

DETERMINATION NO. 165 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 Animals at Saleyards in the A.C.T. was prepared by a joint working party of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee with representatives from W J Gibbs and Co Pty Ltd who administer the saleyard within the Australian Capital Territory.

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.

The purpose of the Code is to be a guide to all stock handlers including truck drivers, stockmen, livestock agency staff, stock inspectors, producers, saleyard managers and their staffs involved in the management of animals of various species at saleyards.

The Code aims to minimise stress in all livestock by encouraging efficient and considerate handling. It includes aspects of unloading, pre- and post-sale handling, the provision of feed, water, shelter and general care of livestock at saleyards.

Section 2 explains the general requirements of the construction of a saleyard.

Section 3 is concerned with the management personnel of a saleyard, outlining areas of responsibility for the superintendent or saleyard supervisor and the stockmen or animal attendants.

Section 4 details construction and design of loading and handling facilities. This includes design consideration of ramps, holding paddocks and yards as well as laneways and races for different species, drafting, selling pens and buyers pens, watering facilities, curfews, feeding procedures, maintenance of equipment and truck washing facilities.

Section 5 discusses the loading and unloading of animals and the welfare advantages of efficient handling of the stock. Included in this Section are various methods of assisting the handling of the animals at the saleyard, the separation of differing species of animals and the unloading of injured animals.

Section 6 is dedicated to special considerations of individual species handled at the saleyard. Included within this Section are pigs, bobby calves, unweaned lambs and kids and animals in advanced pregnancy.

Section 7 explains the procedures to be followed during an industrial dispute at the Abattoirs.

Section 8 is concerned with the humane destruction of stock. Outlined within this Section is the use of the firearm and the captive-bolt pistol as well as the method of destruction for horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and goats.