

GENERAL CIRCULAR

This general circular contains important information from the NSW Food Authority for all knackereries.

Please take the time to read this information.

If you have any queries, please contact
NSW Food Authority Helpline on 1300 552 406.

General Circular 07/2012

To: All knackereries

Subject: Management responsibilities for animal welfare at knackereries

Obligations and responsibilities of knackereries in relation to animal welfare

All NSW knackereries have obligations and responsibilities to ensure the humane treatment of animals. They are required to hold a licence and operate in accordance with Food Regulation 2010. Knackereries must comply with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Pet Meat: PISC Technical Report 88 (AS 4841:2006) as in force from time to time.

This standard requires that 'Animals are slaughtered in a way that minimises the risk of injury, pain and suffering to them and causes them the least practicable disturbance' (AS 4841:2006 Clause 6.9.6) and 'Before sticking commences, animals are stunned in a way that ensures the animals are unconscious and insensible to pain before sticking occurs and do not regain consciousness or sensibility before dying' (AS 4841:2006 Clause 6.9.7).

In relation to animal handling the standard requires that 'Animals are handled at meat premises in a way that minimises the risk of injury, pain and suffering and causes the least practicable disturbance to them and to other animals at the premises' (AS 4841:2006 Clause 6.9.2).

The Authority has been advised by Department of Primary Industries (DPI) that a number of knackereries are failing to upload kills to the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database. The enclosed letter from DPI outlines knackery obligations in relation to reporting slaughtered stock, and methods to achieve compliance.

The Authority will be conducting unannounced inspections of knackereries from 1 August 2012 to review animal welfare practices, NLIS compliance, staining of pet meat, hygiene and structural compliance. Where breaches are detected enforcement action will be taken in accordance with the Authority's Compliance and Enforcement Policy.

If Authority officers encounter serious animal welfare breaches, immediate enforcement action will be taken. This can include the ceasing of all operations, licence suspension/ cancellation, and on-the-spot fines. Any significant welfare breaches will be reported to the RSPCA.

The welfare of animals in NSW is protected under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (POCTA) 1979 and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 2006* which are overseen by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

Under POCTA, fines of up to \$110,000 or two years imprisonment apply for aggravated acts of cruelty to animals.

Enquiries

Please direct any enquiries to:

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