



ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION IN TASMANIA

Name of Legislation: *Animal Welfare Act 1993* (the Act)

Background information

The Act:

- Prevents cruelty
- Ensures animals are treated with care and consideration
- Outlines a "duty of care"
- Bans certain acts of cruelty
- Gives strong power to authorised officers
- Controls the use of animals in research
- Officially endorses codes of practice.

Administering Department: Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment

Who are legislated inspectors? The Minister may appoint any person to be an officer for the purposes of the Act.

Maximum penalty for cruelty The Act encompasses penalties of up to \$10 000 or 18 months imprisonment or both, for cruelty convictions.

Link to the Act

A copy of the Act can be downloaded from the Tasmanian Legislation website at: <http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au>

For further information contact

Animal Health and Welfare Branch
Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment
Phone: 03 6233 6882; Fax: 03 6278 1875

Other information

Producers are required, under law, to ensure their livestock are fed, sheltered and kept free of disease, at the very least.

Producers are responsible for the selection and preparation of animals suitable for transport or sale. The duty of care does not always rest with the legal owner. For example:

- livestock on trucks are the responsibility of the driver;
- animals in saleyards are the responsibility of the saleyard management; and
- animals under agistment are the responsibility of the person providing the agistment (unless there is a legal agreement otherwise).

In Tasmania, welfare codes of practice that have been developed with through consultation with livestock owners, Government and animal welfare groups, have become Animal Welfare Standards and are recognised in the law. Failure to comply may indicate grounds for prosecution for cruelty or neglect. Tasmania's Animal

Australian Pork Limited

West Wing, Level 1,
43-49 Gells Court
Deakin ACT 2600
PO Box 148
Deakin West
ACT 2600

Telephone:
02 6285 2200
Facsimile:
02 6285 2288
Email:

apl@australianpork.com.au

1800 789 099



Welfare Standards are approved by the Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment, after consultation with the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 1993.

Tasmanian Animal Welfare Standard No 5 - Pigs

This Standard sets out the minimum requirements for the welfare of pigs, including those kept under intensive and extensive conditions. It is intended as a guide for all people responsible for the welfare and husbandry of pigs. It recognises that the basic requirement for the welfare of pigs is a husbandry system appropriate to their physiological and behavioural needs.

The Pig Standard:

- is approved by the Minister under the Animal Welfare Act 1993
- has been developed and reviewed by the industry, animal welfare groups and Government
- Outlines who has the "duty of care"
- Sets out minimum standards for humane treatment
- Ensures protection from hunger, thirst, climate, predation and disease
- Educates those in charge of animals
- Advises the courts

Note that a failure to comply with the standard may result in cruelty charges under the Animal Welfare Act 1993.

A copy of the Tasmanian Animal Welfare Standard No 5 - Pigs is available on the DPIWE web site:

<http://www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/Attachments/EGIL-543484?open>

- the risk that they will carry pathogens that can infect humans is smaller than with nonhuman primates (apes and monkeys); and
- they can be genetically manipulated to reduce the risk of rejection.

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