

Australian Veterinary Association

Sheep Veterinarians comments on the Sheep Standards and Guidelines 6 May 2013

The sheep veterinarians made many submissions to the last reference group meeting and were not unhappy with the outcomes for the public consultation document.

Further comments were received and are collated below:

Sheep Standards and Guidelines	Public Consultation Phase ending 6 May, 2013
	<p>General comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggest standards and guidelines should be cross referenced with seminal documents e.g. Section 7 should mention the Evans Mulesing standard guidelines and section on feedlotting in Section 9 should reference the new feedlotting standards manual.• The proscriptive nature of Section 9 is not carried through in other sections. For example, mention is made of not having shedded sheep at Condition Score (CS) less than 2.0. Should sect 3 (feed and water) prescribe that paddock sheep not be allowed at less than 1.3? <p>Specific comments</p> <p>G3.5: (Drought management) “carefully observed and <i>objectively monitored</i>” (C.S or weight). It’s my experience that too many producers observe their sheep and don’t believe they are starving, particularly when in wool.</p> <p>G3.16 Flystrike / Mulesing should be at the top of the list, not the bottom.</p> <p>G5:12 Although quite vague I suggest that this guideline (GL) may mandate foot trimming. Suggest that it should say “inspected when lameness is found”</p> <p>G5:17 “Nets, coats and <i>ram harnesses</i>.”</p> <p>G5:21 “and <i>stress from driving/moving</i>”</p> <p>S6.3 & G 6:20 Tail docking: S6.3 is not consistent with G6:20. While 2 vertebrae is a repeatable measure I suspect it frequently falls short of covering the vulva. Moreover, many prime lamb breeds are routinely docked very short.</p> <p>G6:22 Castration: As written G6:22 does not make a whole lot of</p>

	<p>sense. When do lambs reach puberty? Moreover, some suckers are sold at 10-14 weeks but will have been castrated because producers don't know what lambs will be sold. Would not like this GL being used as a wedge to limit castration.</p> <p>S7.3 and G7.8: Do we have enough information to say that pain relief should be mandated for all mulesing rather than just 6-12 months?.</p> <p>S9.7 & G 9.14: the guideline and the standard are not consistent. Either they are not single penned or penned in accordance with S9.7.</p>
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