

DETERMINATION NO. 167 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 Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - Cattle was prepared by a joint working party of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee together with representatives of the ACT Rural Lessee's Association.

The ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee endorsed the Code of Practice for adoption in the ACT in November 1993.

The provisions of the Code are detailed in the Attachment.

Attachment F

The purpose of the Code is to promote the humane and considerate treatment of beef and dairy cattle, and the use of good husbandry practices to improve the welfare of cattle in all types of farming enterprises.

The Code encompasses all aspects of the care welfare and husbandry of cattle.

Section 1 discusses basic welfare needs of cattle and the responsibilities of persons handling the animals. Included within this Section are the water, clean air and feed requirements of cattle. The precautions to be taken against drought and/or seasonal feed shortages and the protection requirements from climatic extremes and predation.

Section 2 is concerned with the artificial rearing of calves with emphasis on housing, feed and multiple raisings.

Section 3 details the requirements of cattle handling facilities including mustering techniques and yarding specifications.

Section 4 explains procedures of general management practices including supervision, milking practices, castration, spaying, tail docking, identification, dehorning, mating, calving and weaning practices and the marketing of bobby calves.

Section 5 discusses various health aspects which should be monitored to ensure the continuing health of the herd.

Section 6 details the responsibility for the welfare of agisted cattle.

Section 7 is concerned with the humane destruction of stock. Outlined within this Section is the use of the firearm, the captive-bolt pistol or anaesthetic overdose by a veterinarian.

Appendices provide information on water requirement guidelines, feed requirement guidelines and guidelines for the welfare of bobby calves.