

To Whom It May Concern;

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make comment on the beak tipping section of the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry.

My expertise over a period of 40 years as a research scientist was in beak tipping and I have edited a beak trim text book which highlighted the key welfare issues associated with hot blade beak trimming. See <http://www.5mbooks.com/poultry-welfare-issues-beak-trimming.html>

Glatz, P.C. (2005). Poultry Welfare Issues-Beak trimming. Nottingham University Press, Nottingham, UK. ISBN I-904761-20-8; 173p.

My colleague Geof Runge has over 50 years' experience as a poultry extension officer with extensive experience on-farm and in hatcheries with beak tipping, farm husbandry practices and bird behaviour. Together we have published a new book which provides the latest information on beak tipping in the Australian poultry industry.

See **Glatz, P. and Runge, G. (2017). Managing fowl behaviour. A best practice guide to help egg producers and poultry breeders manage feather pecking and cannibalism in their flocks. ISBN 1 920835 58 X, © Australian Egg Corporation Limited; 148 p.**

The beak trimming text book (Glatz, 2005) is an information source on hot blade beak trimming for scientists, students, welfare groups, policy makers, poultry industry leaders and the community. The book provides the rationale for best practice hot blade trimming which was included in the 2002 Poultry Code in Australia. The detailed analysis provided in the text book by prominent welfare scientists worldwide has been overlooked in the beak tipping reviews undertaken by the AHA drafting committee, RSPCA and Nicol et al. 2017. In addition, there is scant information provided on infrared beak treatment (IRBT) in the reviews by AHA drafting committee, RSPCA and Nicol et al. 2017. IRBT is the preferred method of beak tipping in the Australian Poultry Industry but where the method is not available to poultry farmers best practice hot blade beak trimming is recommended.

As such we have provided comments on the history of beak tipping in Australia and advice to John Dunn at Egg Farmers Australia on the proposed Standards and Guidelines for beak trimming in poultry We recommend that there be two standards/guidelines for beak tipping included in the new code: one for IRBT and the other for hot blade beak trimming. The mandating of the standard on beak treatment as drafted would have serious impacts on bird welfare. It is likely to substantially increase mortalities and the cost of managing this will be significant.

Our rationale for this recommendation is provided in our review of the AHA supporting paper on beak trimming for public consultation. We are pleased to attach a document on the history of beak tipping in Australia plus a review of the following;

- Supporting paper on public consultation version of POULTRY WELFARE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES – BEAK TRIMMING with our recommendation on the two standards for beak tipping.
- Beak trim aspects of the review paper by RSPCA on THE WELFARE OF LAYER HENS IN CAGE AND CAGE-FREE HOUSING SYSTEMS
- Beak trim aspects of the FARMED BIRD WELFARE REVIEW by Nicol et al. 2017

Our review of the supporting documents above centred on the authors not assessing each of the papers in literature for the risk factors that impact on welfare of beak trimmed birds. For hot blade trimming these factors are the age of beak trimming, amount of beak removed, blade temperature and cauterization time. For IRBT the risk factors are lamp power settings, interface plates and/or mirror types, exposure time and depth of treatment.

Assessment of these factors would have enabled the authors to develop a conclusion on what is best practice beak tipping for both the Hot Blade and Infrared Beak Treatment method to minimise the short term acute pain from beak tipping and avoid the long-term pain in birds associated with persistent feather pecking and feather removal and the ghastly death birds suffer from cannibalism.

Kind Regards

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and

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