Welfare of animals at abattoirs and knackeries

(adopted 19/05/16)

The policies and positions of the RSPCA referred to in this document represent the guiding principles to which we aspire in fulfilling our various roles. We are committed to giving effect to these principles wherever possible and practical.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This position paper must be read in conjunction with the following RSPCA policies:

Policy B Farm animals
Policy F Transportation of animals
Policy G Humane killing

1.2 This position paper sets out principles and requirements underpinning the welfare of animals at abattoirs and knackeries. Abattoirs are defined as facilities where animals are killed (slaughtered) for human consumption. Knackeries are defined as facilities where animals are killed for purposes other than human consumption. In this position paper, abattoirs and knackeries are jointly referred to as 'facilities'.

1.3 The position paper does not include poultry, as the provisions for handling, management, stunning and killing of poultry differ significantly from that of cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and other animals, such as horses or camelids. For poultry, the reader is referred to the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme standards for layer hens, meat chickens or turkeys.

2. General principles

2.1 The person in charge of the facility is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all animals at the facility.

2.2 The facility must be designed, constructed and maintained to allow the natural flow of movement of animals in a manner that does not cause injury or distress.

2.3 The principles of low-stress animal handling must be applied in which an understanding of animal behaviour and the animal's flight zone, in particular, are used to move an animal in the required direction.

2.4 The provision of water, feed, shade and shelter must take into consideration the physiological needs of the specific class of animal, the individual animal, the length of time animals have been at the facility, the time off water and food prior to arriving at the facility and the local climatic conditions.

2.5 Policies and procedures must be in place for the handling and care of sick or injured animals and other animals unsuitable for slaughter.

2.6 Animals must be effectively restrained and/or positioned to ensure an effective stun that renders the animal immediately unconscious. Stunning methods that are aversive and do not lead to immediate sensibility, such as the use of carbon dioxide in pigs, must be replaced with less aversive methods as they become available for commercial use.

2.7 The stunning method must suit the species and the stunning technique must ensure correct positioning and application of the stunning device. Specific stunning methods and techniques have been described in this position paper for animals routinely killed at abattoirs and knackeries. Where specific information is lacking for a particular species, adherence to the principles outlined in this position paper must ensure their humane killing. Nevertheless, such targets must be developed to provide guidance to those responsible for the welfare of animals at these facilities.

2.8 Animals must be unconscious at the time bleeding out commences and must not regain consciousness until death supervenes.

2.9 Animals must not be in sight of other animals being killed.

2.10 The facility, including its animal welfare provisions, must be audited by an independent third party at least annually.

3. Responsibility

3.1 The person in charge of the facility, or their nominated representative, is responsible for ensuring the welfare of all animals from the moment they are unloaded at the facility up to the point of the animal's death.

3.2 Contact details of the responsible person must be clearly displayed at and available throughout the facility to be used in case of emergency.

3.3 All staff must immediately report animal cruelty or suffering (pain, injury, disease or distress) to the relevant authority.

4. Training and competency

4.1 Persons responsible for the handling (including stunning and killing) of animals must be appropriately trained and competent in their required tasks. An understanding of animal behaviour and the ability to recognise abnormal behaviour is particularly important. In addition, an understanding of animal welfare is essential.

4.2 Written procedures describing standard animal handling and management tasks must be in place at the facility and adhered to. Internal assessment and monitoring systems must be in place to ensure on-going compliance with these procedures.

4.3 Records of staff training and induction must be maintained and staff must be assessed at least annually to ensure on-going competency in the required tasks.

4.4 A Closed Circuit Television system must be installed and operational to allow a clear view of live animal handling areas, including the stunning and killing area. CCTV must be monitored to ensure correct procedures are maintained and can also be used for training purposes. CCTV footage must be available to auditors and authorised inspectors upon request.

4.5 An Animal Welfare Officer, trained and certified by a recognised training organisation, must be present to ensure animal welfare is monitored and that the required animal handling and management procedures are adhered to in all live animal handling areas of the facility. The Animal Welfare Officer must have overall responsibility for overseeing animal welfare practices at the facility, the effective operation and daily maintenance of facilities and equipment, and keeping monitoring and compliance records that relate to animal welfare.

5. Infrastructure and equipment

5.1 Unloading ramps

5.1.1 A platform, level with the floor of the transport vehicle, must be provided before the start of the unloading ramp.

5.1.2 In order to avoid leg injuries to animals, there must be no gap between the loading door of the transport vehicle and the floor of the platform.

5.1.3 The slope of unloading ramps must not exceed 20 degrees and the ramp must be stepped rather than inclined and have non-slip flooring.

5.1.4 Ramps must be fitted with solid sides to minimise distractions that may cause animals to baulk. Ramps must be of an appropriate width and take into consideration the species as well as the preference of some animals to walk side by side.

5.1.5 The behaviour of animals must be considered when siting and directing lights at the unloading points. Lights must never shine directly into the eyes of animals.

5.2 Yards, laneways, pens and races

5.2.1 Laneways and races must be designed to have smooth turns and curved corners that facilitate the natural flow of movement of animals. Laneways and races must be fit for the purpose of the animals moving through them.

5.2.2 Shadows, obstructions, moving objects and other distractions that may cause animals to baulk must be avoided.

5.2.3 Fences and gates must be constructed so that there are no protrusions or sharp edges. Gates must be fitted with recessed closing devices or chains.

5.2.4 All floors, including laneways and races, must have a non-slip surface.

5.2.5 Yards and pens must provide a dry floor area capable of being cleaned. Yards and pens must be adequately ventilated and provide animals with shade and, as required, with shelter from extremes of weather.

5.2.6 Yards, laneways, pens, races and ramps must be able to be adequately lit to permit the proper inspection of animals as well as to allow safe delivery and movement of animals at night or after hours.

5.3 Holding yards

5.3.1 Animals that are not killed on the day of their arrival or animals which require a recovery period following a long or delayed journey must be provided with a sheltered paddock or holding yard with a soft-standing floor until they are collected for processing.

5.4 Equipment

5.4.1 Equipment or other facilities must not allow air to blow in an animal's face and be free of noise or visual distractions which may cause the animal to baulk.

5.4.2 Equipment to restrain animals at killing must:

- be designed, constructed and maintained to restrain animals effectively with minimal stress, avoiding pain or discomfort
- prevent animals slipping, sliding or falling
- have solid sides to prevent animals seeing people or moving objects or other distractions that may cause animals to baulk
- not enable animals to turn around.

5.4.3 Equipment for stunning and killing of animals must be designed, constructed and maintained to ensure consistent and effective stunning and killing. Stunning equipment must be tested prior to each shift, and cleaned, maintained, operated and stored in

accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Back-up stunning and killing equipment must always be available and operational.

5.4.4 Equipment for euthanasing sick or injured animals must be available, fully operational and appropriate for the animal being euthanased. Equipment for euthanasing sick or injured animals must be cleaned, maintained, operated and stored in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

6. General provisions for animals

6.1 Water must be available to animals in all delivery yards, pens and holding areas at all times.

6.2 Feed must be provided to

- animals over 6 months old that have been off feed for more than 24 hours
- animals that are pregnant, lactating, or less than 6 months old that have been off feed for more than 12 hours
- animals that are weak, sick or injured and requiring treatment.

6.3 Holding yards and pens must have sufficient space for all animals to move around freely and lie down.

6.4 Different classes of animals must be penned separately:

- entire males as required
- aggressive animals and animals showing signs of oestrus or with young at foot
- sick, weak or injured animals
- unfamiliar animals
- horned animals, as required.

6.5 Animals must be inspected regularly while in delivery yards, pens and holding areas. Action must be taken as required to treat, segregate or euthanase animals that are weak, sick, injured or showing signs of distress.

6.6 Animals must be humanely killed on the day of arrival or, if delivered the night before, no later than 24 hours after arrival.

6.7 Written policies and procedures must be in place to deal with contingencies, including in the event of fire, breakdown of equipment or natural disasters.

6.8 Written procedures must be in place to ensure the safe delivery and welfare of animals after business hours. This includes provision of an appropriate holding area, sufficient light, access to water and, as required, access to feed. Clearly visible signage must be in place describing after-hours procedures.

6.9 Animals must not be admitted or transported to a facility following the declaration of an industrial dispute and until that dispute is satisfactorily resolved. Animals in transit must be directed to an alternative facility taking into account time off water and feed and rest stops required to complete the journey.

6.10 All unweaned animals (e.g. bobby calves, sucker lambs, pigs) that remain at the outbreak of an industrial dispute must be humanely killed by competent management staff or by arrangement with normal slaughterers/knackers and no attempt must be made to maintain unweaned animals alive. All other animals must be moved to paddocks and be provided with water, appropriate food and adequate facilities until the industrial dispute is resolved.

7. Animal handling

7.1 Unloading of animals must be undertaken using principles of low-stress handling and with an awareness of the animal's natural flight zone:

- electric prodders must not be used
- dogs must not be used
- handling aids such as flappers, flags and paddles can be used to move animals in the desired direction.

7.2 Animals must be handled calmly and quietly in a manner that avoids pain, injury or distress:

- animals must not be lifted by the head, ears, horns, neck, wool, skin or by a single leg
- animals must not be thrown off a transport vehicle
- animals must not be hit or kicked
- animals must not be dragged.

7.3 Unnecessary delay in the unloading of animals must be avoided.

7.4 Time of arrival of animals at the facility must be recorded. The time that animals have been off feed and water must be determined upon arrival and recorded.

7.5 The responsible person must lodge a formal complaint to the supplier as well as to the relevant authority if animals received at the facility were unfit to load or if mandatory time off water limits were exceeded.

8. Animal restraint

8.1 Animals must be effectively restrained to allow for accurate placement of the stunning device. Effective positioning of the stunning device rather than actual physical constraint is the preferred method.

8.2 Any restraint device must keep the animal in an upright position until the animal has been stunned.

8.3 The restraint device must encourage animals to enter freely and then restrict movement without causing pain or distress to the animal.

8.4 The duration of the restraint must be limited to the time required to allow for accurate placement of the stunning device and effective stunning of the animal.

8.5 Where animals are backing out of the restraint device, a rump-push may be required. An effective rump-push should apply suitable pressure without causing pain or bruising, and should not prevent removal of the animal from the restraint device after stunning.

8.6 Raceways leading up to the restraint device must have escape gates to allow for removal of animals if that is required.

8.7 Raceways leading up to the restraint device and the point of stunning must be well lit to encourage animals to move forward.

9. Stunning

9.1 It is unacceptable to bleed out an animal at an abattoir or knackery unless it is unconscious or dead.

9.2 The stunning method used must result in immediate unconsciousness.

9.3 Animals must be presented for stunning at a speed at which the operator can carry out an effective stun.

9.4 Where the head of the animal is to be presented for stunning, the operator of the stunning device must be at a level and at an angle that will allow for an immediate and effective stun.

9.5 Where the head of the animal has been restrained, it must be released immediately after stunning.

9.6 Following stunning, the animal must be checked to ensure the stun has been effective and the animal is unconscious, evidenced by collapse of the animal, no rhythmic breathing, fixed/glazed eyes, no corneal reflex, relaxed jaw and limp tongue.

9.7 Where the stun has been ineffective, the animal must be re-stunned immediately.

9.8 Once the animal is effectively stunned, it must be bled out immediately.

9.9 Back-up stunning equipment must be available at all times, fully operational and appropriate for the animal being stunned.

9.1 Captive-bolt stunning

9.1.1 Captive-bolt stunning devices where the bolt enters the brain (penetrative bolt) are preferred to non-penetrative stunners ('mushroom-headed' bolt) that rely on the percussive blow on its own to achieve immediate insensibility, as the penetrative bolt will result in greater stunning efficiency.

9.1.2 A captive-bolt stunning device, whether penetrative or non-penetrative, must administer a blow to the animal's skull of sufficient force to render the animal immediately unconscious. A blow of sufficient force will damage the nerves and blood vessels in the brain causing brain dysfunction/destruction and diminished blood circulation, resulting in immediate unconsciousness.

9.1.3 Following stunning, the animal should collapse, stop breathing and become rigid. The animal's head is extended and the hind legs are bent towards the abdomen. If, on collapse, the animal is kicking or paddling, it must be immediately re-stunned to eliminate the risk of the animal regaining consciousness.

9.1.4 The operator must ensure that the correct cartridge is used for the type of stunning device and the size of the animal being stunned.

9.1.5 For pneumatic penetrative captive-bolt stunning devices using compressed air, the pressure supplied must be suitable to the device and the size of the animal being stunned. Because stunning devices powered by air pressure are heavier and more difficult to manoeuver than cartridge-fired devices, the animal's head must be restrained before stunning.

9.1.6 To ensure maximum impact, the captive-bolt stunning device must be placed against the animal's head in a position where the brain is closest to the thinnest part of the skull.

9.1.7 Where a repeat stun is required despite correct placement of the captive bolt, the captive bolt must be placed above and to one side of the correct position. Action must be taken to investigate the cause of the mis-stun and rectify any problem identified.

Placement of captive-bolt device:

Species	Penetrative captive bolt	Non-penetrative captive bolt
Cattle	At the point on the forehead where two imaginary lines drawn from the outside corner of the eyes to the centre of the base of the opposite horn (or similar in polled cattle) intersect. Also known as the frontal position	Placement as per penetrative captive bolt.
Sheep/goats	For polled animals, on the midline at the highest point on the head and aiming straight down. Also known as the poll position. For horned animals, on the midline behind the ridge between the horns and aiming towards the base of the tongue.	Placement as per penetrative captive bolt.
Pigs	On the mid-line of the forehead, 20mm above eye level and aiming towards the tail. This is the frontal position. *Note*: captive-bolt stunning of adult pigs is not recommended due to the relative depth of the brain and the presence of thickened bone at the centre of the forehead.	*Note*: captive-bolt stunning of adult pigs is not recommended due to the relative depth of the brain and the presence of thickened bone at the centre of the forehead.
Horses	On the intersection of two diagonal lines running from the outer corner of the eyes to the base of the opposite ear. This is the frontal position.	
Camels	Slightly to the left/right (to avoid the parietal bone) of the intersection of two diagonal lines running from the middle of the eyes to the base of the opposite ear (frontal position) or perpendicular to the neck line at the back of the head at the intersection of the skull and the neck (poll position). This is the frontal position. *Note*: captive-bolt stunning of mature bull camels must only use the poll method as the presence of thick glands render the frontal method ineffective.	

Source: Humane Slaughter Association / American Veterinary Medical Association / Animal Health Australia

9.2 Electrical stunning/killing

9.2.1 An electrical stunning/killing system requires the correct voltage, current and application time to be delivered by a competent operator to ensure that every animal is humanely stunned/killed. Consideration must be given to the electrical resistance of animals during stunning – e.g. animals with long or thick fleeces and dehydrated animals will be more

difficult to stun. Correct electrical stunning will result in instantaneous and painless unconsciousness.

9.2.2 An electrical stunning device (applied to the head only) must pass sufficient current through the brain of the animal to interrupt normal brain activity and render the animal immediately unconscious. Electrical stunning (or electronarcosis) is reversible as it disrupts normal brain function for a short time only.

9.2.3 Following electrical stunning, the animal should collapse, stop breathing and become rigid. The animal's head is raised, the front legs are extended and the hind legs are bent towards the abdomen – this is referred to as the tonic phase. The animal relaxes in the next phase, the eyeballs move downwards and involuntary kicking or paddling of both front and back legs occurs – this is the clonic phase. If rhythmic breathing returns, the animal must be immediately re-stunned to eliminate the risk of the animal regaining consciousness.

Duration of tonic, clonic and recovery phases following head-only electrical stunning:

Species	Tonic	Clonic	Recovery
Cattle	5-20s	10-60s	45-90s
Sheep	10-20s	15-45s	30-60s
Goats	10-20s	15-45s	30-60s
Pigs	10-20s	15-45s	30-60s

Source: Humane Slaughter Association

9.2.4 An electrical killing device (applied to the head and body) must pass sufficient current first through the brain (in order to stun the animal) and then through the brain and the body of the animal simultaneously to induce cardiac arrest and stop blood circulation until death supervenes. Electrical killing (or electrocution) is irreversible.

9.2.5 Following electrical killing, the animal should become rigid with slight body tremors evident after which the body gradually relaxes and there is no further movement. If the animal is kicking or paddling, cardiac arrest has not been achieved and the animal must be immediately bled out to eliminate the risk of the animal regaining consciousness.

9.2.6 To ensure maximum current flow, the electrical stunning device must be placed against the animal's head in a way that offers the least resistance to current flow through the brain. For electrical killing, the device must be placed against the animal's head and body to allow current flow through the brain and heart.

Placement of electrical stunning device:

Species	Stun (head-only)	Stun-kill (head-to-back)	Stun-kill (head-to-body)
Cattle			Three-phase stunning: nose to neck (stun); brisket (cardiac arrest); and nose to rump (disruption of spinal reflexes).
Sheep	Electrodes placed on each side of the head between the eye and the ear.	The rear electrode placed in the middle of the back above the heart and the front electrode placed on the	

		head at or slightly forward of eye level.	
Pigs	Electrodes placed on each side of the head between the eye and the ear; or just below the ears; or diagonally below one ear and above the opposite eye.		Electrodes first placed on the head just below the ears and then another electrode placed on the chest.

Source: Humane Slaughter Association

9.2.7 Where the electrical stunning device is a fixed handpiece or consists of semi- or fully-automatic equipment, the animal must be restrained to ensure the electrodes can be placed correctly and contact maintained until the animal is effectively stunned/killed.

9.2.8 The operator must ensure that the correct positioning of the electrodes, the appropriate current and the minimum duration are maintained in order for the stun/kill to be effective. The voltage and current must always be visible to the operator of the electrical stunning/killing equipment.

At Australian recommended voltage and frequency (400V and 50Hz) the following current applied for at least 3 seconds is recommended:

Species	Stun (head only)	Stun-kill (heart)
Cattle	1.28A	< 1.51A
Calves	1.25A	1.25A
Sheep/goats	1.0A	1.0A
Lambs/kids	1.0A	1.0A
Pigs	1.3A	1.3A

Source: Humane Slaughter Association

9.2.9 In order to maximise the flow of current, electrodes must be kept clean and the operator must take into account the electrical resistance of the animal which increases depending on the thickness of the skin, the fat depth, the wool length or the thickness of the skull. If resistance is too high and the required amperage cannot be reached, the stun will be ineffective.

9.2.10 Batch stunning, where multiple animals are stunned before being bled out, using head-only electrical stunning is not acceptable as it would be impossible to ensure that, in the majority of cases, stun-to-stick intervals are less than 15 seconds for each individual animal in the batch.

9.3 Carbon dioxide

9.3.1 Carbon dioxide is used to induce unconsciousness in pigs. As pigs inhale carbon dioxide, blood oxygen level decreases resulting in a loss of brain function and eventual brain death. Although the method is less prone to human error compared to other stunning methods, particularly at high throughputs, the use of carbon dioxide is highly aversive in concentrations >80% and leads to severe respiratory distress in the animal. Carbon dioxide exposure does not lead to immediate insensibility and requires exposure to a high gas concentration for at least 15 seconds before body collapse occurs. The exact time to loss of consciousness is still being debated. For these reasons, the use of carbon dioxide on its own must be phased out as soon as methods that use less aversive gases either in combination

with carbon dioxide or on their own become available. Further research is urgently needed to allow for implementation of non-aversive alternatives for inducing unconsciousness in pigs.

9.3.2 Where carbon dioxide is used, handling of pigs must ensure pigs are calm prior to entering the gas 'stunning' unit.

9.3.3 Pigs must be moved toward the unit in small groups with the entire group entering the unit at the same time to avoid separation distress.

9.3.4 Pigs must descend into the point of maximum gas concentration (at least 85% carbon dioxide) within 30 seconds of entering the unit.

9.3.5 Pigs must remain at the point of maximum gas concentration for at least two and a half minutes to ensure they are irreversibly unconsciousness or dead.

9.3.6 The unit must have visible and audible alarms to monitor gas concentration at pig level and staff must be available at all times to adjust gas concentration immediately when required.

9.3.7 If the carbon dioxide concentration falls below 85%, pigs must not enter or be allowed to remain in the unit.

10. Bleeding out

10.1 An animal must be bled out (also called 'sticking') immediately after stunning and while it is still in the rigid (tonic) phase.

10.2 A maximum stun-to-stick interval of 15 seconds is recommended for sheep, goats and pigs unless the animal is already dead following cardiac arrest or brain death. For cattle, a maximum stun-to-stick interval of 60 seconds for penetrative captive-bolt stunning is within an acceptable range and allows for shackling of cattle between stunning and sticking.

10.3 By immediately severing the major blood vessels (carotid arteries and jugular veins, or the vessels from which they arise), the associated loss of blood will ensure the animal dies before there is a risk of regaining consciousness.

Mean time to loss of brain function following bleeding out:

Species	Method	Time
Cattle	Chest stick	55s
Sheep	Chest stick	4.5s
	Cutting of both carotid arteries and both jugular veins (throat cut)	14s
Pigs	Chest stick	18s

Source: Humane Slaughter Association

10.4 For cattle, sheep and goats, the major blood vessels must be severed by inserting a knife in the jugular furrow at the base of the animal's neck and then directing the knife towards the entrance of the chest. For cattle specifically, because the vertebral artery lying above the spinal cord also supplies blood to the brain, the chest stick must be made as close to the heart as possible with a knife at least 150mm long so that the vertebral artery is also cut.

10.5 For sheep and goats, the major blood vessels can also be severed by cutting across the throat with a blade at least 120mm long. This will sever both carotid arteries, both jugular veins as well as the trachea and the oesophagus.

10.6 For pigs, the major blood vessels must be severed by inserting a 120mm long knife in the neck of the animal at the depression before the breast bone, then positioning the knife vertically and pushing upwards to sever the blood vessels that arise from the heart.

10.7 The animal must be checked to ensure it is dead (evidenced by absence of corneal reflex and reflex gasping breaths) before any dressing procedures begin.

Recommended minimum bleed time before dressing procedures commence:

Species	Minimum bleed time
Cattle	60s
Sheep	20s
Goats	20s
Pigs	20s

Source: Humane Slaughter Association

11. Treatment of sick or injured animals

11.1 Sick or injured animals must be identified and receive appropriate veterinary treatment without delay. This includes sick or injured animals arriving on a transport vehicle.

11.2 When necessary, sick or injured animals must be euthanased without delay by a competent person and out of sight of other animals. Sick or injured animals that are unable to walk must be humanely killed *in situ* unless they can be stunned and then quickly moved to an area where it is safe to carry out euthanasia before the animal regains consciousness.

11.3 A covered holding yard must be provided to allow for the isolation and safe inspection of sick and injured animals.

11.4 Facilities must be available to permit adequate restraint of an animal that requires inspection or treatment because of sickness or injury.

12. Audit

12.1 An independent and external third party must audit the facility, including its animal welfare provisions, at least annually. Participation in and compliance with a third party audits must form part of the facility's licensing and operating conditions.

12.2 An audit process must be in place to ensure that facilities are audited against the required animal handling and management procedures. An animal welfare checklist must be in place that allows effective assessment of compliance with required animal welfare procedures. The checklist must at least include:

- staff training and competency
- facility/equipment design and maintenance
- after hours arrival and handling
- handling and care of animals during industrial disputes
- handling and care of sick or injured animals
- time off water/feed upon arrival
- animal handling

- emergency procedures and relevant signage throughout the facility
- % of animals slipping or falling
- % of animals vocalising during handling or stunning
- % of animals effectively stunned on first attempt
- % of animals regaining consciousness at bleed out.

12.3 Maximum stunning and handling targets must be at most:

- <3% slipping
- <1% falling
- <3% vocalising
- <5% not stunned at first attempt
- 0% regaining consciousness at bleed out.

12.4 Failure to achieve stunning and handling targets must result in immediate review of operating procedures to examine the cause and ensure that animals are not at risk of slipping, falling or vocalising and experiencing pain or distress in any of the live animal handling areas.

12.5 Failure to achieve 100% stunning efficacy (the animal must be unconscious at bleed out) must result in immediate audit failure, immediate cessation of operations and a review of operating procedures to ensure effective stunning can be achieved at recommencement of operations.

13. Legal considerations

13.1 State and territory animal welfare legislation places certain responsibilities on those in charge of an animal's wellbeing including at abattoirs and knackeries. Legislation requires that a person:

- not commit an act of cruelty upon an animal
- provides an animal with proper and sufficient food, water and shelter
- not abandon an animal.

13.2 The Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals and Australian Standards & Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals provide basic recommendations for the care of animals. In general, compliance with the relevant Model Code (or animal welfare Standard) will ensure compliance with animal welfare legislation.

13.3 Regardless of Model Codes and Australian Standards & Guidelines, standards for abattoirs and knackeries should be enforceable and allow for independent oversight and audit.

13.4 Staff must immediately report instances of cruelty or other breaches of legislation to the relevant authority. Instances of cruelty, other breach of legislation and failure of staff to report animal welfare issues must result in review of staff training, induction and other relevant procedures.