

FACTSHEET

Animal welfare obligations for painful husbandry procedures in sheep

January 2023

This factsheet is a summary of the Code of Welfare: Painful Husbandry Procedures published by MPI. (Link at the bottom of the page)



These are the **MINIMUM STANDARDS**

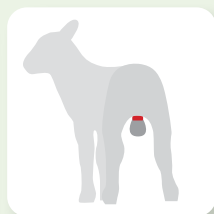
(The section in white at the bottom of the page is recommended best practice)

No painful procedures to be performed on animals under 12 hours old

CASTRATION AND SCROTUM SHORTENING



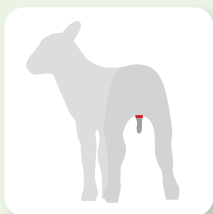
Pain relief MUST be used if animals are over six months old



CASTRATION

Use correct size of rubber ring

- Ring ABOVE testes and below teats
- If using high tension band then anaesthetic must be used (any age)



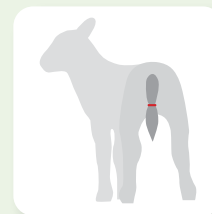
SCROTUM SHORTENING (CRYPTORCHID)

- Ring below testes
- Testes pushed up into cavity or held against abdomen

DOCKING



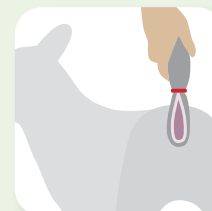
Tail docking over six months old is a vet only procedure



Must ONLY be undertaken if necessary



Rubber rings and searing irons are the only methods permitted



The tail MUST be no shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE



Always use pain relief for any age



Work Hygienically



Seek veterinary advice on best methods

GENERAL INFORMATION



Use rubber rings and avoid surgery



Treat animals when a few weeks old

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE



Dock lambs within six weeks of birth



If in doubt, seek veterinary advice on best methods



Use pain relief

For more detailed information on minimum standards and best practice guidelines please refer to Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare available from MPI Tel: 0800 008 333 or www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/