

# Shearing Contractors Code of Conduct

This document should be clearly displayed in the shearing shed

Ver 18.5

## Collective and individual responsibility

The harvesting of wool is a team operation - safety and animal welfare are the joint responsibility of all members of the team.

A key obligation of is; **If you 'see something wrong, you must do or say something about it'**

1. This code of practice requires that every person working in a shearing shed accepts a shared responsibility and a 'duty of care' to ensure that the standards of animal welfare as nominated in this code are achieved.
2. It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure all shearers, shed hands and wool classers employed in this shed understand the principal of shared responsibility.
3. Under this principal, behaviour not in accordance with this code must be reported. It must be understood that every individual is obliged to 'say something if they see something'.
4. It is the responsibility of the contractor to ensure that all people working in or around the shearing shed are aware of this the requirements of this code and that it must be adhered to at all times.
5. Copy of the code to be displayed in a prominent position to inform all personnel.

## Duty of Care

Animal welfare legislation has broadened its scope from simply prohibiting acts of cruelty to animals, to actively promoting the welfare of animals.

This is reflected through the concept of 'duty of care'.

If you are in charge of an animal, you have a duty of care to that animal, no matter why you are in charge of it, what you are using it for, or how long it will be in your care.

Duty of care is based on the internationally recognised 'Five Freedoms' for animals.

The overarching requirement of this code is the acknowledgement that;

**Animals do feel pain and experience fear and stress**



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## Requirements of the Code

### 1. Shearers and shed hands

- a. Must not work under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- b. Must be suitably trained for the jobs they are doing

### 2. Low stress environment:

- a. Every effort must be made to create a low stress environment during shedding and penning.
- b. Dogs that bite must be muzzled.
- c. Sheep must be shedded for a minimum of 8 hours prior to shearing or any other time period mutually agreed with the contractor.
- d. Handling and manipulating of sheep into shearing position must be done with care to avoid injury.
- e. It should be negotiated with the contractor as to whether rams will be tranquilised before shearing to ensure the safety of the shearer and to minimise the risk of injury of the animal.

### 3. Cuts and stitching:

- a. Every effort must be made to reducing the risk of accidental cuts during shearing.
- b. In the case of a major injury to a sheep, the procedure must be for the shearer to cease work immediately to allow for suitable treatment.
- c. Stitching of wounds must be carried out by someone who has been trained to use an approved technique.
- d. Suitable products must be on hand to provide pain relief and antiseptic treatment.
- e. A record of injuries that require remedial action should be kept

### 4. Handling of sheep: Rough handling, mistreatment, abuse or any action which could be considered cruel will not be tolerated in this shearing shed or yards. This includes;

- striking
- kicking
- throwing
- standing on or
- manipulating a sheep's neck or legs into an unnatural position

### Consequences

The notification of this Code of Conduct being applicable in this shed shall serve as advice that a zero tolerance policy will apply for wilful departure from the code. Abuse of animals or violation of the drugs and alcohol policy shall result in instant dismissal.

Contractors name:

Contractor signature:

Date:

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