

Scenario 1 - Current practice and castration

Score sheet Name of scorer: Expert 12

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	Highest level of welfare = 100			1st round score	90% certain		100% certain	2nd round score	90% certain		100% certain
		0 = Lowest level of welfare				lower bound	upper bound			lower bound	upper bound	
Good feeding	1	Provision and access to food. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of appropriate foodstuffs for health and wellbeing.			65	45	70					
	2	Provision and access to water. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of water for health and wellbeing.			60	40	70					
Good housing	3	Animals should have comfort when resting.			70	50	80					
	4	Animals should have thermal comfort being neither too hot nor too cold.			50	40	60					
Good health	5	Animals should have sufficient space to move freely.			95	90	100					
	6	Animals should be free from injuries and disorders (e.g. skin conditions, lameness, bone fractures etc.).			60	55	75					
	7	Animals should be free from disease, including metabolic conditions, with high standards of health care and hygiene.			55	45	75					
Appropriate behaviour	8	Animals should not suffer pain - for example as a result of poor management, handling, surgical or other procedures, slaughter etc.			55	45	65					
	9	Animals should be able to express normal, non-harmful social behaviours (such as grooming and social bonding).			80	70	90					
	10	Animals should be able to express other normal behaviours (e.g. foraging, exploring).			80	70	90					
	11	Animals should be handled well with positive and not negative animal-human relationships.			70	60	80					
	12	Additional aspects not already adequately covered above in relation to the balance between positive and negative affective states for animals.										

Comments

Reduced due to inhibitory effects of lamb castration on suckling behaviour. Generally for lambs this would be good, however, grazing availability is variable depending on many factors and supplementary nutrition not always supplied when it should be, but additional risks from poisonous plants and insect vectors.

Water is not always available in fields or in housing. Natural water sources often relied upon which could be impacted by drought.

Most do however, can be issues with wet pastures and grazing root crops. Hypothermia risk in lambs and heat stress in summer in unshorn sheep or lack of shelter.

Space restriction rarely an issue.

This would be increased risk of complications due to castration wounds.

This would be increased risk of disease from failure of passive transfer of colostrum and complications due to castration wounds. Numbers affecting next two criteria could be informed using lamb loss data.

addition of castration which is acute and chronic pain, dystocia, handling, gathering, transport, slaughter, ear tagging, and tail docking, dog worrying.

affected by skills of humans and dogs for handling, gathering, transport, slaughter.

Scenario 2 - Castration with pain relief

Score sheet Name of scorer: Expert 12

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	Highest level of welfare = 100			1st round score	90% certain		100% certain	2nd round score	90% certain		100% certain
		0 = Lowest level of welfare				lower bound	upper bound			lower bound	upper bound	
Good feeding	1	Provision and access to food. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of appropriate foodstuffs for health and wellbeing.			70	50	80					
	2	Provision and access to water. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of water for health and wellbeing.			60	40	70					
Good housing	3	Animals should have comfort when resting.			70	50	80					
	4	Animals should have thermal comfort being neither too hot nor too cold.			50	40	60					
Good health	5	Animals should have sufficient space to move freely.			95	90	100					
	6	Animals should be free from injuries and disorders (e.g. skin conditions, lameness, bone fractures etc.).			60	20	75					
	7	Animals should be free from disease, including metabolic conditions, with high standards of health care and hygiene.			65	60	80					
	8	Animals should not suffer pain - for example as a result of poor management, handling, surgical or other procedures, slaughter etc.			60	45	70					
	9	Animals should be able to express normal, non-harmful social behaviours (such as grooming and social bonding).			80	70	90					
Appropriate behaviour	10	Animals should be able to express other normal behaviours (e.g. foraging, exploring).			80	70	90					
	11	Animals should be handled well with positive and not negative animal-human relationships.			70	60	80					
	12	Additional aspects not already adequately covered above in relation to the balance between positive and negative affective states for animals.										

Comments

Generally for lambs this would be good, however, grazing availability is variable depending on many factors and supplementary nutrition not always supplied when it should be, reduced stocking rates in uplands may help this, but additional risks from poisonous plants and insect vectors.

Water is not always available in fields or in housing. Natural water sources often relied upon which could be impacted by drought.

Most do however, can be issues with wet pastures and grazing root crops. Hypothermia risk in lambs and heat stress in summer in unshorn sheep or lack of shelter.

Space restriction rarely an issue.

Depending on pain relief method used, I would have concerns about increased risk of infections from dirty needles and castration wounds. This could potentially be worse for some lambs than no pain relief. Clearly numnuts has addressed this issue I think.

Castration with pain relief would temporally affect short term pain but not long term pain, dystocia, handling, gathering, transport, slaughter, ear tagging, and tail docking, dog worrying.

affected by skills of humans and dogs for handling, gathering, transport, slaughter.

Scenario 3 - No castration

Score sheet Name of scorer: Expert 12

Welfare principles	Welfare criteria	Highest level of welfare = 100			1st round score	90% certain		100% certain	2nd round score	90% certain		100% certain
		0 = Lowest level of welfare				lower bound	upper bound			lower bound	upper bound	
Good feeding	1	Provision and access to food. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of appropriate foodstuffs for health and wellbeing.			70	50	80					
	2	Provision and access to water. Animals should have appropriate access to the quantity and quality of water for health and wellbeing.			60	40	70					
Good housing	3	Animals should have comfort when resting.			70	50	80					
	4	Animals should have thermal comfort being neither too hot nor too cold.			50	40	60					
Good health	5	Animals should have sufficient space to move freely.			95	90	100					
	6	Animals should be free from injuries and disorders (e.g. skin conditions, lameness, bone fractures etc.).			65	60	80					
	7	Animals should be free from disease, including metabolic conditions, with high standards of health care and hygiene.			65	60	80					
Appropriate behaviour	8	Animals should not suffer pain - for example as a result of poor management, handling, surgical or other procedures, slaughter etc.			65	55	75					
	9	Animals should be able to express normal, non-harmful social behaviours (such as grooming and social bonding).			80	70	90					
	10	Animals should be able to express other normal behaviours (e.g. foraging, exploring).			80	70	90					
	11	Animals should be handled well with positive and not negative animal-human relationships.			70	60	80					
12	Additional aspects not already adequately covered above in relation to the balance between positive and negative affective states for animals.											

Comments

Generally for lambs this would be good, however, grazing availability is variable depending on many factors and supplementary nutrition not always supplied when it should be, reduced stocking rates in uplands may help this, but additional risks from poisonous plants and insect vectors.

Water is not always available in fields or in housing. Natural water sources often relied upon which could be impacted by drought.

Most do however, can be issues with wet pastures and grazing root crops. Hypothermia risk in lambs and heat stress in summer in unshorn sheep or lack of shelter.

Space restriction rarely an issue.

Numbers affecting next two criteria could be informed using lamb loss data.

dystocia, handling, gathering, transport, slaughter, ear tagging, and tail docking, dog worrying.

affected by skills of humans and dogs for handling, gathering, transport, slaughter.