

WOOLWORTHS

WOOLWORTHS ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

OUR COMMITMENT

Woolworths is a leading southern hemisphere retailer of quality foods, clothing and general merchandise (e.g. homeware, toiletries and cosmetics). We believe it is our ethical obligation to ensure that the animals in our supply chain are treated with respect and in the most humane way possible. This is not only what our customers expect from us, but also directly linked to the quality of the foods we sell.

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.

We believe in continuous improvement and 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.

Scope

This policy outlines our commitment and approach to ensure the health and welfare of livestock used as raw materials in our business. It applies to the livestock used within our locally produced, private label fresh meat, processed and cured meat, dairy products, eggs, game and farmed fish as well as the animal by-products e.g. leather used in our private label clothing, footwear and general merchandise.

It is our mission to ensure producers supplying us not only meet minimum legal standards, but also adopt and implement the highest practical and commercially viable standards of animal welfare. While our efforts are focussed on suppliers where we have significant influence e.g. private label, we will also take steps to influence our branded suppliers as far as possible.

Management Controls

We only work with producers and processors that share our values.

All our suppliers are required to comply with our policies and Codes of Practice.

To ensure that our Food suppliers are meeting our animal welfare standards we will annually visit and inspect local (Southern African) suppliers, abattoirs and processing facilities to check that they meeting the standards specified this animal welfare policy and



WOOLWORTHS

our species-specific Codes of Practice. We will also periodically visit and inspect our foreign suppliers and abattoirs to ensure compliance.

To ensure that our clothing suppliers are meeting our animal welfare standards, we will periodically visit and inspect local and international facilities to check that they are meeting the standards specified in our Animal Welfare Policy. In recognition of the complexity associated with clothing supply chains, we will also work closely with suppliers through third-party assurance schemes e.g. Leather Working Group, Responsible Down Standard etc. to provide required levels of assurance, where they are available.

Responsibility

Overall responsibility and oversight for this Policy resides with the Board. This policy is to be reviewed every two years.

Day to day responsibility within the **Foods division** resides with the Livestock/ Agriculture Manager, and with the Sourcing Manager for the **Clothing and General Merchandise division**. It is their role to develop and annually review /update as necessary the species-specific Codes of Practice and provide updates on progress.

Training

We commit to ensuring that all Woolworths employees responsible for product development (including *inter alia* technologists, buyers, product developers and sourcing specialists) are adequately trained in respect of this policy and the relevant animal welfare issues and concerns.

We will work closely with leading research groups and NGOs such as the University of Bristol and Compassion in World Animal Farming to further the development of skills of our people, as well as conduct research to further the development of higher welfare systems in the countries which we operate.

We will also ensure that we keep our suppliers up-to-date with our Animal Welfare policy, targets and updates to species-specific Codes of Practice.

Transparency and Reporting

We will be transparent about our progress and publish periodic updates on the commitments we have made.

Non-Compliance

Where non-compliances are found on audits or site inspections, Woolworths will ensure the supplier takes immediate and effective remedial action. Woolworths reserves the right to disengage with any supplier that does not meet minimum standards as set out in the Animal Welfare policy and species-specific Codes of Practice, or who does not show attempts to continually improve animal welfare standards.



WOOLWORTHS

OUR POSITION ON KEY FARM-ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES

Below we outline our **vision for the future** as a business in regards to animal welfare. We recognise that some aspects may require considerable financial commitment and pose significant scientific research and development challenges to our suppliers in their implementation. Hence we understand the need to take a phased approach, over time, to achieve their implementation plans. We recognise this is a journey and will maintain close contact with our suppliers in order to ensure that continuous progress is being made.

Confinement

We are working towards reducing and eventually eliminating the use of confinement systems of all private label fresh meat products i.e. any system in which an animal is kept in very limited space, severely restricting the animal's movement and expression of natural behaviours. e.g. sow stalls, farrowing crates. Simultaneously, we aim to grow our range of free-range products.

We **prohibit** practices (including the sale of any foods products) in which the welfare needs of the animal can never be met, such as the force feeding of geese and ducks for foie gras, and keeping veal calves in crates.

Woolworths is proud to have been the first major local retailer to stop selling whole eggs from hens kept in cages in 2004, and has achieved 95% free range egg for all egg ingredients in private label products.

Mutilations

We recognise that a number of routine mutilation measures are used to abate anxiety traits in animals (e.g. hen pecking, tail biting, and aggressiveness) which may endanger farmer and/or livestock safety, and which may develop in part due to animal boredom and close confinement.

As a result, we will promote first, the use of enrichment methods as well as reduced confinement in our private label fresh meat products as an alternative to routine mutilations associated with boredom in animals due to barren landscapes and overcrowding - e.g. including teeth clipping, tail docking and beak trimming.

Where these practices are deemed absolutely necessary, we encourage the use of the best available technique causing minimum distress, for example:

- The use of infrared for beak trimming in hens.
- The use of anaesthesia or analgesia applied in the presence of a veterinary surgeon, for the all of the following:
 - Castration of cattle, pigs (including piglets) and mutton
 - De-horning or de-budding of cattle
 - Teeth clipping in piglets
 - Tail docking in piglets and lamb

We prohibit mulesing of lamb or mutton.



WOOLWORTHS

Slaughter

The livestock in our supply chain should not only lead a healthy life, but they should also be granted the dignity at end of life to be free of pain and distress.

It is our goal is to ensure that all animals (including Halaal) within our foods supply chain must be rendered insensible to pain by pre-stunning before slaughter.

Routine Antibiotics

We believe that the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture should be limited to only when necessary for therapeutic treatment. Our goals are therefore to; eliminate the use of routine antibiotics; and, secondly to prohibit the use of shared antibiotics that are important to human health (e.g. fluoroquinolones) in foods livestock.

Growth Promoters

We do not endorse the use growth promoters or performance enhancers, which may result in an animal living outside of its physical and metabolic limits. Our goal is to phase-out the use of growth promoters or performance enhancers in any meat or diary product or ingredient.

The use of rBST in our fresh milk dairy cows is strictly prohibited in line with our rBST policy.

Transport

We recognise that transportation of livestock, typically from farm to abattoir can be distressing and significantly impact an animal's mental and physical wellbeing if travel distance and time is excessive. Our goal is therefore to minimise the time that livestock travel.

We will take active steps to consider proximity of farms to approved abattoirs when evaluating potential suppliers.

We **prohibit** journey times which exceed the EU regulatory limit of 8 hours from loading to unloading, for all Woolworths foods livestock.

Human-Wildlife Conflict

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 contribute actively to the development of the necessary research and systems to minimise human-wildlife conflict. Eventually we would wish to ensure that none of our fresh meat suppliers engage in any indiscriminate forms of predator management on their farms.



WOOLWORTHS

Genetic Modification

It is our policy that genetically modified or cloned animals or their progeny must not be used.

Spent Livestock

We believe that animals and their progeny deserve to be treated with dignity and respect throughout their lifespan, not just when their productivity is high.

We will therefore take steps to address welfare concerns which a livestock species e.g. spent egg-layer hens and male dairy calves may face once it has exited Woolworths line of sight.

Controversial Meat Products

We **prohibit** the sale of any of the following as products or as ingredients within products in our private label or branded foods products:

- Foie-gras
- Veal
- Shark or shark fin
- Exotic meat such as crocodile, kangaroo, bison, frog's legs.
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Farmed Fish

Woolworths has a Sustainable Seafood Policy, and have committed that all of our farmed fish be ASC certified by 2020. We will work through ASC, Global GAP and the Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) a division of the Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) to develop welfare policies for farmed fish, and ensure the development of standards and targets for key issues including stocking densities, predation pressure, handling, starvation, slaughter methods, mutilation and transport.

Animal By-products

It is our policy that no animal will be slaughtered specifically for the production of Woolworths clothing and general merchandise products, therefore only by-products of the meat industry may be used. The following by-products **are prohibited** for use in any of our **clothing or general merchandise** products:

- Endangered species, or the by-product of endangered species which appear on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) or the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species may not be used.
- The use of ivory, turtle or tortoise shell is not permitted,
- Exotic skins including snake, alligator, crocodile, and lizard may not be used.
- Animal fibres (e.g. cashmere, wool or mohair) may not be obtained from live-plucking. We do not permit the use of Angora rabbit fibre.



WOOLWORTHS

- We do not permit the use of any natural fur or farmed fur in our products. This includes mink, chinchilla, fox, rabbit, astrakhan and karakul fur.
- Duck and goose down must not be obtained from live plucking, and must not be associated with the foie-gras industry. In order to achieve these requirements, we encourage our suppliers to be either Responsible Down Standard (RDS) compliant or certified to a similar standard.
- Animal skins may not be obtained by live skinning or a product of unnatural abortions.
- We only use leather from cow, buffalo, goat and sheep. We will never knowingly purchase cow leather from India or Pakistan. As we work towards obtaining a greater degree of transparency in our leather supply chain we will encourage our clothing and general merchandise suppliers to purchase leather from Leather Working Group (LWG) certified suppliers.
- We do not permit the use of any of the following in our private label beauty products: beef tallowate, silk proteins, carmine and other animal – derived colorants, gelatine, placenta, collagen, animal-derived glycerine and marine animal-derived ingredients.

Animal Testing

- All of the private label beauty products sold by Woolworths are to be endorsed by Beauty without Cruelty (BWC).
- We do not permit the testing of our products on animals.
- Raw materials or ingredients must not be tested on animals unless explicitly required to meet statutory and or regulatory requirements e.g. REACH.

Responsible Labelling

We commit to being transparent and honest about the livestock farming standards used in our products.

We have specifically adopted higher welfare systems in a number of our foods product ranges and we will promote these to our customers. We will ensure that in doing so; we do not misrepresent the lifestyle of the livestock through use of imagery.

We will also be sensitive to key welfare issues including use of animal imagery related to circus and zoo animals on our clothing and general merchandise.

Updated: October 2016

