



## AJP Policy Document

# Ensuring humane handling and management

The Animal Justice Party Aotearoa New Zealand (AJP) is committed to ending harmful animal handling practices and advancing a system of care that upholds the dignity, rights and welfare of all animals used in agriculture. While our ultimate goal is to abolish all animal farming, we call for urgent reforms to eliminate cruel procedures, ensure prompt access to veterinary care, and establish humane handling standards rooted in compassion and respect for sentient beings.

Industrial farming often prioritises profit over animal welfare, leading to practices that cause unnecessary pain, distress and harm. AJP advocates for the elimination of harmful handling practices, ensuring access to veterinary care and legislative reform that prevents cruelty.

Many common farming practices are invasive, painful, and unnecessary. AJP calls for an immediate end to:

- Debeaking of hens, a practice that causes significant pain and distress.
- Routine surgical mutilations, including tail docking, teeth clipping and mulesing, unless medically necessary and performed with anaesthesia.
- Harmful practices in pig farming, such as "thumping" (blunt force trauma), ear notching and tail docking.

By prohibiting these practices, this policy aims to protect farmed animals from unnecessary suffering while promoting alternative methods that prioritise their wellbeing.

Farmed shellfish and other marine animals are frequently overlooked in welfare legislation. AJP supports the implementation of humane practices in aquaculture, including:

- Enforcing standards that minimise stress and injury during farming.
- Regulating overcrowding and ensuring the wellbeing of marine species in aquaculture systems.

AJP advocates for an urgent shift away from entrenched cruelty in animal farming towards a system grounded in care, accountability and legal recognition of animals' rights. We call for the immediate prohibition of inhumane practices and enforcement of meaningful standards to protect animals from suffering. These reforms are essential steps in our broader transition away from animal agriculture and towards a just, plant-based future where all animals are free from exploitation.

**Key Objectives:**

1. End cruel and routine mutilations such as debeaking, tail docking, teeth clipping and mulesing, unless medically necessary and carried out with full pain relief.
2. Establish legally binding humane handling standards to prevent fear, stress and injury to farmed animals across all stages of their lives.
3. Ensure timely and accessible veterinary care for all farmed animals, recognising their right to medical treatment and relief from suffering.
4. Extend legal protections to aquatic animals in aquaculture systems, including enforceable welfare standards that prevent overcrowding and minimise distress.