

WOOLPRODUCERS' ANIMAL WELFARE STATEMENT

WOOLPRODUCERS
AUSTRALIA

Introduction

Animal welfare is a key priority for WoolProducers Australia, and as the peak national body for the wool industry in Australia, we believe that the industry will benefit from a united approach to animal welfare. Individuals involved in the wool industry and its supply chains must take a proactive approach to ensure that a positive welfare state is achieved for each animal in their care. WoolProducers encourages industry stakeholders to adopt this statement as their own.

Our position

Welfare is a broad term that is not easily defined, but it is a state that exists within every animal and therefore must incorporate the physical and mental well-being of the animal. An animal is in a positive state of welfare when it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe and able to express natural behaviours, indicated by science-based evidence. Good husbandry and veterinary practices and sufficient availability of resources enable a positive welfare status to be achieved.

All husbandry activities should be conducted to the highest possible welfare standards, and only be conducted when the lifelong benefit to the animal outweighs any short-term adverse welfare impacts.

It is the responsibility of every person involved in Australia's wool industry to achieve a high standard of animal welfare so that each animal in their care lives in a positive welfare state. As such, WoolProducers adopts the Five Domains of Animal Welfare Model. The Model provides a foundation to guide welfare management objectives that achieve a positive welfare state for each individual animal. We support unbiased scientific, evidence-based approaches to determine clearly defined and measurable welfare states.

Our commitment

WoolProducers demonstrates our ongoing commitment to the positive welfare states of animals in the wool industry through our policy and advocacy efforts. This is evidenced by WoolProducers' commitment to:

- Supporting Animal Health Australia's *Animal Health and Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep*;
- Supporting the development of a sheep husbandry best practice guide;
- Endorsing voluntary self-regulatory animal welfare programmes to progress best practice management;
- Supporting required standards of animal management necessary to maintain necessary animal health needs;
- Seeking to achieve sustainable animal welfare improvements by pursuing scientific measurement of minimum standards, at the herd or flock level;
- Achieving animal welfare decision making mechanisms that reflect the credibility of participants;
- Ensuring coordinated animal welfare research efforts;
- Supporting investment in finding an alternative to mulesing and phasing out the practice when a universally accepted alternative is available;
- Promoting the use of pain relief; and,
- Endorsing the IWTO International Wool Specifications.

Implementation

WoolProducers' Executive and Animal Health and Welfare Committee endorse this Welfare Statement. Responsibility to meet the expectations of this statement lie with all who are involved in the Australian wool industry.