

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM
NO. 96 OF 1995**

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 Farmed Deer was prepared by a joint working party of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee together with representatives of the Rural Lessees Association and Animal Liberation.

The ACT Animal Welfare Advisory Committee endorsed the Code of Practice for adoption in the ACT in April 1995.

The provisions of the Code are detailed in the Attachment.

Attachment A

The purpose of the Code is to provide guidelines for persons responsible for the welfare and husbandry of farmed deer within the Australian Capital Territory.

The Code emphasises that sound animal husbandry practices are essential for the welfare of farmed deer, and that the basic behavioural, anatomical and physiological characteristics of deer vary considerably between species and from other livestock.

Section 2 details the food and water requirements of deer, including in drought conditions.

Section 3 outlines requirements in relation to protection from climatic extremes and predation.

Section 4 describes responsibilities for protection of deer from disease and injury.

Section 5 details appropriate accommodation and methods of handling deer.

Section 6 deals with management practices, detailing specific procedures relating to removal of antlers, identification and castration.

Section 7 specifies requirements in relation to transportation.

Section 8 describes methods of humane destruction.

Section 9 is Appendix 1 which details requirements in relation to antler removal in deer.