

# Australian College of Veterinary Scientists

## Membership Examination

June 2010

## Animal Welfare

### Paper 1

Perusal time: **Fifteen (15)** minutes

Time allowed: **Two (2)** hours after perusal

Answer **four (4)** from the five questions **only**.

All questions are of equal value.

Subsections of questions are of equal value unless stated otherwise.

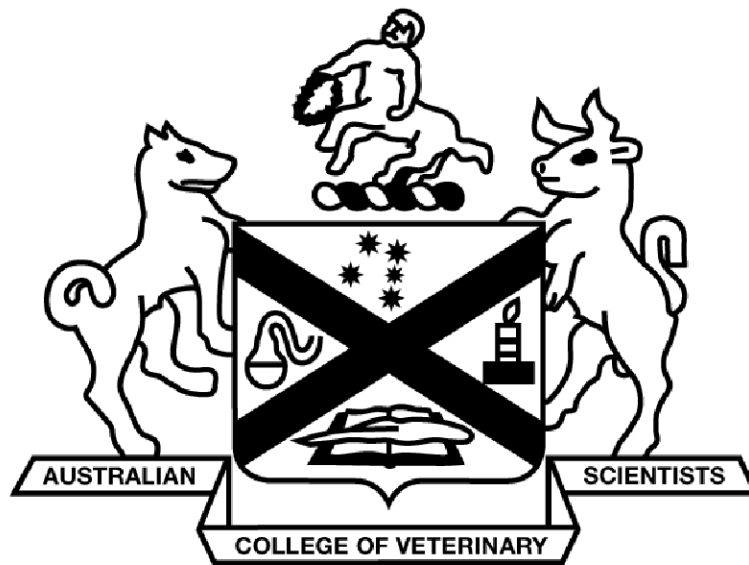
# Paper 1: Animal Welfare

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**Answer four (4) from the five questions only.**

1. Answer **either** part a) **or** b):
  - a) Discuss the roles played by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) and the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) within the New Zealand national animal welfare infrastructure.
  - b) Discuss the development, purpose, scope and expected outcomes of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.
  
2. Discuss the concept of ‘whole of life’ welfare in comparison to addressing the effect on welfare of individual events e.g. mulesing of sheep, dehorning of cattle, slaughter/killing etc.
  
3. Answer **four (4)** of the following:
  - a) Define ‘replacement’ in terms of animal use in experimentation. Describe, with examples, possible mechanisms by which ‘replacement’ might be achieved.
  - b) Explain the justification you would require as an animal ethics committee member for using animals in a research project as against non-sentient alternatives.
  - c) Discuss the link between animal welfare and agricultural sustainability.
  - d) Discuss the role of animal rights groups in influencing public attitudes.
  - e) Discuss the role of corporate bodies such as supermarket or fast food chains in influencing the way animals are farmed and any concerns this raises.
  
4. In the 1980s, a study of a group of blind hens derived from a natural mutation showed that in a free-range situation there was no feather-pecking or cannibalism, and blind hens maintained bodyweight and produced more eggs than sighted free-range hens. Using this example, discuss your views on the welfare and ethical implications of adapting animals to a production system and methods used to assess welfare in such cases.
  
5. Discuss the relationship between welfare codes/codes of practice/animal welfare standards and animal welfare legislation in either Australia or New Zealand (please specify country). Explain how such codes do and/or can enhance the law with respect to animal welfare.

**End of paper**



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### Paper 2

Perusal time: **Fifteen (15)** minutes

Time allowed: **Two (2)** hours after perusal

Answer **four (4)** from five questions **only**.

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# Paper 2: Animal Welfare

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Answer four (4) from the five questions only.

1. Answer **either** part a) **or** b):
  - a) Discuss ethical and welfare issues and the potential conflicts of interest for veterinarians that are associated with induction of parturition in dairy cows for management as opposed to therapeutic reasons. Explain the other factors that might influence decision-making around this practice.
  - b) Discuss the key welfare issues that exist for companion animal management in your country, their relative importance, and strategies for addressing or alleviating these issues.
  
2. Answer **four (4)** of the following:
  - a) Discuss the professional, ethical and other considerations for a veterinarian recognising a clear-cut case of animal abuse.
  - b) Explain the skills and experience considered desirable in stockpersons and animal attendants to maximise animal welfare.
  - c) Discuss the ethical considerations for veterinarians associated with the ‘convenience euthanasia’ of healthy companion animals.
  - d) Discuss the assessments you would require to provide assurance of the welfare status of a flock of first-generation genetically modified sheep.
  - e) Discuss the welfare and ethical issues associated with long-term (i.e. more than eight months a year) housing of dairy cows.
  
3. Describe the key physiological measurements that can be used to assess animal welfare, and the types of situations where each is, or is not, appropriate.
  
4. Answer **both** parts of this question:
  - a) Explain the theory around the use of pre-emptive and multimodal analgesia to improve pain relief for animals. (70%)
  - b) Discuss the signs an owner should look out for, that might indicate inadequate pain relief in a dog with a recently plated femur. (30%)
  
5. Compare and contrast the welfare implications for sows that are housed immediately after mating in individual stores for a limited period with sows that are housed immediately after mating in group pens.

**End of paper**