

Frequently asked questions

Are the Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Goats legally binding?

No, the *Australian Industry Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Goats* are not legally binding. It is recognised that, while currently legislated animal welfare requirements will continue to be mandatory, these voluntary industry standards and guidelines can inform the future development of a nationally uniform legislative approach to goat welfare. Both the standards and guidelines are voluntary.

Who developed the Welfare Standards and Guidelines?

AHA and GICA developed the *Australian Industry Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Goats* together with a drafting group made up of experienced goat industry professionals representing the various goat industry sectors.

What is the difference between a 'standard' and a 'guideline'?

A standard is best described as an industry requirement. For example, by adhering to an Australian Goat Welfare Standard you are meeting the minimum requirement industry has determined as acceptable. The guidelines are the recommended practices to achieve desirable welfare outcomes. Guidelines use the word 'should' and are designed to complement the standards. Non-compliance with one or more guidelines will not constitute an offence under law.

If I abide by the Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Goats, how will they help me?

By adopting the *Australian Industry Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Goats*, you can maintain and improve the health and welfare of your animals which can improve production and maintain market access.