

NEWS RELEASE



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AUSTRALIA: COMPASSION IN WORLD FARMING RELEASES A STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF *BETTER CHOICES* PROGRAMME OF IMMEDIATE PAIN RELIEF FOR SHEEP MULESED BEFORE THE 2010 DEADLINE

Swift licensing for *Carprofen* vital to provide more effective relief from pain

Mulesing is the surgical removal of wrinkled areas of skin from wool-bearing breeds of sheep, especially the Merino. The object is to prevent fly-strike which can cause a protracted and painful death.

Mulesing is a painful operation which is conducted on the vast majority of Australian sheep without anaesthetic. Following campaigns by animal protection groups, the Australian Wool Industry has committed to end the practice of mulesing by the end of 2010. Meanwhile, there is an urgent need to provide pain relief for the sheep which will be mulesed during the phase-out period.

The pain relieving drug *TriSolfen* is available now as part of the *Better Choices* programme for application to sheep after the operation. Pain relief is also needed during the operation and this could be provided if the anti-inflammatory drug *Carprofen* is licensed for use in sheep. Research has shown that the combination of the two drugs would provide a far more effective reduction in stress and pain.

Compassion in World Farming:

- Urges the Australian Wool Industry to fulfil its commitment to end mulesing by the 2010 deadline and, has been suggested, to end it earlier
- Welcomes the initiative of the *Better Choices* programme to promote the use of *TriSolfen* with immediate effect to relieve the pain of sheep mulesed during the phase-out period and to require farmers to breed animals who are less prone to flystrike
- Urges the swift licensing of *Carprofen* for use in sheep to provide pain relief during the operation

“Compassion in World Farming is opposed to all mutilations of farm animals including mulesing. It should be unthinkable as well as unacceptable to conduct these operations without effective pain relief,” says Phil Brooke, Welfare Development Manager for Compassion in World Farming.

Further reading:

- [Compassion in World Farming's full statement](#)

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