

## TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS COMMISSION

## FEBRUARY 2012 REPORT

## CHAPTER 7.1.

INTRODUCTION TO THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

## Article 7.1.1.

*Animal welfare* means how an *animal* is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An *animal* is in a good state of *welfare* if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.

Good *animal welfare* requires *disease* prevention and appropriate veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, and nutrition, humane handling and humane ~~slaughter~~ or ~~or~~ *kill*ing. *Animal welfare* refers to the state of the *animal*; the treatment that an *animal* receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

## Article 7.1.2.

**Guiding principles for animal welfare**

1. That there is a critical relationship between animal health and *animal welfare*.
2. That the internationally recognised ‘five freedoms’ (freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from fear and distress; freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and *disease*; and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour) provide valuable guidance in *animal welfare*.
3. That the internationally recognised ‘three Rs’ (reduction in numbers of *animals*, refinement of experimental methods and replacement of *animals* with non-animal techniques) provide valuable guidance for the use of *animals* in science.
4. That the scientific assessment of *animal welfare* involves diverse elements which need to be considered together, and that selecting and weighing these elements often involves value-based assumptions which should be made as explicit as possible.
5. That the use of *animals* in agriculture, education and science research, and for companionship, recreation and entertainment, makes a major contribution to the wellbeing of people.
6. That the use of *animals* carries with it an ethical responsibility to ensure the *welfare* of such *animals* to the greatest extent practicable.
7. That improvements in farm *animal welfare* can often improve productivity and food safety, and hence lead to economic benefits.
8. That equivalent outcomes based on performance criteria, rather than identical systems based on design criteria, be the basis for comparison of *animal welfare* standards and recommendations.

## Article 7.1.3.

**Scientific basis for recommendations**

1. *Welfare* is a broad term which includes the many elements that contribute to an *animal's* quality of life, including those referred to in the 'five freedoms' listed above.
2. The scientific assessment of *animal welfare* has progressed rapidly in recent years and forms the basis of these recommendations.
3. Some measures of *animal welfare* involve assessing the degree of impaired functioning associated with injury, *disease*, and malnutrition. Other measures provide information on *animals'* needs and affective states such as hunger, pain and fear, often by measuring the strength of *animals'* preferences, motivations and aversions. Others assess the physiological, behavioural and immunological changes or effects that *animals* show in response to various challenges.
4. Such measures can lead to criteria and indicators that help to evaluate how different methods of managing *animals* influence their *welfare*.

Article 7.1.4.**General principles for the welfare of animals in livestock production systems**

1. Genetic selection should promote always take into account the health and welfare of animals. Breeds of animals should be introduced only into environments to which they are genetically suited.
2. The physical environment, including the substrate (walking surface, resting surface, etc.), should be suited to the species so as not to cause minimise risk of injury or and transmit transmission of diseases or parasites to animals.
3. The physical environment should allow comfortable resting, safe and comfortable movement including normal postural changes, and the opportunity to perform types of natural behaviour that animals are motivated to perform.
4. Social grouping of animals should be managed to allow positive social behaviour and not cause minimise injury, distress or and chronic fear.
5. Air quality, temperature and humidity in confined spaces should support good animal health and not be aversive to animals. The temperature and humidity of the environment should be within the animals' ability to adapt. Where extreme conditions occur, animals should not be prevented from using their natural methods of thermo-regulation.
6. Animals should have access to sufficient food feed and water, suited to the animals' age and needs, to maintain normal health and vigour productivity and to prevent serious or prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.
7. Diseases and parasites should be prevented and controlled as much as possible through good management practices. Animals with serious health problems should be isolated and treated promptly or killed humanely if treatment is not feasible or recovery is unlikely.

8. Where painful procedures cannot be avoided, the resulting pain should be managed ~~as much as available to the extent that available~~ methods ~~and economic constraints~~ allow.
9. The handling of *animals* should foster a positive ~~human-animal~~ relationship ~~between humans and animals~~ and should not cause injury, panic, lasting fear or avoidable stress.
10. Owners and handlers should have sufficient skill and knowledge to ensure that *animals* are treated in accordance with these principles.