

DETERMINATION NO. 45 OF 1993

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Section 22 of the Animal Welfare Act 1992 provides that the Minister may approve codes of practice relating to animal welfare.

The Australian Model of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - Domestic Poultry was developed by the Subcommittee on Animal Welfare (SCAW) of the Animal Health Committee within the Agricultural Council of Australia and New Zealand system.

Membership of SCAW comprises representatives from each of the State Departments with responsibility for agriculture and/or animal welfare, CSIRO, Bureau of Rural Resources and other committees within the ACANZ. The 2nd Edition was endorsed by ACANZ as a national code in February 1992.

The ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee endorsed the Model Code in April 1993 for adoption in the Territory.

The provisions of the Code are explained in the Attachment.

The Introduction discusses the purpose of the Code as a guide to those responsible for the welfare and husbandry of domestic poultry, and briefly discusses the basic needs of poultry.

Part 1 provides the requirements for housing of poultry in general, and details requirements in both cage systems and non-cage systems.

Part 2 provides the space allowances that are to be provided for poultry.

Part 3 explains requirements in relation to equipment.

Part 4 explains requirements for lighting, including intensity and periods to be provided.

Part 5 details the required ventilation to ensure fresh air is available to the poultry.

Part 6 details temperature requirements for newly hatched birds and growing and adult poultry.

Part 7 requires adequate protection for the poultry.

Part 8 details the food requirements and methods of providing food.

Part 9 explains the requirements of water supply.

Part 10 details requirements in relation to health and distress of poultry, including removal of dead birds and humane destruction in particular cases.

Part 11 specifies the appropriate frequency and level of inspection and what aspects should be checked.

Part 12 details management practices in relation to such practices as artificial insemination, beak trimming, dubbing or desnooding, toe trimming, blinkers, castration, devoicing, flight restriction, moult inducement, controlled feeding and identification.

Part 13 explains practices in relation to hatchery management.

Part 14 provides for the welfare during transport of day-old birds.

Part 15 provides for the welfare during transport of growing and adult poultry.

Part 16 explains practices in relation to sale of poultry.

Part 17 explains practices at slaughtering establishments.

Appendix 1 provides additional recommendations for range poultry.

Appendix 2 provides maximum recommended stocking densities for fowls.

Appendices 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 provide advice in relation to turkeys, ducks, geese, pheasants, guinea fowl, partridge, quail and pigeons respectively.

A summary of recommendations for cages for laying fowls is included as the last entry in the Code.