



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL WORKING EQUITATION	Horse and Livestock Welfare Policy
Document Number:	P006 V2
Last Review Date:	Nov 23
Next Review Date:	July 2025
Responsible Portfolio:	Board
Authority	This Policy is made in accordance with ANWEL Constitution. It is binding on all Members of ANWEL.
Signature	Alison McLean <small>Digitally signed by Alison McLean Date 25/11/23</small>
Related Documents	Integrity Framework Code of Conduct Member Protection Policy Conflicts of Interest Policy Privacy Policy Social Media Policy Risk Management Policy

1. Introduction

The Australian National Working Equitation (ANWEL) places the utmost importance on the welfare of the horse and livestock as the primary consideration in all activities.

To this end, horse and livestock welfare must never be compromised by competitive or commercial interests and ANWEL members are expected to accept and abide by this principle.

2. Horse Welfare Principles

- a. At all stages during the preparation and training of horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes ensuring good horse management; using training methods which are appropriate to the physical and mental capabilities of the horse and which do not result in pain or fear; use of equipment which is correctly fitted and do not cause pain or injury; a high standard of farriery and foot care; and appropriate methods of transport.



- b. Horses must be fit, competent and capable and in good health, appropriate to the type of riding activity and the specific demands.
- c. This includes ensuring an adequate level of fitness for the activity, applying appropriate horse-health and biosecurity practices; and allowing adequate recovery time following veterinary treatment.
- d. Riding and events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the riding.
- e. Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have been ridden and that they are treated humanely when their riding days are over. This includes provision of adequate veterinary and health care; the prompt and appropriate treatment of injury or illness; sympathetic and humane treatment during retirement; and where necessary, appropriate methods of euthanasia to minimise suffering.
- f. ANWEL supports the ongoing awareness and skills development of its members in relation to horse welfare and encourages all those involved in equestrian sport to attain the highest levels of knowledge in relation to care and management of the horse.
- g. Any team or individual ANWEL member that demonstrates behaviour that is detrimental to the welfare of the horse will be disqualified at the judge's discretion.

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3. Hot weather

Horses exercising and competing in hot environmental conditions can be affected by heat stress.

- a. Riders are responsible and must always take action to prevent, manage and treat heat stress in their horses.
- b. Event organisers must assess the risk of hot weather for any ANWEL event, ensuring appropriate risk management is implemented.
- c. Organisers must abide by the Equestrian Australia Hot Weather Policy including the Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) Index temperature directives regarding the welfare safety of riders, horses and cattle when conducting competitions in extreme weather temperature conditions.

[EA Hot Weather Policy 26092017.pdf \(equestrian.org.au\)](#)

4. Cattle Welfare Principles

- a. ANWEL Affiliate Clubs are to accept cattle from cattle suppliers in good health and are to be returned to the supplier in the same state.
- b. Female stock in an obvious pregnant condition must not be used.
- c. Cattle should be a minimum of 12 months of age and weigh a minimum of 200kg.
- d. Cattle are to be collared/ uncollared or numbered/ numbered in a safe handling environment such as sturdy safe cattle yard with a crush.
- e. ANWEL does not allow paint to used on cattle for numbering.
- f. Cattle are penned in holding pens at one end of the arena in mobs of no more than 12 with water and if hot weather is consistent then they are also to be sprinkled. Pens are wherever possible set up in the shade or under cover.
- g. If the temperature exceeds 37C during the cattle event, then the event must be cancelled. No ANWEL cattle event is to be held if extreme high temperatures exist.
- h. Mobs of cattle can only be run for 1 run then the mob must be changed on a rotating basis (therefore 1 cow per competitor plus suggest extra for those unsuitable)

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- d. Once the cattle phase has commenced any team and or individual competitor that demonstrates hard, fast riding or rushing at high speed into the mob, any rough handling, e.g. hazing, kicking, hitting or over riding and pushing of cattle whilst the run is in progress will be disqualified at the judge's discretion.
- i. If a beast is deemed to be unfit, unwell or dangerous then that beast will be pulled from the mob at once and replaced. Veterinary attention is required is the responsibility of the event organisers.
- j. All ANWEL events that include cattle must have a nominated Animal Welfare Officer in attendance.

5. Policy breach

It is a breach of this Policy for any person or organisation bound by this Policy to do anything contrary to this Policy, including but not limited to:

- abuse of a horse or livestock in any manner which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort including without limitation:
 - a. whipping or beating a horse or livestock excessively
 - b. subjecting a horse to any kind of electronic shock device
 - c. using spurs excessively or persistently
 - d. jabbing the horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device
 - e. competing with an exhausted, lame or injured horse or livestock
 - f. 'rapping' a horse
 - g. abnormally sensitising or desensitising any part of a horse
 - h. leaving horse or cattle without adequate food drink or exercise
 - i. using any device or equipment which causes excessive pain to the horse if it knocks down an obstacle
 - j. breaching the ANWEL Code of Conduct
 - k. failing to follow ANWEL policies (including this Policy) and supporting procedures for the protection, safety and well-being of members, officials, volunteers and spectators

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6. Disciplinary Measures

If an individual or body to which this Policy applies breaches this Policy, one or more forms of discipline may be imposed. Refer to **Disciplinary Measures** under the **ANWEL Member Protection Policy and Code of Conduct**.