

# **WOOLWORTHS ANIMAL WELFARE POSITION STATEMENT**

## **BACKGROUND**

There is much concern that changing demographics and agricultural practices over the past century have failed to adequately consider the well-being of animals and the environment.

As retailers, we believe, it is our ethical obligation to ensure that our suppliers treat all the animals in our supply chain with respect and in the most humane way possible. We believe animals should have lives worth living. From birth to death, they should enjoy the five freedoms:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst,
2. Freedom from discomfort,
3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease,
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour,
5. Freedom from fear and distress.

## **OUR COMMITMENT**

We are committed to continuous improvement in all aspects of animal health and welfare. We will ensure that the animals used in the production of all own brand foods and general merchandise will be produced to our specifications by known suppliers.

To ensure that high animal welfare standards are maintained and continuously improved in our foods supply chain, our trained animal welfare specialists will annually visit and inspect all our South African abattoirs and processing plants and check that they and their supplying farms comply fully with our product specifications and animal welfare Codes of Practice. We will also periodically visit and inspect our foreign abattoirs.

While the animals inside our food supply chain are our main concern, we also believe we have an ethical obligation to minimise human-wildlife conflict and will support non-lethal, holistic and ecologically acceptable solutions.

We will collaborate and partner with other responsible stakeholders and make informed decisions on animal welfare and health issues based on the best scientific and ethical information available.

We believe in the following principles:

- Livestock should not be kept in close confinement e.g. sow stalls, battery cages.
- Routine mutilations e.g. teeth clipping, tail docking, mulesing, beak trimming, castration, face-branding should not be carried out.
- Live animals should not be transported for more than 8 hours (from loading to unloading).
- Genetically modified or cloned animals or their progeny should not be used.
- All animals must be slaughtered humanely to ensure minimum distress.
- Animals used for general merchandise e.g. clothing and homeware, must be by-products of the meat industry.

- Endangered species which appear on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) or the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, must not be used. Specifically no ivory, turtle or tortoise shell to be used.
- No exotic skins can be used such as snake, alligator, crocodile, and lizard
- Animal skins and fibres must not be obtained by live skinning or plucking or be a product of unnatural abortions.
- Fur and farmed fur must not be used.
- Specifically no Angora Rabbit hair, Astrakhan or Karakul fur may be used
- Cow hides must not be sourced from India or Pakistan.
- Products must not be tested on animals. Raw materials/ingredients must not be tested on animals unless explicitly required to meet statutory and or regulatory requirements e.g. REACH.
- The following ingredients must not be used in our products: beef tallowate, silk proteins, carmine and other animal –derived colorants, gelatine, placenta, collagen, animal-derived glycerine and marine animal-derived ingredients for toiletries and cosmetics.
- Pet accessories must be developed in collaboration with animal welfare experts.
- Animal imagery on merchandise must be sensitive to key welfare issues such as zoo and circus animals.

## **TRANSPARENCY AND REPORTING**

We will be open and honest about the farming systems used to produce our own brand foods and have systems in place to trace meat and dairy products back to the farms from where they were sourced.

It is our intention to periodically review our species-specific Codes of Practice and give direction and target dates to our suppliers. We will be transparent about our progress in meeting these targets.

We will publish information on our progress in our annual Good Business Journey Report, available on [Woolworths Holdings Limited](#) website.