

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

No. 162 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 Animals: Domestic Poultry was prepared by the Sub-Committee on Animal Welfare (SCAW) of the Animal Health Committee within the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ) system. Membership of SCAW comprises representatives from each of the State Departments with responsibility for agriculture and/or animal welfare, CSIRO, Bureau of Resource Sciences and other committees within the ARMCANZ. Extensive consultation has taken place with industry and welfare groups in the development of the Code.

This edition of the Code is based on the version endorsed by the Agricultural Council of Australia and New Zealand as a national Code in February 1992 which was approved for the ACT in 1993. It contains amendments made to the second edition as a result of resolutions agreed to by ARMCANZ in October 1994. These resolutions relate to conditions on space allowances placed in the Code in February 1992.

The provisions of the Code are detailed in the Attachment.

The Code of Practice is intended as a guide for people responsible for the welfare and husbandry of domestic poultry.

It recognises that the basic requirements for welfare of poultry is a husbandry system appropriate to their physiological and behavioural needs.

Section 2 details the general housing of poultry.

Section 3 outlines the space allowances required for poultry.

Section 4 specifies that equipment must be appropriate and efficient.

Section 5 provides requirements in relation lighting.

Section 6 requires that ventilation is appropriate and adequate.

Section 7 describes needs in relation to temperature.

Section 8 discusses requirements for protection of the birds.

Section 9 outlines feeding requirements.

Section 10 outlines water requirements.

Section 11 details requirements in relation to health and distress of poultry.

Section 12 discusses appropriate inspection procedures.

Section 13 outlines management practices including such practices as artificial insemination, beak trimming, toe trimming and the use of blinkers.

Section 14 describes appropriate hatchery management practices.

Section 15 provides requirements in relation to transport of day-old birds.

Section 16 provides requirements in relation to growing and adult poultry.

Section 17 discusses sale of poultry.

Section 18 outlines procedures at slaughtering establishments.

Appendix 1 contains additional recommendations for range poultry.

Appendix 2 details maximum stocking densities for fowls.

Appendix 3 discusses housing, space allowances and management practices in relation to turkeys.

Appendix 4 discusses stocking densities and management practices in relation to ducks.

Appendix 5 discusses space allowances, feed and management practices in relation to geese.

Appendix 6 discusses space allowances and beak trimming in relation to pheasants.

Appendix 7 discusses housing and temperature in relation to guinea fowl.

Appendix 8 discusses space allowance and beak trimming in relation to partridge.

Appendix 9 discusses housing and space allowance in relation to quail.

Appendix 10 discusses housing, space allowance, weaning, beak trimming and transport in relation to pigeons.

The Summary of Recommendations for Cages for Laying Fowls provides for floor allowance, floor slope, cage height, cage front, feed space and drinkers.

The National Guidelines for RSPCA Inspectors for the Inspection of Layer Hen Cages discusses procedures for counting and weighing to determine space allowances for caged layer hens, and appropriate corrective action.