

# Animal Welfare Fact Sheet

## **There Is a Difference Between Animal Rights and Animal Welfare.**

Animal rights activists believe that sentient (the ability to experience pain or pleasure) beings all deserve the same rights. Based on these principles, people who share the mindset of animal rights activists oppose the use of animals for food, clothing, medical research, product testing, education, recreation, entertainment and companionship.

The animal welfare viewpoint believes that we must be responsible in our utilization of animals. The definition of animal welfare is the human responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well-being, including proper housing, management, nutrition, disease prevention and treatment, responsible care, human handling and, when necessary, humane euthanasia.

## **Livestock Regulations Are Based on Sound Science.**

Because of the sensitivity of animal welfare, regulations are based solely on sound science. What is sound science? Research that is conducted properly from accredited institutions and is peer reviewed and published in scientific journals. Everything from housing, to space requirements, handling and transportation to production management practices are researched and analyzed by experts before they are implemented. And the animal agriculture industry is more serious than ever about the responsible management of animal welfare and care.

## **Animal Welfare Is Based On Five Key Freedoms.**

There are five internationally known and accepted freedoms that must be met for animal welfare.

1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition.
2. Freedom from discomfort due to environment.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease.
4. Freedom to express normal behavior for the species.
5. Freedom from fear and distress .

## **Animal Welfare Is Enforced.**

The animal welfare rules for management practices among livestock producers are enforced. Operations found to be noncompliant face stiff fines, the removal of their livestock and the removal of their permits to house a livestock operation.

For more information on animal welfare, please visit the following sites:

<http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stusfd7usca1901.htm>

[http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en\\_titre\\_3.7.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_titre_3.7.htm)

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