



# ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

This VYUFDA document has been reviewed and approved by the Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019

# Table of contents

**Purpose:** ..... 3

**Approach:** ..... 3

**Definition** ..... 3

**Summary:**..... 3

**Accountability:** ..... 3

**Scope** ..... 4

**Policy Statement** ..... 4

**Monitoring** ..... 4

**Acknowledgements:** ..... 5

## Purpose:

The Association recognises that it has a duty of care in relation to the health and safety of the animals involved in our sport. This document represents the Associations Animal Welfare Policy. Members of the VYUFDA are expected to comply with this policy.

## Approach:

In the formulation of this policy, the Association's approach has been to leverage information publicly available. Where possible and appropriate, existing industry level information has been used in the formulation of this policy.

## Definition

Animal welfare – it's your duty to care'. 'Duty of Care' is an obligation for people to take reasonable measures to protect the welfare of any animals that their activities may impact upon.

## Summary:

This Policy provides a framework to:

- ensure the ethical and responsible treatment of animals in all aspects the associations operation; and
- ensure the Associations compliance with all relevant statutes, codes and guidelines.

The Association takes its ethical obligations to animals seriously and commits to fulfilling these obligations with respect to all animals used by in all aspects of its operations.

## Accountability:

Role	Person
Accountable Officer	The Central Committee is Accountable to ensure the policy is applied.
Responsible Officer	<b>Standard Trial</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Convenor's</li><li>• Senior Zone Committee member or Open Judge in their absence.</li></ul> <b>Championship Trial</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Convenor</li><li>• VYUFDA Executive Representative</li></ul>

## Scope

This Policy applies to:

- all members and convenors associated with the training of working dogs and the operation of the Association

## Policy Statement

Respect for animals underpins all decisions and actions involving the care and use of animals as part of the operation of the VYUFDA. This respect is demonstrated by application of the following principles:

- a) VYUFDA has zero tolerance for any act of animal cruelty. This includes, but is not limited to, willful mistreatment and neglect of animals and acts that maliciously cause pain, injury or suffering. We expect all members to adopt and adhere to proper animal care and handling methods at all times;
- b) Our events are to be conducted in line with our Constitution, Rules, Convenors Guide and other relevant policies and guidelines;
- c) Adherence to relevant industry and government policies and regulations; and
- d) Banning of the use or advocating the use of products such as electric collars on dogs.
- e) A zero tolerance for any mistreatment of sheep and dogs in a trial situation through neglect, over use or a failure to consider the impacts of high temperatures.
- f) Yards are to be designed in a manner to consider the welfare of the stock involved

All people involved in the conduct of the VYUFDA will be aware of, and comply with this policy. We require all people involved in the handling and care of animals to be appropriately educated to perform these tasks competently and appropriately.

## Monitoring

Members to submit a report to Association Secretary for review by the executive. Breaches of this policy will be dealt with under Division 2 - Disciplinary Action of our Constitution.

## **Acknowledgements:**

The following documents and websites were used as references in the creation of this document.

<https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/meat-safety-and-traceability/documents/livestock-production-assurance/factsheets/22879-lpa-fact-sheet-7-animal-welfare-web.pdf>

<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/sheep/>

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/animal-health-and-welfare/animal-welfare/animal-welfare-legislation/victorian-codes-of-practice-for-animal-welfare>

<https://dogsvictoria.org.au/members/knowledge-centre/the-law-and-you.html>