



MANDATORY PAIN RELIEF FOR MULESING

From the 1st July 2020 pain relief for mulesing will be mandatory in Victoria

Under Regulation 8(2) of the new Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (POCTA) Regulations 2019: “a person must not mules a sheep unless the sheep is administered with a pain relief product that has been registered for use on sheep by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).”

WHAT IS MULESING?

For the purposes of the POCTA Regulations ‘mulesing is defined by the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep as “The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears’.

So if you use mulesing shears to either remove

skin from the breech or tail (tail strip) then you must use pain relief.

Mulesing does not include nonsurgical approaches that deliver similar outcomes for the sheep such as clips, intra-dermal injections of chemicals or other, non-cutting technologies such as liquid nitrogen freeze branding.

THE APVMA HAVE THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS REGISTERED FOR PAIN RELIEF IN SHEEP

Brand Name	Tri-Solfen®	Buccalgesic®	Metacam 20®
Type of Drug	Local Anaesthetic (Lignocaine, Bupivacaine)	NSAID* (Meloxicam)	NSAID* (Meloxicam)
Application Method	Fan spray applicator	Oral with custom applicator	Subcutaneous injection
Availability	S5—Over the counter	S4—Vet prescription	S4—Vet prescription
Meat Withholding Period	90 days	10 days	11 days
Cost per Animal**	\$0.90—\$1.80	\$0.48—\$1.20	\$0.66—\$1.65

Growers must follow all label directions and veterinary instructions when using pain relief products

*NSAID Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug

** Cost varies as a result of dose being dependent on animal weight. (10-25kg): Beyond the Bale December 2019

HOW DO I KEEP A RECORD OF USE?

Keep your receipts and record the batch number and expiry date of all products used on farm.

WHAT IF I USE A CONTRACTOR FOR MULESING?

Ask your contractor to provide proof of purchase of product on your invoice with the batch number and expiry date included.

FURTHER QUESTIONS AND QUERIES

Contact your local AgVic animal health officer or district veterinary officer or your local veterinary service provider to seek professional advice.

For more information on pain relief for marking and mulesing;

- <https://www.wool.com/sheep/welfare/breech-flystrike/welfare-improved-practices/>

- Beyond the Bale December 2019 pp36-39. <https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/about-awi/>