

DETERMINATION NO. 166 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 Livestock and Poultry at Slaughtering Establishments (Abattoirs, Slaughter-Houses and Knackeries) in the A.C.T. was prepared by a joint working party of Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and representatives from P D Mulligan Canberra - Wholesale Butchers and Abattoirs.

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 E

The purpose of the Code is intended as a guide to all people including truck drivers, stockmen, slaughtering staff, inspectors and abattoir management and employees, involved in the management of animals of various species at slaughtering establishments in the Australian Capital Territory.

It includes aspects of unloading, pre-slaughter handling and the slaughter process, and it aims to encourage the efficient, considerate treatment of animals so that stress is minimised. It includes a section about emergency slaughter of sick, crippled and "downer" animals. Techniques for the humane destruction of animals are also described in the Code.

Section 2 discusses the general requirements for handling livestock including the construction and design of loading and handling facilities, the design consideration of ramps, the unloading of animals at establishment, the unloading of crippled or downer stock and the holding of stock during industrial disputes.

Section 3 outlines the stock holding facilities and management at an abattoir. Details of specifications for the holding paddocks or yards and the pre-slaughter holding pens are given and categories of animals that should not be mixed are stated. The holding times for various animals are outlined and methods for a relatively stress free movement forward to slaughter are given.

Section 4 details procedures for the various slaughtering methods which are approved. This includes stunning restraints and techniques and sticking.

Section 5 deals exclusively with the handling of deer within the abattoir.

Section 6 discusses the welfare aspects of stock on arrival and their subsequent slaughtering at knackeries.

Section 7 is concerned with the handling of poultry at an abattoir. Areas covered by this Section are the pre-slaughter holding, the holding time, the procedures to be followed during an industrial dispute, the catching and shackling of birds, stunning, bleeding out and the small scale slaughter of poultry.

Section 8 details the requirements of general abattoir management.

Section 9 is dedicated to the various appendices including the specification of unloading ramps, the emergency destruction of livestock with use of the rifle or the captive-bolt pistol. Special requirements for the humane destruction of stock are given.