



Australian Government

National Statement on Animal Welfare

Vision

Australia achieves good animal welfare outcomes through the development and adoption of animal welfare practices and standards that are underpinned by science and evidence.

Context

We acknowledge the interconnectedness of animal welfare, human wellbeing, animal and human health, the environment and climate change, biosecurity, and Australia's socioeconomic sustainability and prosperity.

We acknowledge the need to build trusted relationships and sustainable continuous improvement across the animal welfare system to progress the vision.

We acknowledge the spiritual connection that First Nations people have with animals, and the importance of partnering with First Nations people to incorporate their teachings and perspectives on protecting and caring for all living beings.

We acknowledge the need to continue to develop Australia's capability to support the animal welfare system.



Leadership and coordination

Establish governance arrangements to oversee implementation of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and coordination of activities.

We are working towards national consistency, while recognising the need for flexibility. Our governance arrangements include expert capability and independent advice, supported by broad stakeholder engagement. Responsibilities are clear and decisions are transparent.

Standards and implementation

Implement standards development frameworks that identify national priorities and streamline the development and rapid adoption by jurisdictions.

We are working towards standards that consider contemporary animal welfare science, costs, practicalities, community standards and international expectations. We promote the role of species-specific approaches, industry guidelines, codes and other mechanisms such as sustainability frameworks and extension activities that complement national standards and guidelines.

Reporting and compliance

Establish systems to track outcomes and monitor compliance.

We are working towards measurable animal welfare outcomes, ensuring practices meet or exceed national, state and territory requirements, including monitoring, data collection, transparent reporting and auditing activities. We recognise the role of quality assurance and accreditation systems. There is opportunity for the continuing role of emerging technology in monitoring, alerting, reporting and compliance.

An Australian Government initiative in partnership with all states and territories

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Research and development

Implement a coordinated approach to animal welfare research and extension activities.

We are working towards a coordinated approach that builds the evidence base to meet animal welfare challenges and opportunities. There are opportunities for cross-sector research and for building on industry investment (e.g. Rural Research and Development Corporations), understanding the use of technology in improving animal welfare, identifying gaps and translating findings to application.

Education and communication

Promote best practice to industry and the community, showcase good outcomes and raise community awareness about animal use across all sectors.

We recognise the role of social licence in Australia, and support work to increase community awareness about animal welfare practices and standards. Opportunity exists to promote examples of positive animal welfare outcomes and to extend outreach education programs.

International engagement

Establish cooperation and sharing of animal welfare information with international standard-setting bodies such as the World Organisation for Animal Health and advocate for Australian standards and practices that are designed for our unique landscapes, ecosystems and climate.

We will build Australia's sustainable trade credentials, maintaining and securing future market access by showcasing and maturing Australia's national approach to animal welfare.

