

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Don't buck the trend: Welfare guide gets thumbs up from goat producers

Since being launched in July last year, the *Australian Industry Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Goats* have been assisting goat producers across the country improve their welfare practices and now those same producers are encouraging everyone in the industry to grab a copy.

Funded by the Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA) and developed by Animal Health Australia (AHA) the voluntary *Guidelines* provide advice on welfare topics from housing facilities and equipment to breeding and dairy management.

Victorian dairy goat producer Chris Lamin, said the *Guidelines* are a valuable resource, particularly for those new to the industry and she is encouraging all goat owners to get a copy.

"The *Guidelines* are a really good base from which you can build your individual goat husbandry and biosecurity program from. It's an excellent place to start for anyone new into goats, regardless of the size of their enterprise or the type of goats being run," Ms Lamin said.

AHA's Project Manager for Welfare, Kelly Wall said the document was proving popular amongst a range of goat producers.

"Since July we have mailed out numerous copies of the *Guidelines*, with countless more downloaded from our website.

"The strong take up of this important document speaks volumes about Australia's goat producer community and we certainly encourage everyone to get a copy by downloading it from the [Animal Welfare Standards website](https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/publications) or emailing [publications@animalhealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:publications@animalhealthaustralia.com.au) for a hard copy," said Ms Wall.

The *Guidelines* involved targeted consultation with goat producers at various levels of the supply chain and from different product sectors, state representatives, animal welfare organisations and veterinarians.

Although the document is a voluntary guide, it still has the ability to inform a nationally uniform approach to ensuring goat welfare is adhered to.

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#### About Animal Health Australia

AHA works in partnership with our Members and other stakeholders to keep Australia free of new and emerging diseases and to improve animal health, enhance market access and foster resilience and integrity of the Australian animal health system.

#### About Goat Industry Council of Australia

GICA is the peak national body representing the interests of goat producers. GICA's objective and purpose is to represent and promote the national interests of Australian goatmeat, fibre and dairy producers.