

2011-2012 NIAA Resolutions

Animal Care

Mission: To identify and monitor issues surrounding the care and handling of livestock and to develop resources and educational materials for distribution to industry, producers, educators and other individuals interested in livestock care issues.

Movement of Non-Ambulatory Animals to Slaughter

BACKGROUND: The livestock industry recognizes the need to provide for down or physically impaired animals through consultation with a veterinary practitioner. In addressing this challenge, the needs of these animals and the need to maintain the economic viability of the livestock industry will be met.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends that producers, livestock market agencies, meat packers, veterinarians, transporters and regulatory officials follow published accepted industry animal care and handling guidelines. Only ambulatory animals should enter or continue within livestock market channels. If animals become non-ambulatory, a final move to slaughter may be made under veterinary guidance if permitted under current federal regulations.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2001 | Amended: 2004 | Amended: 2005 | Amended: 2009

Care of Newborn Dairy Calves

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends that newborn dairy calves be fed colostrum or colostrum replacer consistent with industry standards, as outlined in the *2008 Caring for Dairy Animals Reference Guide*. Before shipment from the premises where they are born, they must possess a dry hair coat and be able to stand and walk easily without assistance from a person.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2003 | Amended: 2009

Distribution of Educational Resources Regarding Euthanasia of Livestock

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture has and will continue to facilitate the distribution of educational materials regarding the proper methods of euthanizing livestock which are non-merchantable, non-ambulatory, terminally ill, or injured with a hopeless prognosis for life. Such educational efforts should be promoted to all levels of the livestock and poultry industry from producer through processing.

Adopted: 2000 | Reaffirmed: 2009

Needed Research in Animal Transportation

BACKGROUND: Reports exist of the detrimental aspects of inadequate transportation including a high incidence of bruising, disease and death. These reports are especially associated with very young animals. The subject of transportation guidelines cannot be addressed with simple “one size fits all” recommendations.

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture recommends research be directed at the specific needs of various ages and sizes of animals under specific transport situations so that a broad range of guidelines that address the needs of transported livestock and poultry can be developed.

Adopted: 2000 | Amended: 2002 | Reaffirmed: 2009

Need for Objective Guidelines for Animal Welfare

RESOLUTION: The NIAA supports continued development and implementation of animal care guidelines by livestock and poultry organizations that are verifiable, responsible, science-based, workable and affordable. NIAA supports the use of these species-specific materials to educate consumers regarding farm animal care practices.

Adopted: 2009

Equine Transportation and Processing

RESOLUTION: The National Institute for Animal Agriculture endorses the American Association of Equine Practitioners’ policy regarding equine transportation and processing, which reads as follows:

“The AAEP advocates the humane treatment of all horses and believes the equine industry and horse owners have a responsibility to provide humane care throughout the life of the horse. However, a small percentage of horses are ultimately unwanted because they are no longer serviceable, are infirm, dangerous, or their owners are no longer able to care for them.

The AAEP recognizes that the processing of unwanted horses is currently a necessary aspect of the equine industry, and provides a humane alternative to allowing the horse to continue a life of discomfort and pain, and possibly inadequate care or abandonment. The AAEP encourages, fosters and provides education regarding responsible ownership and management that will reduce the number of unwanted horses. In addition, the AAEP supports and commends the efforts of equine retirement facilities and adoption groups.

Regarding the care of horses destined for processing, the AAEP’s position is that these horses should be: Treated humanely and with dignity; Transported to the processing facility according to the guidelines approved by the United States Department of Agriculture in 2002; Euthanized in a humane manner in accordance with the guidelines established by the American Veterinary Medical Association. [AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia]

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In addition, the AAEP recognizes that the human consumption of horsemeat is a cultural and personal issue and does not fall within the purview of the association, whose mission is the care of the health and welfare of the horse throughout its life.”

Adopted: 2008 | Amended: 2010

(The Equine Transportation and Processing resolution was also supported by the Equine Committee: 2009)