

You and The Chesapeake Bay: Farm Animal Welfare Keeping the Bay Blue



FARM ANIMAL WELFARE - **Fact or Fiction**

- Animals cannot be properly cared for on large farms. - **Fiction**
- AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) Animal Welfare Principles (see reverse side of this sheet) addresses the animal's well being, not the number of animals at the site. - **Fact**
- Large operations cannot meet the AVMA Animal Welfare Principles. - **Fiction**
- Most large animal operations have been engineered to provide maximum performance which means maximum comfort to each animal. In fact, environmental conditions in large operations that have the latest technology are often far superior to smaller outdated operations. - **Fact**
- Farms have gotten large due to the small margin of profitability per animal. As farm families grow, the operations must grow to support additional family members. Many large operations are family farms with multiple families involved. - **Fact**

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You and The Chesapeake Bay: Animal Welfare Principles (AVMA)

~ Approved by AVMA Executive Board November 2006)

The AVMA, as a medical authority for the health and welfare of animals, offers the following eight integrated principles for developing and evaluating animal welfare policies, resolutions, and actions.

- The responsible use of animals for human purposes, such as companionship, food, fiber, recreation, work, education, exhibition, and research conducted for the benefit of both humans and animals, is consistent with the Veterinarian's Oath.
- Decisions regarding animal care, use, and welfare shall be made by balancing scientific knowledge and professional judgment with consideration of ethical and societal values.
- Animals must be provided water, food, proper handling, health care, and an environment appropriate to their care and use, with thoughtful consideration for their species-typical biology and behavior.
- Animals should be cared for in ways that minimize fear, pain, stress, and suffering.
- Procedures related to animal housing, management, care, and use should be continuously evaluated, and when indicated, refined or replaced.
- Conservation and management of animal populations should be humane, socially responsible, and scientifically prudent.
- Animals shall be treated with respect and dignity throughout their lives and, when necessary, provided a humane death.
- The veterinary profession shall continually strive to improve animal health and welfare through scientific research, education, collaboration, advocacy, and the development of legislation and regulations.

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