

Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa

(AWNA) Terms of Reference

Mission Statement

AWNA mission is to facilitate connection of a network of animal welfare stakeholders that will provide a forum for open discussion and information exchange.

Purpose

AWNA will advance knowledge and understanding of animal welfare in Aotearoa New Zealand.

AWNA advances animal welfare knowledge through facilitating collaboration and connection of those organisations and individuals with an interest and expertise in animal welfare, both nationally and internationally.

Objectives

AWNA will:

1. Provide a forum for members to share and discuss matters of relevance.
2. Provide a conduit for networking and relationship development, including access to relevant experts in animal welfare.
3. Support and enhance Aotearoa New Zealand's animal welfare reputation by continually improving Aotearoa New Zealand's animal welfare outcomes and public knowledge of animal welfare.
4. Promote a New Zealand-centric approach to animal welfare issues by:
 - a. embracing diverse views
 - b. openness and transparency
 - c. sharing of knowledge
 - d. applying scientific principles.

Coordination

1. Chair

AWNA is chaired by the New Zealand Veterinary Association member, with meeting organisation and administration provided in conjunction with AgResearch.

The AWNA Membership, and an AWNA Subcommittee, support the NZVA and AgResearch in decision making, to ensure a broad range of views and perspectives contribute to the governance of AWNA.

AWNA is non-financial and relies on in-kind support from NZVA, AgResearch, the Subcommittee, and members. Members contribute by way of providing venues, and/or catering for meetings. Meetings venues rotate through Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland, and other locations by agreement of the Membership.

2. Subcommittee

The AWNA Subcommittee comprises of NZVA and AgResearch, and at least three other Members.

To provide consistency and see through the review and the implementation of the new AWNA structure, the inaugural Subcommittee will be in place to the end of 2023. It comprises of NZVA, AgResearch, SPCA and VAWA. Following this, the Subcommittee will be re-elected by members, with a term of two years, and no maximum number of terms.

Applications for membership (including independent membership) are decided by the Subcommittee.

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Powers

AWNA has no formal powers, authority, nor duties.

No one is permitted to speak on behalf of AWNA without express permission from AWNA Members (i.e., by individual member agreement).

Membership

Members must be able to contribute to the purpose and mission of AWNA.

AWNA acknowledges the importance of Mātauranga Māori as part of a science-based New Zealand-centric approach, and that AWNA wishes to, though does not currently have, appropriate Māori representation.

Organisations maintain membership of AWNA through one representative (or delegate).

Membership to AWNA, and AWNA may include, but is not limited to, representatives of the following (See Proposed Membership List):

- a. Government
- b. Non-governmental animal welfare organisations
- c. Animal welfare research organisations or institutions
- d. Animal industry sector representatives
- e. Legal and bioethical experts

AWNA may invite non-members to speak and attend AWNA meetings as the need arises.

Expectations

Members shall support and promote the objectives of AWNA, and act in accordance with this Code of Conduct, including:

1. acting with integrity and professionalism, and
2. being fair and honest, and
3. behaving in a respectful way, to maintain and build the reputation of AWNA, and

4. respectfully listen, respond, and engage with differing views, opinions, knowledge and expertise;
5. respect, and not undermine AWNA decisions;
6. contribute to and champion, a safe and inclusive environment, including addressing harassment, exploitation, or discrimination;
7. respect and maintain confidentiality of AWNA business and collateral, as appropriate, both during membership and after retiring as a member;
8. not represent or speak on behalf of Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa without express permission from the Subcommittee;
9. understand that information, design, and intellectual property created for the Network remains the property of AWNA, and may not be used or distributed without permission from the Subcommittee;
10. Attend meetings on a regular basis – consequence of missing three meetings is that membership of the AWNA lapses.

When representing AWNA; Members will:

11. make decisions fairly and impartially, and accept responsibility for decisions made;
12. inform the Chair of any interests that need to be registered¹;
13. enter only into transactions and/or make promises on behalf of Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa following delegation from the Subcommittee;
14. not use the name and/or membership of Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa to promote personal views or philosophies, without prior approval from the Subcommittee.

¹ An interest must be registered when an individual's or an associated person's interests, interfere, appear to interfere or have the potential to interfere, with the interests of the Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa

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The following organisations provide representatives as members.

Other organisations wishing to join would do so by application to the Subcommittee.

Membership List

1. AgResearch Ltd
2. Animal Plant and Health New Zealand (APHANZ)
3. Australian & New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)
4. Animal Welfare Science and Bioethics Centre (AWSBC)
5. Beef + Lamb NZ
6. Biosecurity Ltd
7. Companion Animals New Zealand (CANZ)
8. Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand (DCANZ)
9. Dairy NZ Ltd
10. Deer Industry New Zealand (DINZ)
11. Department of Conservation (DOC)
12. Dogs NZ (DNZ)
13. Epivets Ltd
14. EthicoNZ Ltd
15. Federated Farmers of New Zealand (FFNZ)
16. Farm to Processor Animal Welfare Forum (FTPAWH)
17. Livestock Improvement Corporation (LIC)
18. Matthews Research International LP
19. Meat Industry Association (MIA)
20. Merino NZ (MNZ)
21. Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)
22. National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC)
23. National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC)
24. NZ Animal Law Association (NZALA)
25. NZ Animal Welfare Science Network (NZAWSN)
26. NZ Equine Health Association (NZEHA)
27. NZ Game Animal Council (NZGAC)
28. NZ Petfood Manufacturers Association (NZPFMA)
29. NZ Pig Hunting Association (NZPHA)
30. NZ Pork
31. NZ Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR)
32. New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA)
– Chair
33. The Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (PIANZ)
34. Racing Integrity Board (RIB)
35. Seafood New Zealand (SNZ)
36. Sentient Animal Law Foundation (SALF)
37. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA NZ)
38. Vet Council of New Zealand (VCNZ)
39. Veterinarians for Animal Welfare Aotearoa (VAWA)
40. VetSalus Ltd
41. World Animal Protection (WAP)
42. Zoo & Aquarium Association Australasia (ZAA)