



DocCM 5906736

30 April 2019

Ms Stephanie McKee
fyi-request-9961-67db5581@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms McKee

Thank you for your email about animal welfare, submitted through the FYI website as an Official Information Act request. The department is not obliged to respond, as you are requiring us to generate an opinion and create new information (section 18(g) refers). We have decided nonetheless to provide you with a brief response as a departmental letter.

The Department does not condone animal cruelty. We do acknowledge that people are right to be concerned about animal welfare, as are we.

We recognize that all animals are sentient, and we use control tools that have an acceptable impact on animal welfare, following guidelines from the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

Our pest management programmes are ethical and address animal welfare concerns by satisfying the criteria described on the Biosecurity New Zealand website www.bionet.nz/rules/animal-welfare-and-ethics-of-pest-management-in-new-zealand/.

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The Department follows standard operating procedures that have been developed to ensure animal welfare is considered, and that animals in their wild state are killed as humanely as possible while delivering biodiversity outcomes. We also support and deliver research to improve our current tools and find new ones. This includes developing more species-specific toxins, baits and lures, as well as novel delivery systems.

In answer to your second question, the Department's annual Survey of New Zealanders (SONZ) was suspended in 2016 because of high delivery costs and statistically insignificant variation over several years. The purpose and research design of the SONZ has now been revised and it is being repeated in April 2019.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Bill', written in a cursive style.

Amber Bill
Director, Threats
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*