

Moving Forward Together

**Geoff Urton, BSc (Ag), MSc
Animal Welfare Manager, BC SPCA**



Our History



BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS



Helping Canadians Help Animals

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS)

Fédération des sociétés canadiennes d'assistance aux animaux (FSCAA)

The CFHS promotes the humane treatment of all animals and supports our members and other like-minded organizations that are committed to this goal.

BCSPCA
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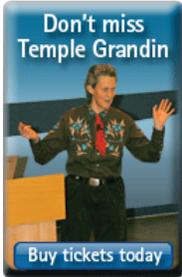
The Five Freedoms

- 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst**
- 2. Freedom from pain, injury & disease**
- 3. Freedom from fear and distress**
- 4. Freedom from discomfort**
- 5. Freedom to express behaviours that promote well-being.**

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BC SPCA FARM ANIMAL WELFARE NEWS



JULY 2009

Want to Know What Makes Dairy Cows Really Happy?

New national Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle were approved this spring, setting a tremendously improved standard for the more than one million dairy cows raised in Canada.

The Codes of Practice lay out the expectations for standards of care to be provided to farm animals in Canada. Dairy Farmers of Canada expects all of their members to implement the Code on their farms and the Codes are used to determine what constitutes "reasonable and generally accepted practices" in investigations launched under BC's Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

The process for developing the Codes now uses a formal scientific review, something that animal welfare groups and researchers have been requesting for years.

"The improvements to the Code are enormous," says Geoff Urton, the BC SPCA's animal welfare coordinator who represented Canada's SPCA's on the Code development committee. "They now clearly stipulate dozens of firm requirements, rather than just recommendations, including the use of pain control when dehorning calves and the elimination of tail docking."

They also stipulate that electric prods are only to be used in extreme situations, such as when human or animal safety is at risk, and that they must not be used on young calves.

"Thanks to the commitment of the committee members to animal welfare, this Code is among the best in the world and I am optimistic that it will result in real improvements to the welfare of dairy cattle," adds Urton. "Dairy Farmers of Canada should be commended for being the first industry to update their Code under the new process."



While the Codes are referenced in various provincial animal cruelty laws, there is still no on-farm assessment system in place to verify that they are being adhered to.

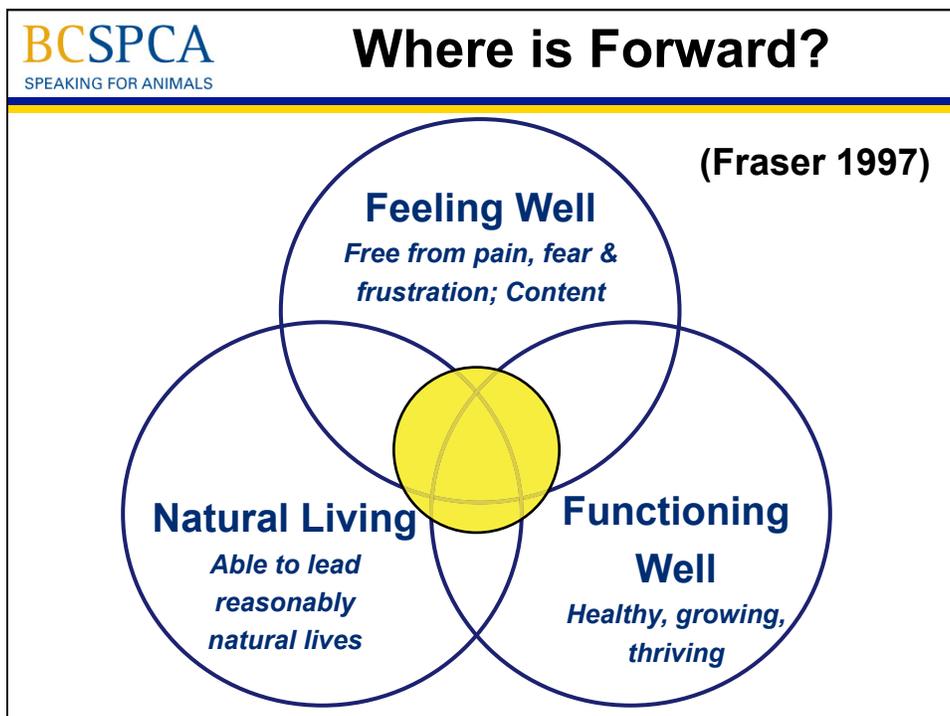
The BC SPCA and its national partner, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, have been asking all of Canada's farm animal industries to implement such programs and they will continue to encourage Dairy Farmers of Canada to work towards this goal.

In the meantime, the BC SPCA continues to run the SPCA Certified

"The improvements to the Code are enormous. They now clearly stipulate dozens of firm requirements, rather than just recommendations, including the use of pain control when dehorning calves and the elimination of tail docking."

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- ... What Makes Dairy Cows Really Happy cont.
- ... Highlights of the new Dairy Code of Practice
- ... Get SPCA Certified Beef delivered to your door!



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SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

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**GETTING TO
YES**

**Negotiating Agreement
Without Giving In**

Roger Fisher and William Ury
and for the Second Edition Bruce Patton
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Questions?



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