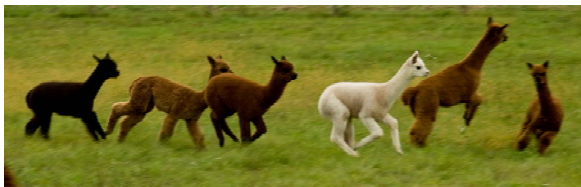


- Schedule the investigation with the investigating authority for a later date, preferably in conjunction with the Certified Livestock Inspector.
- If the inspecting authority determines that animals' lives are in imminent peril, it shall not be necessary to make efforts to arrange for voluntary access to premises.
- Consider calling local law enforcement to be present if a humane law enforcement officer is insistent that immediate access to your premises is needed or must be granted without a warrant.
- Call a veterinarian who knows your animals to be present during the investigation.
- DO NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENT without inspecting and fully understanding the document and its repercussions.

If you follow the humane standards, or more than the minimum standards, you are not breaking the law, and therefore should be protected from enforcement actions.

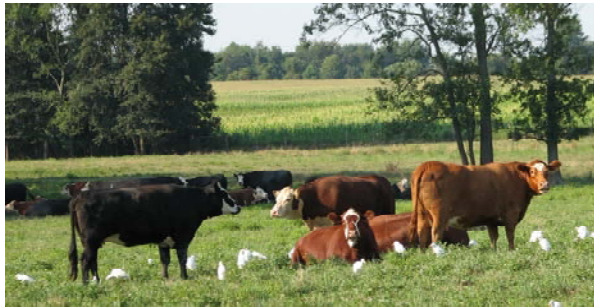


For more information -

NJDA Division of Animal Health
609-671-6400
state.veterinarian@ag.state.nj.us

Resources:

<http://www.state.nj.us/agriculture/divisions/ah/pdf/HumaneStandards2010.pdf>



This information is made available by New Jersey Farm Bureau. Efforts like this to assist New Jersey farmers are made possible through membership dues and other support from NJFB members. We thank you for your Farm Bureau membership!

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** New Jersey
Farm Bureau**

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Trenton, New Jersey 08608
609-393-7163
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DEFENDING YOUR FARM DURING HUMANE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Know your rights!



DEFENDING A FARM DURING HUMANE ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

The purpose of this flyer is to inform livestock owners of their rights in the event of a humane investigation.

Humane Standards (N.J.A.C. 2:8) and the Treatment of Domestic Livestock

The purpose of the Humane Standards is to establish minimum standards for the raising, keeping, care, treatment, marketing and sale of domestic livestock and procedures for the enforcement of those standards.

Animals included in the rules are cattle, horses, poultry, rabbits, small ruminants and swine regardless of how or why they are kept.

In all cases, a holistic approach is taken when evaluating an animal of any species, taking into account, age, breed, physiologic condition, production level, stage of development, daily maintenance requirements and environmental conditions.

The Minimum Care of Livestock

- All animals shall have daily access to food and water.
- All animals' environments' must provide relief from the elements, such as excessive wind, excessive temperature and excessive precipitation.

- All animals must be handled and transported in a manner that minimizes injury, illness and death.
- All sick or injured animals must be promptly treated or humanely euthanized.

Keep Your Farm Off Limit

- Keep your farm's image clean and professional. Passers-by are often the ones to call in animal welfare complaints.
- Develop a relationship with local law enforcement before they are needed.
- If possible, secure access to the premises with gates and fences, as well as no trespass signs. Also lock offices, filing cabinets, etc. where feasible.
- Prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by implementing appropriate biosecurity protocols. Require that any visitors follow the same protocols.

Why is this important to you?

Operating in conformance with these standards can protect a livestock owner during investigation and litigation. Any member of the public can call in a complaint, and you may be required to defend yourself.

The Investigation and Enforcement of Alleged Humane Violations

There are procedural rules governing the investigation of complaints alleging the cruel and inhumane treatment of domestic livestock, and the commencement of actions for enforcement of the standards in N.J.A.C. 2:8.

It is the responsibility of the NJSPCA, county SPCAs or other state or local government authority receiving a complaint regarding livestock to immediately notify the NJ Department of Agriculture. A certified livestock inspector from the NJDA can then investigate the alleged cruelty.

A certified livestock inspector is a veterinarian, animal health technician or investigator certified by the NJDA who has the knowledge, training and experience as to the type(s) of animals being investigated and N.J.A.C. 2:8.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LIVESTOCK

- Discuss the humane standards with your lawyer.
- Make sure that the NJDA Division of Animal Health has been notified.
- You have the right to deny access to your property, if those seeking to enter do not have a warrant. Once you grant access without a warrant, you give up some of your rights and protections.