



WORLD SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

SUBMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

Sheep draft standards and guidelines

Public Consultation

May 2013

World Society for the Protection of Animals

World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA) Submission Sheep draft Standards and guidelines Public Consultation – May 2013

An Introduction to WSPA

WSPA (World Society for the Protection of Animals) has been protecting animals around the world for over 30 years. WSPA is working to make this happen and to create a world where animals matter and animal cruelty has ended.

We move the world to protect animals and we believe our work with animals starts with people. To change animals' lives we work to move people to change their attitudes, their behaviours and their actions. This can start with those people who are responsible for the care of cattle in Australia.

WSPA welcomes the opportunity to submit comments on the draft Cattle Standards and Guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact me, should you seek further clarification on any matter enclosed.

General comments:

WSPA thanks DAFF for the opportunity to comment on the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines-Sheep* (Sheep S&G). A copy of WSPA's policy document is attached for your reference. This sets out in broad terms WSPA's policies on farm animals. Unfortunately, key aspects of the Sheep S&G do not meet the principles for farm animal welfare that WSPA endorses.

Chiefly, WSPA is disappointed with a number of key areas of the Sheep S&G, including:

- There is no Standard to require sheep to have feed and water daily, and in fact sheep can be without these for up to 48 hours;
- Use of the electric stock prod on sheep is permitted;
- Pain relief for painful surgical procedures such as castration and mulesing is only required for animals over 6 months of age;
- Mulesing is to be allowed to continue (and by untrained persons) despite previous agreement by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC) that all farmers would cease mulesing by 2008 and that contractors would had to have undergone training by 2006; and
- Single penning of sheep in intensive production systems is permitted.

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Sections

Preface

Paragraph 1 - “[This section will be updated as necessary throughout the process, noting the need to better recognise industry contribution and ownership]”. Any update must include the contribution made by the public and welfare groups and recognize that the Sheep S&G is owned by the Australian public. This is especially the case as it is intended the Standards are incorporated into the animal welfare legislation of states and territories.

Paragraph 6 – WSPA has concerns that the influential writing group did not have representatives from animal welfare organizations, and that the “widely representative reference group”, while having members from RSPCA and Animal Australia, did not have balanced representation and there was industry domination of the process.

Introduction

Purpose

This section fails to make clear what the purpose of the Guidelines is, especially in relation to state and territory animal welfare legislation, and the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock (ASEL).

For example, it appears from reading this **Purpose** section that the Guidelines “will not be regulated”, will “be considered by industry for incorporation into national industry QA...”, will “complement the standards”, and “assist ... (*livestock producers, owners, managers, stockpersons and contractors*) to minimize risks to the welfare of sheep in all types of sheep farming and related enterprises”.

If one purpose of the Guidelines is to minimize welfare risks to an animal, then it is likely that compliance with the Guidelines will have legal relevance. For example, a Magistrate may wish to consider compliance or non-compliance with the Guidelines in a case in which a person has been charged with cruelty. Currently, compliance with a Code of Practice is a Defence to a charge of cruelty in some jurisdictions, including Western Australia. Is it intended that the Guidelines will have a similar role? How will the Guidelines complement the Standards?

Paragraph 2 – WSPA does not accept that the Sheep S&G “reflect ...community expectations”, given the industry domination of key decision-making processes.

Scope

Paragraph 3 –states that “These standards and guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other requirements for livestock, and related Commonwealth, state and territory legislation...” The use of the “other” implies that guidelines are also

World Society for the Protection of Animals

“requirements” when they are not. Further, how the Sheep S&G “should be considered” needs to be provided.

Paragraph 5 – “cruelty and unacceptable animal welfare practices” should be amended to “cruelty, including unacceptable husbandry and management practices”.

Development process

Paragraph 1 should mention input from welfare groups in relation to the role of the reference group. Also see comments under **Preface**.

Interpretation

This section should in the first instance refer the reader to the **Glossary**, which ideally should be at the front of the document to remind the reader of the importance of being familiar with the definitions being used before proceeding with the rest of the document. All important terms, especially “Animal welfare objectives”, “Standards”, “Guidelines” and “Reasonable actions” should be defined in the **Glossary** and not just under **Interpretation**.

Dot point 3 – defines “ Guidelines - the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes. Guidelines use the word ‘should’ and complement the standards. Noncompliance with one or more guidelines will not in itself constitute an offence under law”.

This last sentence implies that noncompliance with one or more Guidelines may, with other factors, constitute an offence under law, or have some legal ramifications, when this is apparently not the intended aim of Guidelines. The purpose of Guidelines needs to be clearly explained (see also related comments under **Purpose**).

Principles for sheep welfare

Paragraph 2 – The word “may” should be removed from “Good husbandry principles that also meet the basic physiological and behavioral needs of sheep may include...” as the list includes things such as the need to provide adequate nutrition and sufficient water, and other factors that are clearly not negotiable in relation to “good husbandry” or indeed to the basic needs of sheep.

Glossary

Comments on the **Glossary** are provided here rather than at the end of the document, where it currently appears. **Any comments made in relation to terms in the Glossary should be taken as implicit to all other comments made in this submission.**

For example, “sheep” should be defined as “one or more animals of any age classified scientifically as *Ovis aries* or other members of the genus *Ovis*”. Therefore,

World Society for the Protection of Animals

any comments made by WSPA in relation to the Sheep S&G incorporate the definition of sheep as including sheep of any age, including lambs.

As stated previously, all important terms, especially “Animal welfare objectives”, “Standards”, “Guidelines”, and “Reasonable actions”, should be defined in the **Glossary** and not just under **Interpretation**.

If definitions in the **Glossary** are not listed below then it should be taken that WSPA accepts them in the form they currently appear.

Access to water – MODIFY to “ A reasonable opportunity for sheep to be able to drink water of a suitable quality and quantity on a daily basis”.

Animal welfare – MODIFY to “ The physical and psychological state of an animal that reflects how well it is coping with the conditions in which it lives at any time”.

Bleeding out – MODIFY to “ The draining of blood from a conscious or unconscious animal by severing major blood vessels, usually of the throat”. Note WSPA does not support the former practice unless in extreme cases of emergency in sheep.

Castration – MODIFY-current definition is wordy and unclear and should include immuno-castration.

Class – MODIFY- to include weight of sheep as this is used in the live export trade.

Cryptorchidism – MODIFY-Cryptorchidism is classically the absence of one or both testes from the scrotum. It is a common birth defect of male genitalia. This is not reflected in the current definition, which refers to castration using rubber ring.

Emergency – MODIFY to “where animal welfare or human safety is or is likely to be compromised to a significant degree”.

Heat stress – MODIFY to “When the response by an animal to hot conditions above its thermo-neutral limit exceeds the ability of its behavioural, physiological or psychological coping mechanisms and its welfare is adversely affected”.

Inspect - MODIFY to “The visual check by a competent person of the health and welfare of sheep”.

Intensive production systems – MODIFY –replace “and or” to read “feed and water”. WSPA asks why the current definition excludes rams housed for breeding or stud sheep in preparation for showing if the period of confinement exceeds 4 weeks?

Lie - MODIFY to **Lie freely** “ means a sheep can lie on its sternum or on its side with its legs extended without restriction from other sheep or structures”.

Lift (lifted, lifting) – MODIFY to “The act of lifting a sheep off the ground by a person, which may include handling of the head, neck, horns, ears, tail or wool to control or steady an animal, in a supported and safe manner. None of these body

World Society for the Protection of Animals

parts must be used to effect the major lifting action, unless in an emergency situation”. There should be a clear statement that a person must not lift or hoist an animal off the ground by only the head, ears, horns, neck, tail or limbs.

Sheep-see earlier comments under Glossary.

Shy feeder – MODIFY to “A sheep in a feedlot or on board a vessel that does not eat the feed provided or drink sufficiently to maintain good health”.

Tail docking – MODIFY to “The surgical removal of a portion of a sheep’s tail”.

Weaning – MODIFY to “The process by which a lamb no longer suckles from its mother”. Another term should be used to describe the process by which weaned lambs are then taken off liquid feed provided by a person or mechanically.

The following terms need to be included in the **Glossary**:

Body Condition Score – define to reflect how this is assessed. For the purposes of this submission WSPA is using a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very emaciated and 5 being fat.

Culling – “The removal of an unsuitable sheep from a flock or other production system either by humane slaughter or by transport to an abattoir (if the animal is fit to travel)”.

Emergency – “ An unforeseeable, specific event that significantly threatens or is likely to threaten animal welfare of human safety. It does not include the concept of routine emergency “slaughter ” as is likely to occur from time to time in places where animals are bred, held, farmed or commercially slaughtered”.

First reasonable opportunity – “immediately it is safe to do so”.

Humane killing or slaughter – “the process of killing an animal with minimal pain and distress, including a rapid loss of consciousness”. Throat cutting of a sheep without prior stunning is not regarded as humane by WSPA.

Lamb - define

Person in charge – this should be defined to remove the need to restate this throughout the Sheep S&G

Pizzle-dropping – define

Weaner - define

Specific comments by item:

1. Responsibilities

World Society for the Protection of Animals

Objective:

MODIFY to “A person in charge of sheep knows and accepts his or her responsibilities to ensure the welfare of each sheep and is able to perform the required tasks needed to minimize animal welfare risks”.

Standards:

S1.1 Agree with principle expressed but wording fails as a Standard as it is not “verifiable” (see **Interpretation** of Standards page 6 Sheep S&G). The need to “take reasonable actions to ensure the welfare of sheep” under a person’s care is already covered in the duty of care or implied duty of care provisions in the various state and territory animal welfare legislations, which provide penalties for cruelty (including by neglect). The only way S1.1 could be verifiable is if the “reasonable actions” and the welfare outcomes were identified.

Additional Standards:

G1.1 TO BECOME STANDARD –see below.

Guidelines:

G1.1 SUPPORTED in principle but not as a Guideline. For example, WSPA is concerned that “identifying distressed, weak, injured or diseased sheep, and taking appropriate action” and “humanely killing sheep by appropriate methods, or seeking the assistance of someone who is capable and equipped to kill them humanely” could be “Guidelines” only, when they are in fact essential and basic necessities to prevent animal cruelty.

G1.2 SUPPORTED

G1.3 SUPPORTED

2. Feed and water

Objective:

MODIFY to read “Sheep have reasonable daily access to adequate and appropriate feed and water to prevent hunger and thirst and to meet physiological requirements”.

Standards:

S2.1 MODIFY to read “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that all animals have reasonable daily access to adequate and appropriate feed and water to prevent hunger and thirst, and to meet physiological requirements. No sheep must be allowed to have a body condition score of less than 1.5 without individual attention

World Society for the Protection of Animals

and remedial action (including feed and veterinary care) being given to the sheep to improve its health”.

Additional Standards:

G2.1 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge of sheep must ensure that each animal has access to adequate and appropriate feed and water daily, except where reasonable management practices in adult healthy sheep, such as shearing, preparation for sale, transport, slaughter, and drenching, require periods of water and feed deprivation not exceeding 36 hours”.

WSPA asks DAFF to provide the peer reviewed published research that supports the Sheep S&G allowable time off feed and water of 48 hours.

NEW STANDARD “A person in charge of sheep such as lambs, ewes with lambs, and heavily pregnant animals, must ensure feed and water deprivations do not occur at all unless in an emergency”.

G2.2 TO BECOME STANDARD “If adequate and appropriate feed and water cannot be provided to a sheep, the person in charge must relocate, agist, sell or humanely kill the animal before it suffers thirst, starvation, or other effects of inadequate nutrition”.

G5.20 LAST DOT POINT TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that appropriate and adequate feed and water is available to newly shorn animals”.

Guidelines:

G2.1 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above.

G2.2 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above.

G2.3, G2.4, G2.5, G2.6, G2.7, G2.8, G2.9, G2.10 SUPPORTED

3. Risk Management of extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation

Objective:

SUPPORTED

Standards:

S3.1 MODIFY to “A person in charge of sheep must take reasonable actions to ensure welfare threats, including extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation, do not impact adversely on each sheep”.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

S3.2 MODIFY to “A person in charge of sheep must ensure inspection of the animals occurs at a level and frequency that is reasonable for the production system and the risks to the sheep from welfare threats, including extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation”.

S3.3 MODIFY to “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that sick, injured or distressed sheep receive appropriate treatment, or are killed humanely, at the first reasonable opportunity”.

Additional Standards:

G3.3 TO BECOME STANDARD – “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that any sheep that appears to be isolated from its flock, caught in any structure, bogged, or down and unable to rise for any reason, is inspected as soon as it is identified, receives appropriate treatment or care, or is killed humanely”.

G3.6 and G 3.7 TO BECOME STANDARD – “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that sheep, including lambs, and shorn sheep, are provided with adequate shelter from the weather. In the absence of natural protection, this may include the provision of shade, windbreaks or sheds”.

G3.10 TO BECOME STANDARD – “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that predator control programs are implemented where predation is a risk to the welfare of sheep”.

G3.12 TO BECOME STANDARD – “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that all unexplained disease or deaths are investigated and appropriate remedial and preventative actions implemented”.

Guidelines:

G3.1, G3.2, G3.4, G3.5, G3.8, G3.9, G3.11, G3.13, G3.14, G3.15 SUPPORTED

G3.16-MODIFY to reflect that mulesing should only be considered as a last option, should be performed by competent and trained operators who have nationally recognised accreditation, and appropriate pain relief must be used.

Note that WSPA advocates that methods used at all stages of farm animal husbandry should be developed to preclude avoidable suffering. Every effort should be made to avoid mulesing, including use of breeds without the skin folds that risk flystrike and use of all other appropriate methods to reduce that risk.

G3.3, G3.6, G3.7, G3.10, G3.12 - CONVERT TO STANDARDS-see above.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

4. Facilities and equipment

Objective:

MODIFY to “All facilities and equipment used in a sheep enterprise must minimize the risks to the welfare of each sheep”.

Standards:

S4.1 MODIFY to read “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that reasonable actions are taken in the construction, maintenance and operation of all facilities and equipment used in a sheep enterprise to ensure the welfare of each sheep”.

Additional Standards

G4.1 TO BECOME STANDARD – only change to wording is the replacement of “should” with “must”.

Guidelines:

G4.1 – CONVERT TO STANDARDS-see above.

G4.2 –REMOVE-as clearly covered by proposed new Standard (see Additional Standards in Section 3 - G3.6 and G 3.7 TO BECOME STANDARD).

G4.3, G4.4, G4.5 SUPPORTED

5. Handling and husbandry

Objective:

MODIFY to “Handling and husbandry practices are humane and minimize the risk to the welfare of each sheep”.

Standards:

S5.1 MODIFY to “A person must handle sheep in a humane manner and must not:

- 1) lift or drag a sheep by one leg, or by the head, ears, horn, neck, tail or wool, or by mechanical means of any sort, unless in an emergency; or
- 2) throw or drop, except to land on its feet from a height less than 0.5 metre; or
- 3) strike, punch, or kick a sheep, or prod it, especially in sensitive areas such as anus, vulva, male genitalia, eyes, and ears

S5.2 MODIFY to “A person in charge of a dog that has bitten or threatened to bite sheep must be muzzled when working sheep or having other access to sheep”.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

S5.3 MODIFY to “A person in charge of a sheep must ensure it is shorn before the wool reaches 250mm in length”.

S5.4 MODIFY to “Electric prodders must not be used on sheep”.

S5.5 SUPPORTED

S5.6 SUPPORTED

S5.7 MODIFY to “Sheep must not be tethered unless in an emergency”.

Additional Standards:

G5.2 and G 5.8 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that extra care is taken when handling sheep with special needs, including young lambs, heavily pregnant ewes, lame sheep, rams, and segregated animals”.

G5.7 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of sheep must ensure that overcrowding of sheep in pens or yards does not occur and that precautions are taken to prevent smothering, especially of lambs and weaners”.

G5.15 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of a sheep must ensure that horn trimming does not damage the underlying and surrounding soft tissue”.

G5.16 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of a sheep must ensure that earmarking, tattooing, tagging and vaccination are performed in a way that minimizes the risk of infection, and any pain or distress to the sheep”.

G5.17 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of a sheep fitted with a net or coat must ensure the sheep is inspected daily to ensure it has not become tangled, cast or adversely affected by grass seeds”.

G5.19 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of a sheep must ensure that care is taken when shearing and crutching it to minimize cuts, and that severe cuts are treated appropriately”.

G5.20 LAST DOT POINT TO BECOME STANDARD – see Section 2

G5.21 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that rams that are sedated for shearing or crutching are managed to prevent exposure, sunburn and smothering in accordance with the directions of the prescribing veterinarian”.

NEW STANDARD “A person in charge of a sheep must ensure that wool is removed from its face, if the sheep’s vision is being impaired”.

Guidelines:

G5.1 SUPPORTED

World Society for the Protection of Animals

G5.2 CONVERTED TO STANDARD – see above.

G5.3, G5.4, G5.5, G5.6 SUPPORTED

G5.7, G5.8 CONVERTED TO STANDARDS – see above.

G5.9, G5.10, G5.11, G5.12, G5.13, G5.14 SUPPORTED

G5.15 CONVERTED TO STANDARD – see above.

G5.16 CONVERTED TO STANDARD – see above.

G5.17 CONVERTED TO STANDARD – see above.

G5.18 SUPPORTED

G5.19 CONVERTED TO STANDARD –see above.

G5.20 SUPPORTED but last dot point to be removed and made a STANDARD (see above and Section 2).

G5.21 CONVERTED TO STANDARD –see above.

G5.22 SUPPORTED

5. Tail docking and castration

Objective:

SUPPORTED

Standards:

S6.1 SUPPORTED

S6.2 MODIFY to “A person must not tail dock sheep without using appropriate pain relief and haemorrhage control”. WSPA asks DAFF to provide the peer reviewed published research that supports allowing sheep up to and including 6 months of age to be tail docked without pain relief and haemorrhage control.

S6.3 MODIFY (AND INCORPORATE G6.19) to “A person must only dock the tail of a sheep through the joint space and leave a docked tail stump with at least two palpable free joints remaining”.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

S6.4 MODIFY to “A person must not castrate a sheep without using appropriate pain relief and haemorrhage control”. WSPA asks DAFF to provide the peer reviewed published research that supports allowing sheep up to and including 6 months of age to be castrated without pain relief and haemorrhage control.

Additional Standards:

G6.2 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person must not tail dock or castrate a lamb less than 24 hours old or a sheep over 12 months, unless under veterinary advice”.

G6.5 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge of lambs being tail docked and/or castrated must ensure that good hygiene practices in relation to facilities, hands, handling, and instruments is used, and that disinfectant is changed frequently”.

G6.8 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of lambs being castrated or tail docked must ensure that each animal is appropriately restrained in a lamb cradle and must be released to land on its feet to avoid contact of the wound (s) with the ground”.

G6.10 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of lambs being castrated and/or tail docked must ensure that haemorrhage is minimized in each animal by selecting an appropriate method, preventing overheating of lambs and allowing them to settle after mustering”.

G6.11 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of lambs being castrated and/or tail docked must ensure that the procedures are not undertaken during extreme weather”.

G6.13 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that lambs that have been tail docked and/or castrated are inspected regularly on an individual basis during the post-operative period for signs of complications, and appropriate action, including provision of pain relief, taken if necessary”.

G6.16 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person must not muster and yard lambs until wounds from tail docking and/or castration are healed”.

G6.18 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person using a hot knife to tail dock must ensure that it is operated at the recommended temperature”.

G6.21 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person must not dock the tail of any sheep for cosmetic reasons or tail dock fat-tail sheep breeds”.

Guidelines:

G6.1 SUPPORTED

World Society for the Protection of Animals

G6.2 CONVERTED TO STANDARD

G6.3 MODIFY to “Lambs should not be tail docked or castrated younger than 2 weeks of age or over 6 months of age”.

G6.4 SUPPORTED

G6.5 CONVERTED TO STANDARD

G6.6, G6.7 SUPPORTED

G6.8 CONVERTED TO STANDARD

G6.9 SUPPORTED

G6.10 and G6.11 CONVERTED TO STANDARDS

G6.12 SUPPORTED

G6.13 CONVERTED TO STANDARD

G6.14 REMOVE-see S6.2 and S6.4 above.

G6.15 SUPPORTED

G6.16 CONVERTED TO STANDARD

G6.17 SUPPORTED

G6.18 CONVERTED TO STANDARD

G6.19 REMOVE AS INCORPORATED INTO S6.3

G6.20 SUPPORTED

G6.21 CONVERTED TO STANDARD

G6.22 SUPPORTED

6. Mulesing

Objective:

MODIFY to “In circumstances where mulesing is considered necessary for the long-term welfare of the sheep and non-surgical alternatives cannot be implemented,

World Society for the Protection of Animals

mulesing is done with pain relief and in a manner that minimises the impact of the procedure on the welfare of the sheep”.

Note our comments regarding mulesing against Guideline 3.16

Standards:

S7.1 MODIFY to “Only accredited, trained operators who have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills are to perform mulesing on sheep”.

S7.2 MODIFY to “A person must not mules a sheep less than 24 hours old or more than 8 weeks of age”. WSPA asks DAFF to provide the peer reviewed published research that supports allowing sheep up to and including 12 months of age to be mulesed.

S7.3 MODIFY to “A person must not mules any sheep without using pain relief”. WSPA asks DAFF to provide the peer reviewed published research that supports allowing sheep of any age to be mulesed without pain relief.

S7.4 MODIFY to “A person must not mules any sheep that is showing signs of disease, injury, weakness or ill thrift”.

S7.5 MODIFY (AND INCLUDES G7.5) to “A person mulesing a sheep must only remove the minimum amount of wool-bearing skin to achieve flystrike protection”.

Additional Standards:

G7.1 TO BECOME STANDARD “Before permitting mulesing to be undertaken, the owner of the sheep must demonstrate that other options for breech strike prevention have been considered including:

- Selection for resistant conformation
- Culling susceptible sheep
- Clips
- Crutching
- Timing of shearing
- Chemicals for flystrike prevention
- Internal parasite control

G7.7 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of a sheep must only allow mulesing to be performed when there are no reasonable alternatives and the procedure results in:

- Benefits to life-time sheep welfare
- Better flock management
- A reduced occupational health and safety risk.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

G7.9 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of a sheep being mulesed must ensure that the risk of infection is minimized through good hygiene practices in relation to facilities, hands, handling and instruments, and regular changing of disinfectant”.

G7.12 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge of lambs being mulesed must ensure that each lamb is appropriately restrained in a lamb cradle and must be released in a manner that ensures it lands on its feet to avoid contact of the wound with the ground”.

G7.17 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that lambs that have been mulesed are inspected regularly on an individual basis during the post-operative period for signs of complications, and appropriate action, including pain relief, taken if necessary”.

G7.18 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person must not muster and yard lambs until wounds from mulesing are healed”.

G7.20 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must not perform mulesing during extreme weather”.

Guidelines

G7.1 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above

G7.2, G7.3, G7.4 SUPPORTED

G7.5 REMOVED AS INCORPORATED IN S7.5

G7.6 MODIFY to “Where mulesing is performed, lambs should be between 2 and 8 weeks of age”.

G7.7 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above

G7.8 REMOVE AS INCORPORATED IN S7.3.

G7.9 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above

G7.10, G7.11 SUPPORTED

G7.12 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above

G7.13, G7.14, G7.15, G7.16 SUPPORT

G7.17, G7.18 CONVERTED TO STANDARDS-see above

World Society for the Protection of Animals

G7.19 SUPPORTED

G7.20 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above

7. Breeding management

Objective:

MODIFY to “Breeding management practices are humane and minimize the risk to the welfare of individual sheep”

Standards:

S8.1 MODIFY to “A person performing artificial breeding procedures on sheep must take appropriate action to minimize pain, injury, or distress to individual sheep”.

S8.2 MODIFY to “A person must be a registered veterinary surgeon to perform surgical embryo transfer and laparoscopic insemination of sheep”.

Additional Standards:

G8.1 TO BECOME STANDARD “Technicians responsible for breeding management must have an understanding of the reproduction and behavior of the ewe and the ram”.

G8.3 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that in the last 4-6 weeks of pregnancy, management practices minimize stress on ewes to reduce the risk of pregnancy toxæmia and other metabolic diseases”.

G8.4 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that lambing ewes are monitored, and disturbed as little as possible”.

G8.5 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that any ewe affected by severe injuries or lambing complications, including prolapsed uterus, and dystocia, receive urgent treatment or be killed humanely at the first reasonable opportunity”.

G8.6 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that lambing ewes are placed in a sheltered paddock with appropriate feed, when there is a risk of cold, wet or windy weather”.

G8.7 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that predators are [humanely] controlled before and during lambing”.

G8.9 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that weak or orphaned lambs with a poor chance of survival are killed humanely at the first reasonable opportunity”.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

G8.13 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person must not use electro-ejaculation to obtain semen from rams”.

G8.14 TO BECOME STANDARD “Laparoscopic artificial insemination and embryo transfer must be done using sedation, analgesia and aseptic technique.”

Guidelines

G8.1 CONVERT TO STANDARD-see above.

G8.2 SUPPORTED

G8.3, G8.4, G8.5, G8.6, G8.7 CONVERT TO STANDARD-see above.

G8.8 SUPPORTED

G8.9 CONVERT TO STANDARD-see above.

G8.10, G8.11 SUPPORTED

G8.12 INCORPORATED INTO S8.2

G8.13 CONVERT TO STANDARD-see above

G8.14 CONVERT TO STANDARD-see above

8. Intensive sheep production systems

Objective:

MODIFY to “Sheep in intensive production systems are managed to minimize the risks to the welfare of individual sheep”.

Note that WSPA opposes intensive production systems, including those for sheep.

Standards:

S9.1 MODIFY to “A person in charge must ensure that each sheep in an intensive production system has reasonable access to adequate and appropriate feed daily and to water at all times”.

S9.2 MODIFY to “A person in charge must ensure close daily inspection of individual sheep in the first week of confinement to ensure successful adaptation to the intensive production system”.

S9.3 MODIFY to “A person in charge must take reasonable action, including treatment or humane killing, where individual sheep have not adapted to an intensive production system. This must occur before there are significant impacts on the welfare of the sheep, such as starvation”.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

S9.4, S9.5 SUPPORTED

S9.6 MODIFY to “A person in charge of an intensive production system must ensure there is sufficient space to allow all sheep to lie freely at the same time”.

S9.7 CHANGE to “Single penning of sheep for commercial production is not permitted”.

Additional Standards:

G9.1 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that drinking equipment is inspected regularly and maintained to ensure its correct operation, and that pipes, taps and ball valves are not blocked”.

G9.2 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that water troughs are cleaned as required to prevent faecal and other contamination”.

G9.3 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that feed troughs are cleaned as required to prevent faecal and other contamination and build-up of stale and spoiled feed and dust”.

G9.4 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that trough space is sufficient to allow adequate daily intake of feed and water by all sheep, and to minimize bullying”.

G9.5 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that sheep entering an intensive production system are gradually introduced to a change of diet, such as pellets, to enable them to adapt. Shy feeders must be identified and treated, removed from the system, or humanely killed before their welfare suffers”.

G9.6 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that the diet provided in intensive production systems promotes rumination”.

G9.7 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that individual sheep in intensive wool production systems must be maintained at or above a body condition score of 2”.

G9.9 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge of inspecting the sheep in the first week of confinement must pay particular attention to whether each sheep is adjusting successfully to its: new dietary regime; environment; feeding and watering facilities; and other sheep”.

G9.13 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that lighting in indoor systems is adequate (e.g. 50 Lux) to allow inspection of all sheep”.

G9.15 TO BECOME STANDARD “A person in charge must ensure that appropriate action is taken to alleviate wool biting and other stereotypic behaviours shown by sheep in intensive production systems, including: providing coarse fibre (e.g. straw)

World Society for the Protection of Animals

in such a way that satisfies the need for sheep to forage and ruminate; correcting dietary deficiencies; enriching the environment; and removing the sheep from the system”.

G9.16 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that prior to entry into an intensive production system each sheep is inspected for disease and injury and appropriate treatment or action undertaken”.

G9.17 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that a biosecurity plan is in place for the introduction of sheep into an intensive production system”.

G9.18 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that hospital pens are used for sick or injured sheep in intensive production systems”.

G9.19 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that dead sheep are removed promptly in intensive production systems”.

G9.25 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that shade and shelter is provided to prevent heat and cold stress in intensive production systems”.

G9.26 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that all ventilation equipment is checked regularly to ensure it is fully operational”.

G9.27 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that indoor housing systems with controlled or forced ventilation that rely on automatic equipment is inspected daily, or have back-up systems to warn of mechanical failure”.

G9.29 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge of an intensive production system must ensure there is a contingency plan for the following: water supply interruption; feed supply interruption; disease outbreak; extreme weather conditions; personal accident or injury; fire and other natural disasters”.

G9.30 TO BECOME STANDARD “ A person in charge must ensure that there are adequate fire alarms and fire-fighting equipment fitted and maintained in all indoor housing systems”.

NEW STANDARD- “A person in charge must ensure that appropriate bedding is provided and maintained in a hygienic state where sheep are penned for more than 5 days and there is a risk to welfare including from abrasions and cellulitis”.

NEW STANDARD – “A person in charge must ensure that individual sheep in intensive production systems are inspected daily”.

Guidelines

G9.1, G9.2, G9.3, G9.4, G9.5, G9.6, G9.7 CONVERTED TO STANDARDS-see above.

World Society for the Protection of Animals

G9.8 SUPPORTED

G9.9 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above.

G9.10, G9.11 SUPPORTED

G9.12 MODIFY to “Special attention should be given to sheep that are having problems accessing feed and water in an intensive production system. Management options include: reducing pen density; drafting sheep to pens based on size of sheep; altering trough design to enhance feed access; and removing them from the system”.

G9.13 CONVERTED TO STANDARD-see above.

G9.14 REMOVED see S9.7

G9.15, G9.16, G9.17, G9.18, G9.19 CONVERTED TO STANDARDS-see above.

G9.20, G9.21, G9.22, G9.23, G9.24 SUPPORTED

G9.25, G9.26, G9.27 CONVERTED TO STANDARDS-see above.

G9.28 SUPPORTED

G9.29, G9.30 CONVERTED TO STANDARDS-see above.

9. Humane killing

Objective:

MODIFY to “where it is necessary on welfare grounds to kill a sheep, this is done at the first reasonable opportunity, humanely, and safely”.

Standards:

S10.1, 10.2, 10.3 SUPPORTED

S10.4 MODIFY to “A person killing sheep must confirm death has occurred”.

S10.5 MODIFY to “A person must not kill a conscious sheep by using a blow to the forehead except when it is a lamb weighing less than 7 kilograms, unless it is an emergency, and death is effected by a single, sharp blow delivered to the centre of the forehead using a suitable object”.

S10.6 MODIFY to “A person must not kill a conscious sheep by bleeding out unless it is an emergency and there is no reasonable access to a firearm, captive bolt or lethal injection”.

Additional Standards

World Society for the Protection of Animals

G10.3 converted to S10.5

Guidelines

G10.1, G10.2 SUPPORTED

G10.3 INCORPORATED INTO S10.5

G10.4 SUPPORTED