

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ON-FARM KILLING OF FARMED MAMMALS TO BE
SUPPLIED FOR PET FOOD**

Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption) Notice 2006.

Under clause 40(10) of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption) Notice 2006 I specify the requirements for the on-farm killing for humane reasons of farmed mammals to be supplied for pet food in the attached schedule.

I also revoke the previous requirements for the on-farm killing of farmed mammals to be supplied for pet food dated 21 December 2007.

Signed at Wellington this 30th day of October 2008.

(signed)

Judy Barker
Assistant Director (Production and Processing)
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
(Acting under delegated authority)

Requirements for the on-farm killing for humane reasons of farmed mammals to be supplied for pet food

Farmed mammals may only be slaughtered or killed on-farm;

- by primary processors who have documented procedures for this activity; and
 - only in accordance with these requirements.
1. The overarching principle when determining whether a farmed mammal is to be killed on-farm for humane reasons, is that the animal must:
 - be generally fit and healthy; and;
 - not be suffering from any identified condition that is not provided for in this document.

In order to be eligible for on-farm killing, farmed mammals must have one of the specified conditions listed in paragraph 3 of these requirements that would prevent the humane transport of the live animal.

2. All farmed mammals must be subjected to and pass an ante-mortem examination in accordance with clause 65 of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption) Notice 2006. In addition to assessing the animal as being generally fit and healthy the ante-mortem examiner must determine the animal's suitability for purpose having also considered the suspected condition. If there is reason to suggest the animal is generally ill or suffering from any condition other than those provided for in these requirements, then the animal must not be processed into petfood.
3. The following are the specified conditions for killing on-farm for humane reasons:

- a. Calving paralysis (cows)

This is a condition that exists when an animal that is essentially fit and healthy shows signs of full or partial paralysis of the hind legs.

Evidence in support of this condition includes:

- the animal is bright and alert in all instances. Note: if this is not the case the condition could be metabolic or the result of another general systemic illness;
- the animal exhibits signs of one or both hind leg weakness or paralysis;
- the time of year coincides with the calving season;
- there is a pregnancy/calving history.

These animals must be differentiated from those animals that are demonstrating signs of general systemic illness.

- b. Traumatic injury

This is a condition that exists when an animal that is essentially fit and healthy shows signs of injury through traumatic event (damage to nerves, bones or the musculo-skeletal system) to a localised region of the body.

Evidence in support of this condition includes:

- the animal is bright and alert in all instances; If this is not the case the animal could be suffering from a general systemic illness e.g. black leg;

- the animal exhibits signs of lameness or pain when moving;
- there is clear evidence of fracture, dislocation or swelling of the joint;
- there may be some signs of localised swelling in the joint. Note: in some cases of localised swelling or lameness to the joint, it may not be possible to clearly differentiate between other causes of lameness e.g.: infective arthritis. In these cases the animal may be killed on humane grounds and subject to normal post-mortem examination procedures.

These animals must be differentiated from those animals that are demonstrating signs of general systemic illness.

c. Non-responsive metabolic disease

This affects cows which are down as a result of a metabolic condition such as milk fever which has not responded to treatment.

To be eligible for humane on-farm killing and processing for petfood, these animals must have been assessed by a practising veterinary clinician within the last 36 hours. The supplier in addition to the supplier statement must provide a Veterinary Certificate or Veterinary Practice Docket declaring that in their opinion the animal is fit for processing into pet food. This Certificate or Docket must include the following information:

- The owner's name
- The cow's ear tag and herd identification number
- A statement that the cow shows no evidence of a septic or toxic condition
- The fact that the animal is not fit to be transported
- Time of examination
- Veterinarian's signature and date
- Veterinary practice address.

When making this assessment the veterinarian must also take into consideration any previous history or treatment the animal may have had which would affect its suitability for petfood. This would need to include any therapeutic treatment given and the diagnostic history of the animal.

d. Drought or snow bound

This is a condition which exists when the animal is essentially fit and healthy, but a lack of feed through being drought or snow bound has resulted in a loss of condition such that it makes transport of the animal inhumane. This category also includes animals that are snow bound and are suffering from exposure.

Evidence in support of this condition:

- the animal is bright and alert in all instances. Note: if this is not the case the animal could be suffering from a general systemic illness;
- there is clear evidence to support the fact that the general procurement area or farm is experiencing a drought or snowbound event.

These animals must be differentiated from those animals that are demonstrating signs of systemic illness or that have become emaciated through a disease process.

e. Squamous cell carcinoma (cancer eye)

Animals suffering from cancer eye to an extent that it would be considered inhumane to transport the animal.

Eligible animals will generally be those animals with lesions that have extended out from the eye and eyelid region. Cases will typically be those where the cancer is in a reasonably advanced stage such that the cancer has spread to surrounding tissues and there may be accompanying discharging pus or the lesions may be liable to haemorrhage during transport.

If there are signs of gross osseous involvement or significant systemic involvement these animals would not be considered as “generally fit and healthy” and as such are not eligible for processing for petfood.

f. Prolapsed uteri (womb) or rectum in pigs

In all cases the pigs must be determined as generally fit and healthy at the time of killing. In addition each prolapse must be examined to rule out any condition that may impact on the animals suitability for processing into petfood e.g. evidence of gangrene or the extensive nature of the condition would make hygienic processing impossible.

g. Unmanageable horses or cattle (excluding calves)

In all cases the horses or cattle (excluding bobby calves) must be determined as:

- unmanageable due to their temperament, to an extent that it would be considered inhumane to transport the animal; and
- generally fit and healthy or be suffering from one of the other specified conditions listed in paragraph 3.

Horses or cattle are not eligible if they are unmanageable for any other reason such as a lack of on-farm facilities e.g. yards, loading ramp.

In addition, for unmanageable horses or cattle the:

- resulting animal product is not eligible for export;
- operator must notify the NZFSA Verification Agency 3 working days prior to the killing of the horses or cattle on-farm;
- NZFSA Verification Agency verifier must verify, on-farm, the first three occurrences for each operator. After this time verification of this on-farm killing would be in accordance with the Verification 2005 Statement of Policy or its subsequent replacement.

h. Healthy horses or cattle (excluding calves)

Healthy horses and cattle may be killed on farm by operators who have specific approval, for this activity, from the New Zealand Food Safety Authority.

In all cases the horses or cattle (excluding bobby calves) must be determined as being generally fit and healthy.

In addition, for healthy horses or cattle the:

- resulting animal product is not eligible for export.