

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATTLE FOOT TRIMMERS

CATTLE FOOT TRIMMER'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1 The Protection of Cattle

The National Association of Cattle Foot Trimmers (NACFT) has formed a register with the aim of permitting its members to have an ever-increasing share in the craft of trimming cows' feet. The NACFT has done so in order to protect the public and their animals against incompetent persons in the interests of animal welfare, and not in order to confer financial or other benefits upon members of the craft.

2 Standards

The standard set by the NACFT is the Dutch or NPTC equivalent method, with its high proven technical skill.

Title	Description
Licence Holder	Course Trained, Diploma holder or NVQ 3. Attending Check Days thereafter every two years
Provisional Licence Holder	Newly completed a course, valid for 2 years, must go through mentoring, attend yearly Check Day and pass exam before full licence issued
NACFT Member	All those who fail to attend a Check Day or do not progress from Provisional to Licence Holder
Associate Member	Persons interested or involved in the promotion of Cattle Foot Trimming
Honorary Membership	Awarded for exceptional service to the craft of Cattle Foot Trimming
All members will hold the same rights regardless of licence status	

3 Training and Instructors

Examiners, Mentors and Instructors must demonstrate a high standard of professionalism, and be aware of ethical issues (such as biases, and vested interest), and remove themselves from it.

4 Disciplinary Offences

The Executive Committee of the NACFT has power to take action in two types of cases:

- a) Serious misconduct of a trimmer, mentor, instructor, examiner and any member of the NACFT, in any professional respect.
- b) Conviction of a trimmer for an offence involving cruelty to animals.
- c) In any such case the Executive Committee may, at its discretion, direct that the trimmer's name shall be removed from the register, or that registration shall be suspended for a stated period. This means that he/she cannot then legally work as an NACFT foot trimmer.

5 Lapses From Professional Standards

The NACFT is very much concerned about conduct which, while not serious enough to warrant the description of serious misconduct in a professional respect, is nonetheless unethical. This means that the trimmer or any member has in some way fallen short of the standards of behaviour normally to be expected from good trimmers. It may involve a failure in courtesy or service towards a member of the public or to a fellow trimmer. It may involve a failure to observe certain standards which the craft has set itself as, for instance, the adequate supervision of apprentices. Unethical behaviour includes the failure of a trimmer to attend without delay to an animal which has developed a painful foot condition after he/she has trimmed it. The council believes that in such a case the trimmer should make it his/her first priority to attend the animal to take necessary steps to relieve the pain and to call in a veterinary surgeon if treatment goes beyond the limits of first aid. Once the trimmer has undertaken to trim an animal he/she should not then abandon it without safeguarding its welfare.

While unethical conduct may not normally be a matter for the Executive Committee; it may be the subject for discussion between the trimmer concerned and the Executive Committee.

As stated above, NACFT registered trimmers trim cattle, not for their particular benefit, but in order that the public and its animals may be protected against incompetent unqualified trimmers. The public are becoming more aware of the privilege thus conferred and are increasingly sensitive to the performance and standards of registered foot trimmers. It is for each foot trimmer to continue to maintain high standards of work and conduct.

It is also of the utmost importance that registered foot trimmers should conduct their business affairs in an orderly manner to deliver a reliable service. Frequent failure to keep appointments results in serious inconvenience to cattle owners, and gives NACFT registered trimmers a bad name.

6 Advertising

The discreet advertising of name, address and telephone number, and the publishing of collective schemes for giving information to the public about the whereabouts of trimming services are perfectly acceptable.

The NACFT approves of trimmers advertising with the appropriate category number (1-4) to secure clients or to gain reputation, and the distribution of leaflets at shows, markets and competitions, by trimmers advertising their services.

Advertising using the status of registered trimmer to promote other services offered by the trimmer is not acceptable.

7 Some Legal Considerations

Currently (2000) the Veterinary Surgeons' Act 1966 restricts the diagnosis or treatment of disease or injury in animals to veterinary surgeons with certain minor exceptions. Among these are:

- a) The rendering of first aid for saving life or relieving pain
- b) Any treatment given by the owner of an animal, a member of his household or his employee.

Trimmers must recognise the limitations which are imposed upon them by this Act. They lay themselves open to prosecution if they carry out any treatment not covered by a) or b) and hold themselves open as being prepared to do so.

The Protection of Animals Act 1891 to 1964 is designed to prevent cruelty to animals and alleviate their suffering. The cruelty does not have to be intentional. It is the unnecessary suffering caused by doing or omitting to do any act. A trimmer may well be guilty of an offence under this Act if he/she fails to alleviate pain caused by his/her own negligence.

8 Insurance

All NACFT members are solely responsible for their own public liability and equipment insurance both in the work place and at any NACFT activities such as Open Days.