

Renewing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy

Take survey

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Response received at:

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- 1 I have read and understood the privacy notice and consent to the collection, use and disclosure of my personal information as outlined in the privacy notice.
Yes
- 2 Confirm that you have read and understand this declaration
Yes
- 3 First name
Tara
- 4 Last name
Ward
- 5 Email
tara@ado.org.au
- 6 Who are you answering on behalf of?
Organisation
- 7 What is the name of your organisation?

8 Which of the following best describes your situation?

Other: "Community Legal Centre"

9 Consider the following areas of action that were identified through the previous Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) for livestock and production animals. Please rate how important each one is for inclusion in the renewed AAWS.

Better alignment of animal welfare arrangements across states and territories, to avoid confusion and achieve consistent outcomes. For example, legislation, standards and codes of practice.: Important

Continuing to integrate animal welfare into existing livestock and production industry quality assurance programs.: Not relevant

Coordination of current and future livestock and production research and development programs.: Not relevant

Sharing of information within the research and development sector to align priorities and prevent duplication across all animal groups.: Slightly important

Identifying all stakeholders connected to the animal group sector, and supporting or developing effective ways to share information and collaborate.: Slightly important

Identifying and measuring performance indicators for animal welfare.: Very important

Identifying core skills and capabilities for workers and students in relevant fields and creating or enhancing education, training or awareness programs to achieve these skills.: Not relevant

Defining what good animal welfare looks like and developing a clear approach to achieving and showcasing good animal welfare outcomes in Australia.: Important

Increasing the Australian public's awareness of animal welfare related arrangements and measures, including standards and guidelines, codes and other mechanisms such as sustainability frameworks and extension activities.: Slightly important

10 If you selected 'not relevant' to any of the above, please explain why:

The AAWS should:

- focus on better outcomes for animals (eg expedited transition away from intensive confinement) rather than facilitating industries' use of and commercial gain from animals through industry activities such as R&D;
- avoid supporting self-regulation by industry (eg industry quality assurance programs) as it does not and cannot ensure good animal welfare outcomes due to the lack of

transparency and accountability of animal industries and their inherent profit-maximisation ethos.

11 Consider the following areas of action identified through the previous AAWS for aquatic animals. Please rate how important each one is for inclusion in the renewed AAWS.

Improving industry awareness and ownership of animal welfare arrangements.:

Important

Developing minimum fish welfare standards across all aquatic sectors. Improving adoption of welfare standards across aquatic sectors and species.: Very important

Identifying core skills and capabilities for workers and students in relevant fields and creating or enhancing education, training or awareness programs to achieve these skills.:

Slightly important

Identifying all stakeholders connected to the animal group sector, and supporting or developing effective ways to share information and collaborate.: Slightly important

Better alignment of animal welfare arrangements across states and territories, to avoid confusion and achieve consistent outcomes. For example, legislation, standards and codes of practice.: Important

Sharing of information within the research and development sector to align priorities and prevent duplication across all animal groups.: Not relevant

Identifying and measuring performance indicators for animal welfare.: Very important

Defining what good animal welfare looks like and developing a clear approach to achieving and showcasing good animal welfare outcomes in Australia.: Important

Increasing the Australian public's awareness of animal welfare related arrangements and measures, including standards and guidelines, codes and other mechanisms such as sustainability frameworks and extension activities.: Slightly important

12 If you selected 'not relevant' to any of the above, please explain why:

The AAWS should focus on animal welfare outcomes rather than managing and streamlining industry activities such as R&D. Animal welfare outcomes that protect fishes should be the priority in this sector, including foundational steps such as recognising and educating the public about the sentience of fishes and other aquatic animals eg crustaceans and decapods, and strengthening and supporting the monitoring and enforcement of animal welfare standards for these sentient animals.

13 Consider the following areas of action identified through the previous AAWS for animals in the wild. Please rate how important each one is for

inclusion in the renewed AAWS.

Identifying core skills and capabilities for workers and students in relevant fields and creating or enhancing education, training or awareness programs to achieve these skills.: Not relevant

Identifying all stakeholders connected to the animal group sector, and supporting or developing effective ways to share information and collaborate.: Neutral or unsure

Better alignment of animal welfare arrangements across states and territories, to avoid confusion and achieve consistent outcomes. For example, legislation, standards and codes of practice.: Important

Sharing of information within the research and development sector to align priorities and prevent duplication across all animal groups.: Not relevant

Identifying and measuring performance indicators for animal welfare.: Very important

Defining what good animal welfare looks like and developing a clear approach to achieving and showcasing good animal welfare outcomes in Australia.: Important

Increasing the Australian public's awareness of animal welfare related arrangements and measures, including standards and guidelines, codes and other mechanisms such as sustainability frameworks and extension activities.: Neutral or unsure

Developing practical welfare codes of practice/standards for vertebrate pest control, control of over abundant native species, rehabilitation, reintroduction, translocations of animals in the wild and the imperative of habitat quality.: Important

Resourcing for research and development and supporting ongoing expertise within the research and development community.: Not relevant

14 If you selected 'not relevant' to any of the above, please explain why:

The AAWS should:

- prioritise positive animal welfare outcomes rather than facilitating the exploitation and destruction of wildlife;
- recognise as a foundational principle that the wellbeing of wild animals in Australia is affected by human activity and climate change;
- develop strategies and guidelines to better support wildlife carers who are licensed to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured and orphaned wild animals;
- focus R&D activities on developing non-lethal management options.

15 Consider the following areas of action identified through the previous AAWS for companion animals. Please rate how important each one is for inclusion in the renewed AAWS.

Identifying core skills and capabilities for workers and students in relevant fields and creating or enhancing education, training or awareness programs to achieve these skills.:

Not relevant

Identifying all stakeholders connected to the animal group sector, and supporting or developing effective ways to share information and collaborate.: Neutral or unsure

Better alignment of animal welfare arrangements across states and territories, to avoid confusion and achieve consistent outcomes. For example, legislation, standards and codes of practice.: Important

Sharing of information within the research and development sector to align priorities and prevent duplication across all animal groups.: Not relevant

Identifying and measuring performance indicators for animal welfare.: Very important

Defining what good animal welfare looks like and developing a clear approach to achieving and showcasing good animal welfare outcomes in Australia.: Important

Increasing the Australian public's awareness of animal welfare related arrangements and measures, including standards and guidelines, codes and other mechanisms such as sustainability frameworks and extension activities.: Slightly important

Broad scale education of owners of companion animals on the welfare of animals.: Important

Improve communications and education about the role of local governments in companion animal welfare.: Neutral or unsure

Reviewing codes of practice for companion animals to make sure that animal welfare is adequately covered.: Important

The opportunity for whole of government collaboration with rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to support the health and wellbeing of their companion animals and the health, wellbeing and safety of communities.: Important

16 If you selected 'not relevant' to any of the above, please explain why:

The AAWS should prioritise positive animal welfare outcomes rather than facilitate industry activities such as R&D and animal use. Positive animal welfare outcomes could include focusing on:

- a national strategy for subsidised/free desexing of cats and (ultimately) dogs;
- strategies to phase out breeding of companion animal breeds with high animal welfare concerns such as brachycephalic dogs;
- the development of a national approach to banning the online sale of companion animals.

17 Consider the following areas of action identified through the previous AAWS for animals used for work, sport and recreation. Please rate how important each one is for inclusion in the renewed AAWS.

Identifying core skills and capabilities for workers and students in relevant fields and

creating or enhancing education, training or awareness programs to achieve these skills.: Not relevant

Identifying all stakeholders connected to the animal group sector, and supporting or developing effective ways to share information and collaborate.: Slightly important

Better alignment of animal welfare arrangements across states and territories, to avoid confusion and achieve consistent outcomes. For example, legislation, standards and codes of practice.: Important

Sharing of information within the research and development sector to align priorities and prevent duplication across all animal groups.: Not relevant

Identifying and measuring performance indicators for animal welfare.: Very important

Defining what good animal welfare looks like and developing a clear approach to achieving and showcasing good animal welfare outcomes in Australia.: Important

Increasing the Australian public's awareness of animal welfare related arrangements and measures, including standards and guidelines, codes and other mechanisms such as sustainability frameworks and extension activities.: Important

Identify the full scope of animal uses within each sector and develop standards covering animal welfare for each sector.: Important

18 If you selected 'not relevant' to any of the above, please explain why:

The AAWS should prioritise achieving positive animal welfare outcomes rather than facilitating industry activities such as R&D and staff training; for example:

- the development of best practice (not minimum) standards and guidelines for the use of animals for gratuitous entertainment purposes (eg rodeos), with a clear strategy to transition away from these inherently harmful and unnecessary activities; and
- facilitating mandatory reporting for animal injuries and deaths in this sector.

19 Consider the following areas of action identified through the previous AAWS for animals used in research and teaching. Please rate how important each one is for inclusion in the renewed AAWS.

Identifying core skills and capabilities for workers and students in relevant fields and creating or enhancing education, training or awareness programs to achieve these skills.: Not relevant

Developing a clear process for measuring animal welfare improvements for animals used in research and teaching to enable comparison of statistics and data over time.: Important

Identifying ongoing funding options for the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes review.: Not relevant

Identifying all stakeholders connected to the animal group sector, and supporting or developing effective ways to share information and collaborate.: Important

Better alignment of animal welfare arrangements across states and territories, to avoid confusion and achieve consistent outcomes. For example, legislation, standards and codes of practice.: Important

Sharing of information within the research and development sector to align priorities and prevent duplication across all animal groups.: Slightly important

Identifying and measuring performance indicators for animal welfare.: Very important

Defining what good animal welfare looks like and developing a clear approach to achieving and showcasing good animal welfare outcomes in Australia.: Important

Increasing the Australian public's awareness of animal welfare related arrangements and measures, including standards and guidelines, codes and other mechanisms such as sustainability frameworks and extension activities.: Slightly important

20 If you selected 'not relevant' to any of the above, please explain why:

Staff training should already be happening in this sector and should not need scarce AAWS resources. Training and development programs in this sector must include Animal Ethics Committees and provide balanced, independent training.

The animal research industry should identify funding sources for its own code. The AAWS should instead develop strategies for mandatory public reporting of animal use and outcomes for all biomedical research using animals and ultimately for phasing out such research.

21 You have reached the end of the survey. Would you like to share any final feedback?

If the AAWS is to achieve its goal of being 'a renewed, modern and future-focused' animal-welfare strategy, it needs to focus on actions that prioritise animal welfare and sustainability outcomes as opposed to actions that enable and entrench animal-use industries.

The AAWS must:

- recognise the sentience and intrinsic value of land-based and aquatic animals;
- move away from industry-based regulators and encourage independent public-funded regulators at all levels of government;
- adopt the Five Domains model of animal welfare and encourage its adoption by animal users across the spectrum and regardless of animal 'group';
- acknowledge the impacts of climate change on animal welfare and the contributions to anthropogenic climate change by farmed animals and other animal industries.