

DETERMINATION NO. 162 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 Horses in the A.C.T. was prepared by a joint working party of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, the ACT Equestrian Association Incorporated, the ACT Equine Veterinary Practitioners, the ACT Racing Club, the ACT Thoroughbred Owners and Trainers Association, the Australian Equine Veterinary Association, the Australian Jockey Club, the Australian Veterinary Association, the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy, the RSPCA (NSW) Incorporated and (ACT) Incorporated and the Victorian Racing Club Incorporated.

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 A

The purpose of the Code is to set standards for the welfare of horses in the Australian Capital Territory.

The Code is established to provide an outline of the principles of husbandry, management and handling throughout the lifetime of the horse.

The Code emphasises the importance of good horsemanship and husbandry practices, pointing out that persons in charge of horses have a legal liability under ACT legislation to care for horses under their control.

Section 2 discusses responsibilities of horse owners for their duty of care to the welfare of the horses under their control at all times.

Section 3 details the general husbandry requirements of horses with sections concerning the behavioural needs, supervision, food and water, general requirements of premises, fencing and accommodation of the animal.

Section 4 outlines aspects of special husbandry requirements in relation to health issues and what specific signs the person inspecting the animals should be aware of as well as the handling of the animals. Various sections concerning education, training and performance, foot care, restraints, identification, surgical and medical procedures and disease protection are included within this Section.

Section 5 informs of various racing and competitive discipline codes to ensure that participants are aware of the fact that rules exist which govern specific equine events.

Section 6 details the methods of humane killing of horses should the need arise to put down the animal. It also outlines who is authorised to perform these procedures.

Section 7 is concerned with the transportation of horses and how best to minimise the risks of injury to the animals during transportation. Also outlined are standards for vehicles which are used for the purpose of transportation of horses.

Section 8 shows an extensive bibliography providing references for further reading.

Section 9 acknowledges the source of the ACT Code of Practice as well as those organisations involved in the modifications required for acceptance within the ACT.

Section 10 are tables of appendices which give the maintenance requirements of water and feed in respect to the size and weight of the animal. Also included is a basic stabling agreement.