

Canadian Food Inspection Agency / Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



**Meat Programs Division
Animal Welfare Strategy**

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National Animal Welfare Strategy:

(What)

* Animal welfare involves many species (fish to fowl)



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National Animal Welfare Strategy:

(What)

* Meat Programs Division responsibility is with slaughter facilities that have federal involvement



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National Animal Welfare Strategy:

(How)

* Meat Programs Division

1. A new Animal Welfare Specialist
2. Animal welfare policy renewal
3. A new MOP chapter
4. Training material development and training



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National Specialist

Humane Treatment of Animals Program

* New Veterinary position in the Meat Programs Division.

* Focus: Humane treatment of animals at slaughter

- liaise with CFIA staff, industry, trading partners, academia and provinces
- offer advice
- provide support to help prevent animal welfare issues from arising
- respond to requests for animal welfare information
- training for persons involved with animal slaughter

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Program Objectives

1. Easy to find consolidated regulatory requirements in one document
2. Provide objective, measurable performance standards
 - based on Temple Grandin
 - meets 3rd party standards
3. Promote consistent program delivery across the country
4. Build consumer confidence
5. Facilitate International Trade



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The New Animal Welfare Chapter

- * Consolidates the animal welfare requirements in one chapter
- * Slaughter plants design, implement and monitor the delivery of their own animal welfare program.
- * Outcome based, not prescriptive
Eg. Establishments must implement a maintenance program, but the program does not prescribe how it has to be done.
- * There are some prescriptive components.
Eg. Beating of animals, or dragging conscious non-ambulatory animals are prohibited.

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The New Animal Welfare Chapter

- * The CFIA will verify that the establishment's animal welfare program is:
 - compliant with national standards
 - implemented
 - effective.
 Using CVS (Compliance Verification System Tasks)
- * The procedure applies to all species.



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Performance Standards

Based on Temple Grandin:

- *Grandin's objectives fit well with the new animal welfare chapter
- *Emphasizes having an organized plan
- *Monitor the effectiveness of the delivery of the plan

Fits with current industry practices:

- *Many plants already perform third party internal animal welfare audits
- *The new chapter will mesh well with these existing activities

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Training Material and Training

- *Animal welfare training material is being developed
- * Includes material provided by industry
- * It is our plan to make training material available to those in industry who want it



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Input

- * Input was obtained from red meat and poultry plants, CFIA field staff and Program staff as well as academia
- * The objective was to make the program compatible with existing good Meat Industry practices.
- * To foster an atmosphere of continuous improvement and innovation



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