



National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is an independent statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on animal welfare matters. Its functions include recommending codes of welfare for issue, and making recommendations on legislative proposals including regulations relating to surgical procedures and traps and devices, and identifying research needs. It also promotes the development of guidelines for the use of traps and devices, and hunting and killing animals in a wild state.

Key items discussed at the 13 November meeting were:

- **Regulations** – NAWAC received an update on the implementation of the 2018 Care and Procedures Regulations, and another update on the progress of the Surgical and Painful Procedures regulations which are due to be in place by 2020.
- **Prioritisation** - NAWAC workshopped their top priorities, supported by Guideline 12. The updated workplan will be finalised in February and then published online.
- **Wildlife** – NAWAC discussed glueboard trap reports, the progress of the report and recommendation on snares, PredatorFree 2050 & community trapping and humane traps, and agreed to several changes to Guideline 09 regarding humane trap testing.
- **Dairy housing** – NAWAC agreed to proposed final changes to the amendment to the Dairy Cattle Code of Welfare regarding sections 4.4 and 4.5 (housing cows and calves and the use off-paddock facilities) for dairy cattle, and agreed to recommend the final wording to the Minister of Agriculture.
- **Farrowing crates** – NAWAC received an update on the progress of the petition by SAFE to ban farrowing crates.
- **Tutorials** – NAWAC received a presentation by the Meat Industry Association (MIA) regarding research into the stun-stick slaughter interval used in slaughterhouses.
- **Next meeting** – Meeting dates were set for 2019. These are: Wednesday 13 February; Wednesday 22nd May; Thursday 23rd May for a stakeholder workshop on animals in exhibition, entertainment and encounter, to assist development of an opinion paper; Monday 19 August; Tuesday 20 August for joint NAWAC/NAEAC meeting; and Wednesday 13 November.