictate otherwise.
- (d) To minimise the risk of discomfort or damage to the teats, the partial vacuum in the milking machine should not be higher than 40 kPa and the teat-cup liners and the pulsation system should function properly.
- (e) Care should be taken to avoid over-milking.
- (f) Milking machines should be tested at least once a year and more frequently if the milking process is compromised, as indicated by milking speed, teat damage and/or doe behaviour. All faults should be corrected immediately.
- (g) The risk of teat and udder infections should be minimised by practising good hygiene.
- (h) The teat condition of does in dairying systems should be monitored and an appropriate remedy used if condition deteriorates.
- (i) Goatlings that are to be managed in dairying systems should be familiarised with the milking facility prior to kidding.
- (j) Where there is a risk of an extended failure of the electricity supply, provision should be made for an independent generator to operate the milking machine and ancillary equipment.

### **General Information**

Milk removal, conducted in good environmental conditions and with an efficient milking machine, is complete after about 6-8 minutes for most does, depending on milk yield and rate of milk flow. Signs of discomfort (kicking the cups off and/or constant movement by the doe while milking) and/or an increased incidence of sores on the teats can indicate faults in the vacuum level or pulsation system, or the presence of stray electrical voltages (electrical shorts) in the farm dairy.

Signs of poor teat condition include redness and chapping. This is more likely to occur during wet and windy weather.

## **5.4 Drying-off Dairy Does**

### **Introduction**

To prepare for their next kidding, does in dairying systems generally go through a drying-off process to end their lactation. Individual animals may be dried-off earlier for other farm management reasons

(e.g. feed shortages). The aim is to shut down milk secretion and allow the teat canal to seal as rapidly as possible. While a short period of reduced food intake may assist with this process, the requirements of Section 3 Food and Water need to be met.

#### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) The drying-off process should be done in a manner that minimises discomfort.
- (b) For at least three weeks after dry-off, does should be monitored weekly for signs of udder pain or swelling.
- (c) Dairy does that are being dried off should be kept in a clean area to minimise the risk of udder infection.

#### ***General Information***

Does may be milked less frequently before drying off to assist with discomfort at drying off. Although lower feeding levels seem to reduce discomfort after dry-off, does fed less are likely to experience hunger. Investigation of alternative dry-off procedures, such as feeding low-quality diets *ad libitum*, is recommended as these methods can maximise the benefits of lower milk yields before dry-off, without causing hunger.

## **5.5 Shearing and Dagging Fibre Goats**

### ***Introduction***

Shearing is an important part of fibre goat farming and goats need to be handled carefully during the procedure and managed well afterwards to prevent hypothermia. The timing of shearing needs to be carefully considered, heed taken of warnings of approaching storms or inclement weather, and planning needs to include provision of shelter from unexpected storms. The most appropriate type of shelter varies between farms and may be natural or artificial.

The appropriate frequency of shearing varies according to the type of goat, with Angora goats (mohair-producing) generally shorn every six months. For Angora goats, separate parts of the fleece may also be removed to promote their welfare. Dag removal from around the breech helps reduce the risk of flystrike as well as reducing discomfort and inflammation of the underlying skin. Fibre growing from the face may be removed to prevent vision being obscured, and from the belly to facilitate suckling. When shearing Cashmere goats, “patch shearing” can be used. This technique involves shearing only the areas which are growing harvestable cashmere, thus helping to prevent hypothermia.

Cashmere goats require special consideration at shearing time for several reasons. They are generally only shorn during the winter or early spring when weather conditions are cool and may be stormy. Their fibre production is seasonal and they may have very little regrowth, and their increased feed and shelter requirements following shearing may persist for many weeks to prevent the occurrence of hypothermia. Cashmere goats are often kept in extensive situations with little regular contact with humans so mustering and penning for shearing add to the stress they experience at shearing. Goats may also experience additional stress if shorn with a full rumen so a short time off feed prior to shearing will be beneficial in this case.

## Minimum Standard No. 14 – Shearing and Dagging Fibre Goats

- (a) Fibre goats must be shorn as frequently as is necessary to mitigate animal health and welfare concerns from long fleeces.
- (b) In winter and in districts subject to cold or wet weather, fibre goats must be shorn in a way that ensures that they retain an insulating layer of fibre e.g. patch shearing or by using snow or cover combs, lifters or blade shears.
- (c) Goats must not be shorn if the forecast is for cold wet weather, unless the animals are provided with adequate shelter to minimise the risk of hypothermia.
- (d) Goats must be provided with sufficient shelter and additional feed (especially hay or other suitable fibre) after shearing to minimise the risk of hypothermia.
- (e) All severe cuts or injuries must be treated immediately.

### *Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 14 – Shearing and Dagging Fibre Goats*

- Planning for shearing includes careful consideration of weather forecasts, provision of shelter and adequate feed, including making food and water available for animals immediately after shearing
- No fibre goat has an excessively long coat that is either soiled, impedes the goat's movement, or causes skin or other disease, especially in hot weather conditions
- Shearing is timed to coincide with forecast of good weather. Where weather forecasts are for cold or wet conditions, shearing does not proceed unless adequate shelter is provided
- In winter and when there is risk of hypothermia, an insulating layer of fibre remains after shearing

### *Recommended Best Practice*

- (a) Shearing and dagging should be carried out skilfully and carefully by competent operators to ensure that shearing cuts, especially those to the teats, vulva and prepuce are kept to a minimum.
- (b) Angora goats should be shorn at least every eight months.
- (c) Freshly shorn goats should not be put into dusty yards for longer than necessary to reduce risk of infection in shearing cuts.

### *General Information*

Newly shorn fibre goats are especially vulnerable to adverse weather conditions and require more feed than normal for six weeks after shearing to sustain body temperature and to maintain body condition and immune function. In addition to using patch shearing to help prevent hypothermia in Cashmere goats, there are also major benefits from using combs that retain some of the coat. Goats with a residual coat length of 4mm need additional feed to maintain body warmth at ambient temperatures below 15°C, whereas an 8mm coat means that additional feed will be required below 11°C.

## 5.6 Reproductive Technologies and Selection of Animals for Mating

### *Introduction*

Breeding management techniques and programmes that optimise genetic potential have been adopted in all sectors of the goat industry in New Zealand. In addition to selecting animals with desirable genotypes for breeding, there are a number of established and developing technologies being used to facilitate genetic gains and better manage animals.

### **Minimum Standard No. 15 – Reproductive Technologies**

- (a) Electroejaculation and laparoscopic artificial insemination must be carried out only by veterinarians, or by trained and competent operators under veterinary supervision, using appropriate pain relief, sedatives or anaesthesia.**
- (b) Cervical artificial insemination and pregnancy diagnosis must only be carried out by persons trained and competent with the techniques.**

Note: NAWAC has recommended that surgical embryo transfer be listed as a significant surgical procedure, as defined by the Act.

### *Recommended Best Practice*

- (a) Less invasive procedures (e.g. semen collection using an artificial vagina) should be used in preference to more invasive ones (e.g. semen collection by electro-ejaculation).
- (b) Any procedure used to alter the pattern of seasonal breeding, or to increase litter size, should only be used where the extra requirements to ensure good welfare (feed, farm labour, shelter and other inputs required before and after the animal gives birth) have been thoroughly assessed and can be provided.
- (c) When selecting goats for breeding, attention should be given to selecting animals of appropriate physical size (both buck and doe), kidding experience and previous management history to match the system in which they will be farmed (i.e. previously kept extensively or intensively).

### *General Information*

Multiple births are common with goats, especially the dairy breeds where three or four kids per pregnancy are common. Does carrying multiple pregnancies require more feed during the latter stages of pregnancy. Gestation length may be shorter and there may be more malpresentations or difficult births, and poorer bonding between doe and offspring. These factors mean increased supervision is necessary when multiple births occur to ensure newborn animals survive and receive colostrum.

## 5.7 Painful Husbandry Procedures

### *Introduction*

Farming goats involves a number of husbandry procedures such as disbudding, castration and occasionally dehorning which have been identified as causing pain and distress. These procedures are covered in a separate Code of Welfare and readers are directed to the Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005 for information and requirements.

Minimising the stress, pain or discomfort of these procedures requires attention to the suitability of the area in which the operation is performed, the catching facilities, the type and amount of restraint,

the selection and maintenance of appropriate instruments, good hygiene, the subsequent care of the animals and the skill of the stock handlers carrying out the procedures.

**Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Pain relief should be provided when performing any painful husbandry procedure.
- (b) Male goats that are castrated before puberty should be monitored for joint abnormalities and arthritis as they age as, in some cases, they can experience abnormal continued growth of the long bones causing their legs to become distorted.

**General Information**

The skull of a goat kid is much thinner than that of a calf. Thermal cautery disbudding techniques need to be carried out carefully to avoid damaging the underlying tissues, including the brain.

## 5.8 Animal Identification

**Introduction**

Ear tags are commonly used to identify individual goats. Permanent identification such as ear notching, marking and tattooing, and branding may also be used. These procedures cause pain and the general principles outlined in the Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) 2005 Code of Welfare apply.

### Minimum Standard No. 16 – Identification

- (a) All identification procedures must be applied by a competent operator.
- (b) Pain relief must be used with hot or freeze branding.

#### Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 16 – Identification

- No ear injuries or infections are apparent

**Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) Goats should not be branded.
- (b) Permanent tags should be inserted using the applicators designed for the purpose and according to the manufacturer's specifications and with good hygiene.
- (c) Goats' ears are very sensitive and care should be taken when inserting ear tags to avoid hitting cartilage ridges or major blood vessels.
- (d) Any infection resulting from tag application should be treated promptly.
- (e) The size and number of tags required should be kept to a minimum.
- (f) Where tattooing is used, it should be carried out by a competent operator.
- (g) The use of ear punches for identification purposes should be restricted to those situations where tagging is not feasible. As little as possible and no more than 10% of ear tissue should be removed using an instrument that is clean and sharp.

- (h) When goats are vaccinated for Johne's disease they are required to have an ear notched, and this should be done using the appropriate triangular ear punch tool according to the manufacturer's instructions and with good hygiene.

### **General Information**

Permanent identification of individual goats is required by various legislation and laws; goat industry organisations can provide further information.

Neck bands may be useful for temporary identification of young kids but their use requires supervision to prevent entanglement.

## **5.9 Pre-transport Selection**

### **Introduction**

When selecting animals for transport, other industry standards and/or codes for transport need to be considered. Requirements for transport beyond the farm gate are described in the Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2011 and conditions for slaughter are described in the Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2010.

In cases of doubt about the condition of an animal, a veterinarian needs to be consulted. A veterinarian can certify an animal as fit for transport, in which case the appropriate documentation must accompany the animal on its journey.

Transporting goats can cause them significant stress. This is particularly the case for feral goats and goats that are not used to human contact. The presence of horned goats in the group will also exacerbate stress. Good stockmanship is essential to minimise anxiety and distress during transportation.

### **Minimum Standard No. 17 – Pre-transport Selection**

- (a) All goats selected for transport must be examined by the person in charge prior to loading to ensure that they are fit for transport and are able to withstand the journey without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.**
- (b) Any animal likely to give birth during transport must not be selected.**
- (c) Every unweaned kid to be transported off the farm must have been fed at least half of that day's ration of colostrum or milk, not more than two hours before transportation.**

### **Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 17 – Pre-transport Selection**

- All goats transported are fit and healthy and can support their weight on all four limbs
- Unweaned kids to be transported off the farm are given a feed no more than two hours before they are loaded
- No goat gives birth during transport

### **Recommended Best Practice**

- (a) The design of holding facilities at loading areas should offer adequate shelter and comfort for all goats, easy access for the stock handler and transport operator, and facilitate efficient handling of the animals.

- (b) In the absence of ramps, when goats have to be lifted onto a transporter, their whole body should be supported in the lift.
- (c) Pregnant goats should not be selected for transport in the last three weeks before the expected date of kidding.
- (d) Goats should not be mustered for long distances the day before transport.
- (e) Every effort should be made to ensure kids and cull goats are transported for the shortest possible time.
- (f) Goats that will not be acceptable to the processing plant should not be loaded for transport.
- (g) During preparation for transport, prolonged deprivation of food and water should be avoided. Yearling and adult goats should be held off green-feed for a minimum of four to six hours before transportation but for no more than 12 hours. Clean water should be available during this time.
- (h) When undertaking long journeys, goats should be nutritionally prepared beforehand by supplying them with the type of feed that they will receive at rest stops during the journey and upon its completion.
- (i) Dogs should be under control at all times and should not be used to move young kids.

### ***General Information***

The preparation of mature animals for transport, especially pregnant does, will depend on the method, the distance and the time involved. In particular the suitability of the truck for transport should be considered – some sheep trucks are not appropriate for dairy does. For guidelines on preparation for long-haul journeys, a veterinarian or suitably experienced transport operator should be consulted.

Providing sheds and holding facilities that are darkened and minimise noise will assist in settling goats being held for transport.

## 6. Health

### *Introduction*

Owners and persons in charge of goats have an obligation to ensure that the health needs of their animals are met. Stock handlers need to be familiar with the more common health problems of goats and observe their stock frequently and carefully for early signs of disease. Any potential problems need to be noted as early as possible and steps taken to rectify the problem.

### **Minimum Standard No. 18 – Health**

- (a) **Those responsible for the welfare of goats must be competent at recognising ill-health or injury and take prompt remedial action as appropriate.**
- (b) **Any injured or ailing goat must be immediately treated by a knowledgeable and competent stock handler or be destroyed humanely.**
- (c) **A veterinarian must be consulted if there is any significant disease or injury or if an animal health problem persists in spite of treatment.**

### *Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 18 – Health*

- Stock handlers are trained and competent to recognise ill-health and injury and to undertake prompt action and treatment as necessary
- All sick or injured goats are treated immediately by a competent stock handler or destroyed humanely
- There is a documented herd health plan that includes prophylactic treatments such as vaccination schedules and parasite management
- Animal health records show that all animal remedies have been used appropriately
- A veterinarian is consulted when a significant animal health problem persists

### *Recommended Best Practice*

- (a) Goats should be inspected as frequently as necessary to detect any problem at an early stage.
- (b) Stock handlers should be familiar with the more common health problems of goats and observe their stock carefully for early signs of disease including pain, discomfort and weight loss. They should take early action to prevent worsening of any condition, and organise prompt expert attention should this occur.
- (c) If appropriate, goats showing signs of ill-health should be separated from herd-mates to prevent bullying and to facilitate treatment.
- (d) Any goat that is unable to stand should receive veterinary attention within 48 hours of becoming recumbent or be destroyed humanely. These recumbent goats should be inspected frequently, kept in an upright position (i.e. lying on their sternum with legs tucked under the body) on a soft dry surface, and shifted from side to side as often as possible.
- (e) On commercial farms, animal health records should be kept, including details and timing of parasite control measures, foot care procedures, appropriate vaccinations, supplementation of

nutrients that are deficient in the diet, culling strategies and cross-grazing with other species as appropriate.

- (f) Goats should be given regular and effective treatments to prevent internal and external parasite burdens, as recommended by veterinarians or product manufacturers.
- (g) Animal remedies should only be used in accordance with registration conditions, manufacturer's instructions and/or professional advice.
- (h) Goats should be managed with the aim of minimising the incidence of lameness.
- (i) All staff should be trained in the prevention, identification and treatment of lameness and where it is observed, the affected foot is carefully examined and treated immediately.
- (j) Veterinary advice should be sought when there is:
  - (i) persistent ill-thrift, lameness, pain or poor performance that does not respond to treatment
  - (ii) concern about the welfare of the animal.

### **General Information**

Diseases that can be particularly problematic for the goat farmer include gastro-intestinal parasitism, Johne's disease, outbreaks of pneumonia, scabby mouth (orf), periodontal disease, CLA (caseous lymphadenitis) and CAE (caprine arthritis-encephalitis). When these diseases are suspected, an expert should be consulted to confirm the diagnosis and to advise on appropriate disease control measures to be included in the animal health programme. Organic production systems may present special challenges to goat health and welfare and require particular attention to management and disease prevention strategies to avoid health and welfare compromise.

### **Parasitic Diseases**

Farmed goats are relatively susceptible to worms and, unlike sheep and cattle, do not develop age-related resistance to worms. Management systems therefore need to be structured to combat internal parasites throughout the life of the goat. Drench resistance has developed in some worm species and this can limit the treatment options available to the goat farmer.

There are a greater number of options for worm control in fibre producing goats as with-holding times on anthelmintics (meaning that milk and meat from treated goats cannot be sold within that period) can limit the available options for dairy and meat goats. Long-acting drugs can, however, be useful in fibre goats where residues are of minimal importance.

Goats are known to metabolise anthelmintics faster than sheep and so dose recommendations need to be tailored specifically for goats.

### **Diseases of the Hoof**

Lameness is a painful condition and warrants immediate and effective treatment. Hoof growth is rapid in goats and if the environment (including housing) does not allow the hoof to wear away naturally, then routine trimming may be required to prevent the horn from curling underneath the foot. Goats are prone to developing foot scald and foot rot when conditions are wet because of the deep interdigital cleft between the toes.

Regular foot care including foot-bathing where necessary will assist with maintaining good hoof health and minimising lameness. In many animals, judicious hoof trimming and foot baths of zinc or copper sulphate will achieve the desired result.

***Skin Acclimatisation***

Goats need time to acclimatise to changing conditions when they are moved from indoors to outdoors. White haired and pink skinned goats that are not accustomed to being in direct sunlight may become sunburnt if moved outside their housing area, e.g. when barns are being cleaned out.

## 7. Emergency Humane Destruction

### *Introduction*

The overriding consideration during emergency humane destruction is to prevent the animal from suffering further pain or distress. Humane killing depends on rapidly inducing failure of brain function. This can be achieved by causing sufficient brain damage to render the animal insensible and then cutting the major blood vessels of the neck to cause heart failure and death.

There are a number of methods that may be used for the humane and effective killing of goats on farm.

### **Minimum Standard No. 19 – Emergency Humane Destruction**

- (a) Goats must be rapidly rendered insensible and remain in that state, until death.**
- (b) Persons undertaking emergency destruction must be competent in the handling and killing of goats.**
- (c) The spinal cord must not be severed or broken in any goat, until after death.**

### ***Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 19 – Emergency Humane Destruction***

- Written farm procedures identify the appropriate methods used for humane destruction of unwanted animals
- Stock handlers who carry out the humane destruction of goats are trained in appropriate routines
- Stunned goats do not recover consciousness and death occurs rapidly after any stunning procedure

### ***Recommended Best Practice***

- (a) Free-bullet firearms should never be used at point blank range. Shotguns and rifles should be at least 10 cm from the head when aimed.
- (b) Captive bolt firearms, of a suitable design and calibre, should be used to render animals insensible.
- (c) Wherever possible, emergency slaughter of goats should be conducted discreetly and at a site distant from other animals so as not to cause anxiety to other goats.

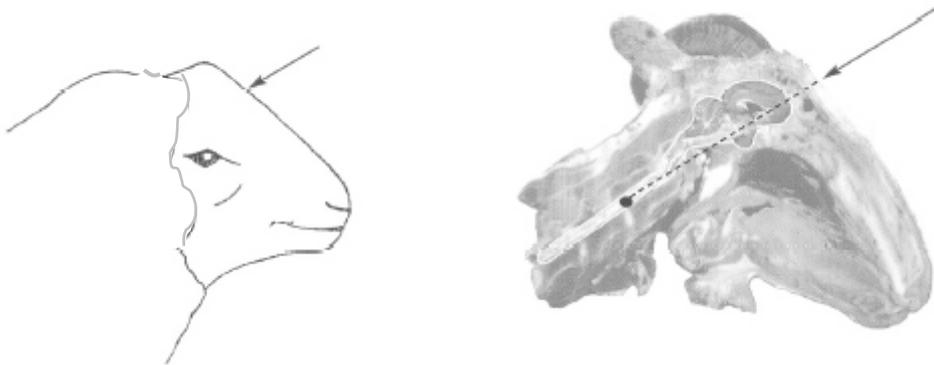
### ***General Information***

Whenever a firearm is used, it is very important that the operator is competent to use it and takes care in ensuring the safety of themselves and other animals.

There are two types of captive bolt firearm – penetrating and non-penetrating. A penetrating captive bolt enters the skull and comes into contact with brain tissue; a non-penetrative captive bolt employs a “mushroom” percussive head. Both methods provide a concussive blow to the skull, resulting in insensibility because of brain tissue damage, although the damage caused by the penetrating captive bolt will result in less chance of the animal regaining sensibility.

The correct position and direction of aim are critical for the humane and effective killing of goats and kids.

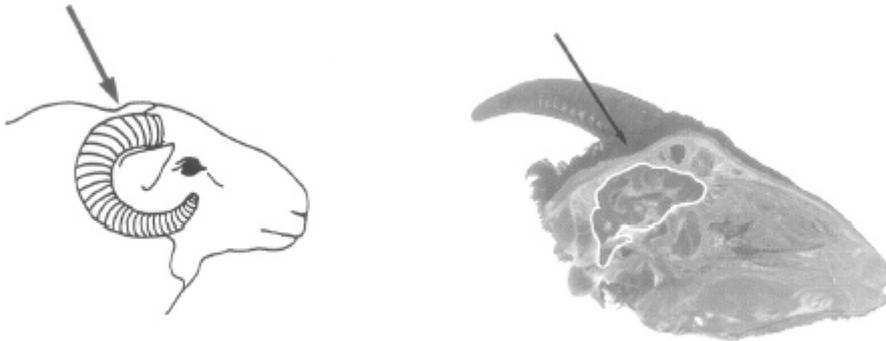
***Hornless goats***



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The optimum position for hornless goats is on the midline.

***Horned goats***



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The optimum position for horned goats is behind the poll, aiming towards the angle of the jaw.

Figure source: Based on Humane Slaughter Association (2005) Guidance Notes No. 3: Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. Published by the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire AL4 8AN, UK. [www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk).

## 8. Quality Management

### *Introduction*

A quality assurance programme that provides written procedures is a useful tool to ensure that standards of animal welfare and husbandry are maintained, especially on commercial farms of all types. As well as providing for the minimum standards and recommendations for best practice of this code, a quality assurance programme will enable the meeting of statutory requirements such as the recording of animal treatments to prepare Animal Status Declaration forms (available at <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/industry/sectors/meat-ostrich-emu-game/asd/> ).

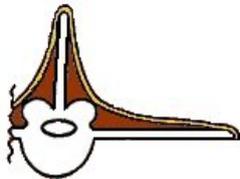
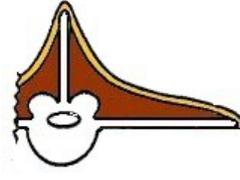
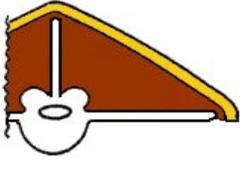
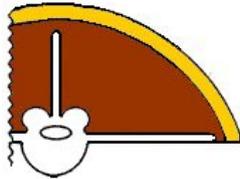
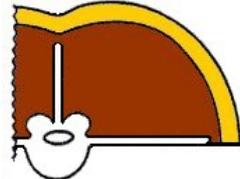
### *Recommended Best Practice*

- (a) To ensure that standards of animal welfare and husbandry are maintained, each farm should have a quality assurance programme that provides documented animal health and welfare procedures.
- (b) The elements of the quality assurance programme should provide for the minimum standards and, where possible, the recommendations for best practice of this code.
- (c) The quality assurance programme should enable all incidents resulting in significant sickness, injury or death of animals to be investigated and documented.
- (d) The quality assurance programme should incorporate continual review of existing systems, procedures and training schedules that could enhance the welfare of goats.
- (e) The quality assurance programme should include a record of problem issues identified and the remedial action taken.

## Appendix I: Body Condition Scoring (BCS)

This chart can be used broadly for all breeds of goats farmed in New Zealand, although it is useful to note that dairy goats in general tend to be leaner than meat goats. The use of body condition scores (BCS) is less accurate for assessing kids and growing goats. Body condition scoring is based on palpation of the spine, pelvis and rump of live animals. The simple scoring system varies from score 0 (emaciated) to 5 (obese). Visual assessment of body condition of goats can be difficult where the coat is long e.g. in Angoras in full fleece. A long fleece can disguise the actual appearance of the pelvis, ribs and spine, while a short coat can make the animal's appearance more irregular and highlight these areas. The only reliable method of assessing animal body condition is by palpation of the ribs, spine, pelvis and rump.

Figure adapted from <http://kinne.net/bcs.htm>

<b>0</b> <b>(Emaciated)</b>			No internal or external fat reserves
<b>1</b> <b>(Poor)</b>		Loin Rump Pins	No muscle on edges of transverse process, bones very sharp, thin skin. Vertebral angle has little muscle and is very concave. Spinous processes very prominent with no muscle in between. Sharp outline visible; no muscle between skin and bones Very sharp, no padding
<b>2</b> <b>(Thin)</b>		Loin Rump Pins	Muscle extends to the edges of transverse process, spacing can be felt between the vertebral processes, thin skin Outline slightly contoured; light padding but bones still somewhat prominent and very easy to feel Sharp, little padding
<b>3</b> <b>(Good)</b>		Loin Rump Pins	Muscle and subcutaneous fat covers edges of vertebral process; individual bones are somewhat distinct Smooth, without signs of fat; pelvic bones and spine are distinct Slight pressure needed to feel the pin bones
<b>4</b> <b>(Fat)</b>		Loin Rump Pins	Vertebral processes indistinct and firm pressure needed to feel them. Vertebral angle rounded but not yet bulging over spinous processes. Spinous process spacing difficult to detect; spine felt as a hard line. Heavily padded with fat; bones can only be felt with firm pressure Heavily padded with fat, and firm pressure needed to feel them
<b>5</b> <b>(Obese)</b>		Loin Rump Pins	Edge of vertebral processes and spacing between too fat to feel bones. Vertebral angle bulges over the level of the spinous processes. Spine lies in the centre of a groove of fat Buried in fat, bones very indistinct Buried in fat, hard to locate

## Appendix II: Interpretation and Definitions

<b>Act</b>	The Animal Welfare Act 1999.
<b>adverse weather</b>	Unfavourable weather conditions that may cause cold or heat stress.
<b>Angora</b>	A goat that produces mohair fibre.
<b>animal</b>	As defined in the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Means any live member of the animal kingdom that is –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) A mammal; or</li><li>(ii) A bird; or</li><li>(iii) A reptile; or</li><li>(iv) An amphibian; or</li><li>(v) A fish (bony or cartilaginous); or</li><li>(vi) Any octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); or</li><li>(vii) Any other member of the animal kingdom which is declared from time to time by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal for the purposes of this Act; and</li></ul></li><li>(b) Includes any mammalian foetus, or any avian or reptilian pre-hatched young, that is in the last half of its period of gestation or development; and</li><li>(c) Includes any marsupial pouch young; but</li><li>(d) Does not include –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(i) A human being; or</li><li>(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of this definition, any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>available technology</b>	NAWAC takes ‘available technology’ to represent, for example, existing chemicals, drugs, instruments, devices and facilities that are used practically to care for and manage animals.
<b>automated feeding system</b>	An electronically controlled system for feeding groups of animals.
<b>body condition score (condition score)</b>	A 0 to 5 scoring system used to classify the condition of animals, based on the assessed amount of fat and/or muscle covering they have (see Appendix I, “Body Condition Scoring”, to this code).
<b>browse</b>	Green feed that is obtained from plants other than pasture e.g. trees and shrubs.
<b>buck (billy)</b>	An uncastrated male goat.

<b>CAE</b>	Caprine arthritis-encephalitis, a viral disease of goats that can be transmitted through colostrum or milk.
<b>cashmere</b>	The downy undercoat fibre produced by some goats especially as part of their winter coat, and a term that is also used when referring to those goats that have a double coat.
<b>colostrum</b>	Milk secreted by the doe for the first few days after kidding, characterised by high protein and antibody content.
<b>cover comb</b>	See 'winter comb'.
<b>cut-and-carry feeding</b>	The practice of harvesting fresh feed and transporting it to housed goats.
<b>dag</b>	A clot of matted fibre and excrement found on (or removed from) the hindquarters of a goat.
<b>dagging</b>	Removal of dags from a goat's hindquarters.
<b>doe (nanny)</b>	An adult female goat.
<b>drying off</b>	The management technique of ceasing to milk does that are still lactating so that their milk production stops.
<b>farm facilities</b>	All structures and equipment used to manage goats, such as buildings, yards, races, fences, gates, loading ramps, restraining devices and drains.
<b>feral</b>	A goat living in a wild, self-maintaining state which crosses farm boundaries freely and which may from time to time be mustered by land-owners. The legal definition (Wild Animal Control Act 1978) is any goat that is not: (a) held behind effective fences or otherwise constrained; or (b) identified in accordance with a recognised identification system (as described under the Animal Identification Act 1993). Once mustered, the care and welfare of the goats becomes the responsibility of the musterer.
<b>food/feed</b>	The words "food" and "feed" are used interchangeably.
<b>foster</b>	A management practice whereby a kid is moved soon after birth, to be fed by a doe that is not its mother.
<b>game estate</b>	See 'safari park'.
<b>goad</b>	An object used to stimulate or prod an animal to make it move.
<b>goatling/ yearling</b>	A young goat, the goatling being a female before completion of the first lactation. The term goatling is more commonly used in the dairy goat industry while the terms hogget and yearling are more commonly used in the fibre and meat goat industries. For simplicity, the terms goatling or yearling are used throughout this code.
<b>good practice</b>	A standard of care that has a general level of acceptance among knowledgeable practitioners and experts in the field; is based on good sense and sound judgement; is practical and thorough; has robust experiential or scientific foundations; and prevents unreasonable or unnecessary harm to, or promotes the interests of, the animals to which it is applied. Good practice also takes account of the evolution of attitudes

	about animals and their care.
<b>housed goat</b>	A goat kept full time in a barn.
<b>husbandry</b>	Care and management practices in goat production.
<b>hypothermia</b>	Abnormally low body temperature.
<b>ill-treat</b>	As defined in the Act, “ill-treat”, in relation to an animal, means causing the animal to suffer, by any act or omission, pain or distress that in its kind or degree, or in its object, or in the circumstances in which it is inflicted, is unreasonable or unnecessary.
<b>kid</b>	A weaned or unweaned young goat less than approximately 4 months of age.
<b>kidding</b>	Giving birth to kids.
<b>kPa</b>	A kilo-Pascal – a pressure measurement used in this code with respect to milking machine testing.
<b>lifter</b>	A plate with sleds that is screwed underneath a conventional shearing comb raising it by 2.5 mm ensuring a greater layer of fibre is left, providing insulation for the shorn goat.
<b>loafing barn</b>	A roofed shelter where animals may be housed permanently and/or which provides shelter from inclement weather and where animals may be fed.
<b>lux</b>	International measure of light intensity.
<b>minimum standards</b>	Minimum standards provide the details of specific actions persons in charge need to take in order to meet the obligations of the Act. They are identified in the text by a heading, and use the word “must” or similar. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.
<b>newborn</b>	A recently born kid less than 48 hours old.
<b>owner</b>	As defined in the Act, “owner”, in relation to an animal, includes the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 16 years who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Owns the animal; and</li> <li>(b) Is a member of a parent’s or guardian’s household, living with and dependent on the parent or guardian.</li> </ul>
<b>patch shearing</b>	A technique for shearing cashmere-bearing goats in which only the areas growing harvestable cashmere are shorn.
<b>person in charge</b>	As defined in the Act, “person in charge”, in relation to an animal, includes a person who has the animal in that person’s possession or custody, or under that person’s care, control, or supervision.
<b>recommended best practice</b>	The best practice agreed at a particular time, following consideration of scientific information, accumulated experience and public submissions on the code. It is usually a higher standard of practice than the minimum standard, except where the minimum standard is best practice. It is a practice that can be varied as new information comes to light. <p>Recommendations for best practice will be particularly appropriate where it is desirable to promote or encourage better care for animals than is</p>

provided as a minimum standard.

Recommended best practices are identified in the text by a heading, and generally use the word “should”.

<b>safari park</b>	An enclosed area where animals are managed for hunting, with the meaning given to it by section 2(1) of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977. Also called ‘game estate’.
<b>scientific knowledge</b>	Knowledge within animal-based scientific disciplines, especially those that deal with nutritional, environmental, health, behavioural and cognitive/neural functions, which are relevant to understanding the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals. Such knowledge is not haphazard or anecdotal; it is generated by rigorous and systematic application of the scientific method, and the results are objectively and critically reviewed before acceptance.
<b>stock handler</b>	A person who undertakes the immediate day-to-day husbandry tasks associated with looking after animals.
<b>teaser</b>	A goat used to sexually tease, and perhaps copulate with, another goat of the opposite sex but not achieve fertilisation. Female teasers are used in semen collection, while teaser bucks may be used to stimulate cycling or to identify oestrus females.
<b>tether</b>	To restrain, fasten or tie up by the head or neck with a rope, chain, collar or halter.
<b>weaning</b>	The act of permanently removing milk (or milk replacer) from the diet of the kid.
<b>winter or “cover” comb</b>	A shearing comb with a wider than conventional comb throat between its teeth and with a rail under every second tooth that ensures a greater layer of fibre is left on the shorn goat.

## Appendix III: Legislative Requirements

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) imposes obligations on every person who owns or is in charge of an animal. This code has been issued pursuant to section 75 of the Act and will provide guidance on how to comply with the legislative requirements. However, this code does not provide an exhaustive list of the Act's requirements, and owners and those in charge of goats should note that they must comply with the minimum standards in this code *and* the general provisions in the Act. A copy of the Act is accessible at:

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz>.

Other legislation affecting the management of goats includes the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and that relating to goat identification. For further advice, contact your representative industry organisation.

### **Contents of Codes**

Section 69 of the Act provides that a code of welfare may relate to one or more of the following:

- a species of animal
- animals used for purposes specified in the code
- animal establishments of a kind specified in the code
- types of entertainment specified in the code (being types of entertainment in which animals are used)
- the transport of animals
- the procedures and equipment used in the management, care or killing of animals or in the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals.

In deciding to issue a code of welfare, the Minister must be satisfied as to the following matters set out in section 73(1) of the Act:

- that the proposed standards are the minimum necessary to ensure that the purposes of the Act will be met; and
- that the recommendations for best practice (if any) are appropriate.

Despite the provisions of section 73(1), section 73(3) of the Act allows NAWAC, in exceptional circumstances, to recommend minimum standards and recommendations for best practice that do not fully meet the obligations of:

- section 10 or section 11 – obligations in relation to physical, health and behavioural needs of animals
- section 12(c) – killing an animal
- section 21(1)(b) – restriction on performance of surgical procedures
- section 22(2) – providing comfortable and secure accommodation for the transport of animals
- section 23(1) and (2) – transport of animals
- section 29(a) – ill-treating an animal.

In making a recommendation under section 73(3), section 73(4) requires NAWAC to have regard to:

- the feasibility and practicality of effecting a transition from current practices to new practices and any adverse effects that may result from such a transition
- the requirements of religious practices or cultural practices or both
- the economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.

This code provides for the physical, health and behavioural needs (as defined in section 4 of the Act) of goats. These needs include:

- proper and sufficient food and water
- adequate shelter

- opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour
- physical handling in a manner which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress
- protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease,

being a need which, in each case, is appropriate to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal.

This code also takes account of:

- good practice
- scientific knowledge
- available technology.

### ***Legal Obligations of Owners and Persons in Charge of Animals***

The owner or person in charge of an animal has overall responsibility for the welfare of the animal in his or her care. The legal obligations set out below are not an exhaustive list of the obligations in the Act.

- (a) The owner or person in charge of an animal must:
- ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge.
  - where practicable, ensure that an animal that is ill or injured receives treatment that will alleviate any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal, or that it is killed humanely.
- (b) The owner or person in charge of an animal must not, without reasonable excuse:
- keep an animal alive when it is in such a condition that it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
  - sell, attempt to sell or offer for sale, otherwise than for the express purpose of being killed, an animal, when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
  - desert an animal in circumstances in which no provision is made to meet its physical, health and behavioural needs.
- (c) No person may:
- ill-treat an animal.
  - release an animal that has been kept in captivity, in circumstances in which the animal is likely to suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
  - perform any significant surgical procedure (as defined by the Act) on an animal unless that person is a veterinarian, or a veterinary student under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or, in the case of a controlled surgical procedure, a person approved by a veterinarian.
  - perform on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure (as defined by the Act) in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.
  - kill an animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

This requirement to meet the needs of animals (as appropriate to the species, environment and circumstances of the animal, as described above) also applies to wild animals kept in a safari park for

hunting (section 26), because the animals are contained within a fenced area, owned, and in a person's charge.

### **Regulations Review Committee of Parliament**

Codes of welfare are deemed to be regulations for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989. As such, they are subject to the scrutiny of the Regulations Review Committee of Parliament.

Any person or organisation aggrieved by the operation of a code of welfare has the right to make a complaint to the Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

This parliamentary select committee is charged with examining regulations against a set of criteria and drawing to the attention of the House of Representatives any regulation that does not meet the criteria. Grounds for reporting to the House include:

- the regulation trespasses unduly on personal rights and freedoms;
- the regulation is not made in accordance with the general objects and intentions of the statute under which it is made; or
- the regulation was not made in compliance with the particular notice and consultation procedures prescribed by statute.

Any person or organisation wishing to make a complaint should refer to the publication *Making a Complaint to the Regulations Review Committee*, which can be obtained from the website:

<http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz>, or by writing to: Clerk of the Committee, Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

### **Strict Liability**

In the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 committed after 19 December 2002, evidence that a relevant code of welfare was in existence at the time of the alleged offence and that a relevant minimum standard established by that code was not complied with is rebuttable evidence that the person charged with the offence failed to comply with, or contravened, the provision of the Animal Welfare Act to which the offence relates. (See sections 13(1A), 24(1) and 30(1A) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, as amended by the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2002.)

### **Defences**

It is a defence in the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 if the defendant proves that there was in existence at the time of the alleged offence a relevant code of welfare and that the minimum standards established by the code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. (See sections 13(2)(c), 24(2)(b) and 30(2)(c).)

If a defendant in a prosecution intends to rely on the defence under section 13(2)(c) or section 30(2)(c), the defendant must, within seven days after the service of the summons, or within such further time as the Court may allow, deliver to the prosecutor a written notice. The notice must state that the defendant intends to rely on section 13(2) or section 30(2) as the case may be, and must specify the relevant code of welfare that was in existence at the time of the alleged offence, and the facts that show that the minimum standards established by that code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. This notice may be dispensed with if the Court gives leave. (See sections 13(3) and 30(3).)

**The strict liability provisions and the defence of equalling or exceeding the minimum standards established by a code of welfare apply to the following offences:**

- Failing to Provide

Section 12(a): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 10 (which provides that the owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must ensure that the physical, health and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge).

- Suffering Animals

Section 12(b): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, fails, in the case of an animal that is ill or injured, to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 11 (which provides that the owner of an animal that is ill or injured, and every person in charge of such an animal, must, where practicable, ensure that the animal receives treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal).

Section 12(c): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal, kills the animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

- Surgical Procedures

Section 21(1)(b): A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, acts in contravention of or fails to comply with section 15(4) (which provides that no person may, in performing on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure, perform that surgical procedure in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress).

- Transport

Section 22(2): A person commits an offence who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any provision of section 22(1) (which provides that every person in charge of a vehicle or an aircraft, and the master of or, if there is no master, the person in charge of, a ship, being a vehicle, aircraft or ship in or on which an animal is being transported, must ensure that the welfare of the animal is properly attended to, and that, in particular, the animal is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation and is supplied with proper and sufficient food and water).

Section 23(1): A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, confines or transports an animal in a manner or position that causes the animal unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Section 23(2): A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or the person in charge of, an animal, permits that animal, without reasonable excuse, to be driven or led on a road, or to be ridden, or to be transported in or on a vehicle, an aircraft, or a ship, while the condition or health of the animal is such as to render it unfit to be so driven, led, ridden or transported.

- Ill-treatment

Section 29(a): A person commits an offence who ill-treats an animal.

### ***Inspection of Premises***

Section 127(1): Inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 have the power to enter any land or premises (with the exception of dwellings and marae), or any vehicle, aircraft or vessel, at any reasonable time, for the purpose of inspecting any animal.

Inspectors include officers of MAF Compliance and Enforcement Group, inspectors from approved organisations (e.g. Royal New Zealand SPCA) appointed by the Minister, and the Police.

### ***Liability of employers, principals, directors and officers of bodies corporate***

Sections 164 and 165 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 set out further provisions relating to offences committed by employers and charges against bodies corporate.

## **Appendix IV: Codes of Welfare**

### ***Codes of Welfare***

- Animal Welfare (Broiler Chickens: Fully Housed) Code of Welfare 2003
- Animal Welfare (Rodeos) Code of Welfare 2003
- Animal Welfare (Layer Hens) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Zoos) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Circuses) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare 2005
- Animal Welfare (Companion Cats) Code of Welfare 2007
- Animal Welfare (Deer) Code of Welfare 2007
- Animal Welfare (Dairy Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Sheep and Beef Cattle) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Pigs) Code of Welfare 2010
- Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2011

### ***Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards***

- Sea Transport of Sheep from New Zealand, September 1991
- Welfare of Deer During the Removal of Antlers, July 1992, amended August 1994, August 1997
- Welfare of Horses, February 1993
- Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments, August 1993
- Sale of Companion Animals, September 1994
- Welfare of Animals at Saleyards, May 1995
- Emergency Slaughter of Farm Livestock, December 1996
- Welfare of Ostrich and Emu, September 1999

### ***Guidelines***

- Welfare of Stock from which Blood is Harvested for Commercial and Research Purposes, March 2009
- Welfare of Yearling Fallow Deer During the Use of Rubber Rings to Prevent Antler/Pedicle Growth, September 1997
- Welfare of Red and Wapiti Yearling Stags During the Use of Rubber Rings to Induce Analgesia for the Removal of Spiker Velvet, September 1998

<p>Codes and Guidelines may be obtained from:</p> <p><i>Animal Welfare Standards</i> <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</i> <i>PO Box 2526</i> <i>WELLINGTON 6140</i> <i>email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz</i></p>	<p>Or can be inspected at:</p> <p><i>Animal Welfare Standards</i> <i>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</i> <i>Pastoral House</i> <i>Reception, Level 4</i> <i>25 The Terrace</i> <i>WELLINGTON 6011</i></p>
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Codes and Guidelines are available on MAF's website.

The web page address is: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare>.