

# ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

# ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

## ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY STATEMENT

Untouched World is 100% committed to sourcing our fibre from producers that are doing the very best they can for their animals' welfare, including their commitment to continually seek ways to improve their animals' lived experiences, and move towards 'A Good Life.'

---

## ETHOS

Here at Untouched World™ our ethos is simple. We want to create beautiful, easy wear, easy care clothing that will be enjoyed for years to come. Garments that not only make you feel good inside and out, but are easy on the earth and on those who help create them. This includes the animals that grow the fibre we use.

One Health | One Welfare underpins our approach, as it acknowledges that right along our supply chain, the welfare of animals, people and the environment, is interconnected and it matters. Supporting and enhancing the welfare of all is a 'non-negotiable' for us, as is transparency, quality and sustainability. These are the foundations of our ethical approach to doing business which we know matters to our consumers.

- When sourcing our animal and plant fibres and designing and making our garments, we consider:
- How kind farming practices and systems are to Papatūānuku (Mother Earth);
- Our people and how well they are treated;
- Animal welfare and how our growers enable the animals to have 'A Good Life.'

At Untouched World, we fully believe in creating meaningful change for the betterment of the planet, people and animals. Working together, with experts and those across our supply and user chain, helps us to shape a kinder, more positive future. That means leaving the planet in a better state than we found it, providing our animals with a great quality of life, taking care of our people, while at the same time meeting consumer expectations.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

At Untouched World, we understand that animals are sentient and their welfare matters. Being sentient means the animals producing our fibres have a variety of experiences that matter to them and affect their overall welfare on a day-to-day basis, and throughout their lifetime.

We also know that animal welfare science is a relatively new and evolving discipline that continually seeks to better understand animals' lived experiences. While a lot has been learned over the many decades, there's always room for improvement, as we discover more about animals and their experience of the world.

# A GOOD LIFE

The concept of “A Good Life” was developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC; est. 1979) in 2009. The “FAWC’s philosophy of approach” includes a discussion on the ethics of animal use and states that:

“At a minimum, each farm animal should have a life that is worth living to the animal itself, and not just to its human keeper.”

At Untouched World, we agree with this sentiment, and strive to source our animal fibre from animals that have many positive experiences and overall, ‘A Good Life’. This means a life where good experiences outweigh the bad, and where overall the treatment of the animals is well above the minimum legal requirements.

# MOVING ON FROM THE FIVE FREEDOMS

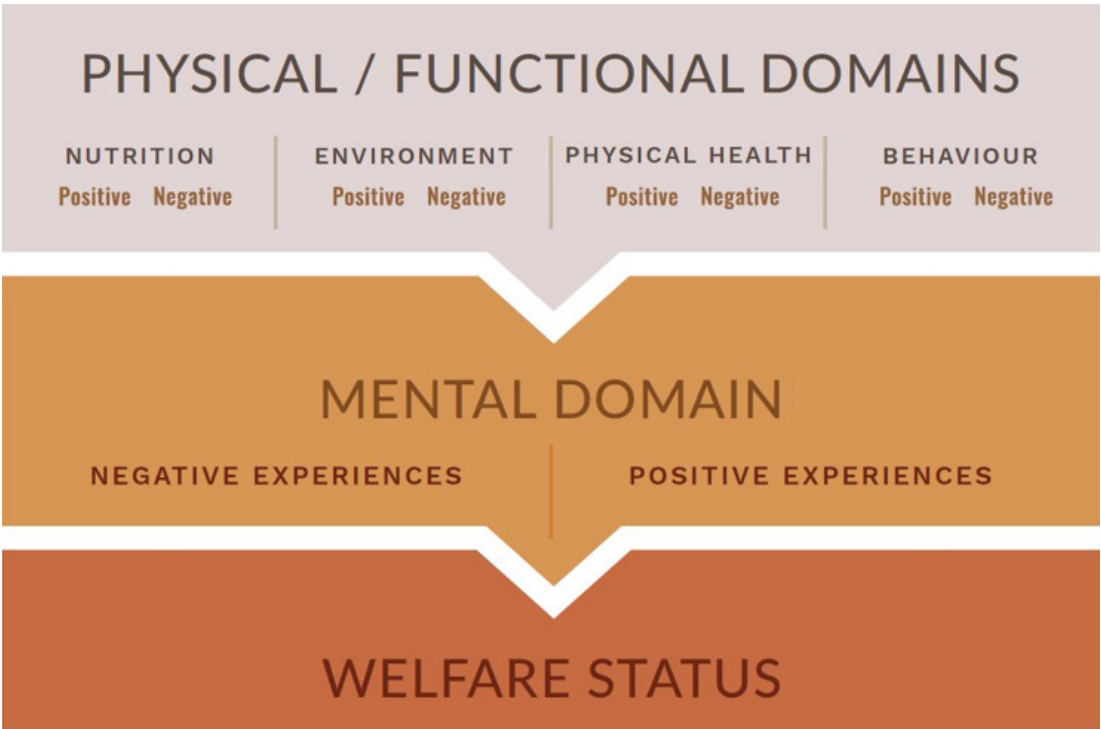
The Five Freedoms outline what must be avoided to minimise animal suffering (e.g. thirst, hunger, discomfort) but they don’t embrace an animal’s capacity to have positive emotions and experiences. We are now realising that the Five Freedoms is the bare minimum in regard to animal welfare standards.

At the time of development, the Five Freedoms were revolutionary and progressive. For decades, they have globally been referred to and have assisted in education and setting animal welfare standards, including in law.

Given we now accept that animals can not only suffer from negative experiences, but also experience pleasure and have positive emotions too, a new methodology for thinking about and assessing animal welfare is needed.

# THE FIVE DOMAINS OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Description automatically generated Untouched World embraces the Five Domains of Animal Welfare framework, which is widely accepted as the contemporary of the Five Freedoms. The model is an internationally recognised method for considering and assessing animal welfare. It was developed by Mellor and Reid (1994) with the latest version including the impact of human-animal interactions.



The Five Domains framework does not define nor set prescriptive metrics about an animal's welfare, rather it acknowledges that an animal's individual experience can vary and be negative, neutral or positive. Both physical and psychological experiences matter when considering an animal's overall welfare.

Positive animal welfare outcomes occur when an animal not only has their basic needs met, but they have access to and/or choice about other things. This might include access to a variety of foods, being close to desirable companions and avoiding those who are not, being able to limit or avoid stressful experiences and predators, and being able to express normal behaviours, such as playing, exploring, grazing and foraging.

## **UNTOUCHED WORLD'S ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN ACTION — MOVING TOWARDS 'A GOOD LIFE'**

### **General**

When sourcing fibre from animals, whether they are farmed in New Zealand or offshore, animal care and husbandry should be approached by thinking 'through the animal's eyes.' Our aim is to meet the animals' needs and some additional wants, rather than simply considering the needs of consumers. Farmers and their trusted expert advisors are best placed to innovate within their own farm systems to achieve the best outcomes for their animals.

### **New Zealand**

Untouched World's views on animal welfare and our desire to use fibre from animals that have 'A Good Life,' mean our New Zealand farmers need to do more than merely meeting legislative requirements set out in the Animal Welfare Act 1999, Codes of Welfare (e.g. Sheep and Beef Cattle, Painful Husbandry Procedures, Transport) and the Care and Procedure 2018 regulations.

Our New Zealand Merino (e.g. Glenthorne) is part of the ZQrx® certification programme, which we think is a good first step towards 'A Good Life.'

### **Positive Experiences**

In addition to these minimum legal requirements, we'd like to see our sheep having positive welfare opportunities across the Five Domains, as well as having a life that is as fear and pain free as possible. The options and the practicality of providing what a sheep needs and wants is dependent on many things – the environment within which they live (natural landscape; facilities), people, other animals, and the sheep's own preferences.

Positive welfare opportunities might include access to a variety of foods, being close to desirable companions and avoiding those who are not, being able to limit or avoid stressful experiences and predators, and being able to express normal behaviours, such as playing, exploring, grazing and foraging.

### **Fear-free**

In a practical sense, this means handling practices that minimise stress and ensure the environment is as calm and familiar as possible. Farmers might have a 'no dogs in yards' policy and avoid extremely noisy yard rattles (e.g. stones in tins); they could use 'leader sheep' to help and show the way to other sheep and design the facilities to encourage flow.

## **Pain-free**

Ideally, a practical option for analgesia that prevents the pain associated with painful husbandry procedures such as castration, tailing and ear marking would be available and used. In the absence of such a pharmaceutical, available analgesics should be used to mitigate as much pain and inflammation as possible.

Shearing cuts and other injuries (e.g. fly strike; fractures) should have rapid treatment and the best possible analgesia as soon as possible, and when suffering is unreasonable, animals should be euthanised.

## **International**

Internationally, most of our fibre is accredited through the Textile Exchange Organisation (TEO) that recommends fibre is sourced from companies that have standards based on the Five Domains and systems in place that enable positive animal welfare experiences. A professional, third-party certification body audits each stage in the TEO fibre supply chain.

***Untouched World Ltd will review this policy every three years.***