



Sheep

## NOTE NUMBER 1

### SHEEP



This technical note involves animal welfare and care at Skjetlein upper secondary school.

### Sheep:

At Skjetlein upper secondary school the sheep are separated in different enclosures after breed and age. During feeding time, the sheep are fed after their needs. They have access to fresh water at any time. During lambing the sheep are moved to individual stalls and paid closer attention to.



In the summer the sheep are placed on a grassing area to a place in the mountains. In this area they live for about 4-5 months, from approximately June-September/October. The picture under is taken during collecting the sheep after their summer pasture in the mountains of Budal.



### **Here are some of the Norwegian rules for sheep-owners:**

- Sheep are a very social breed and pack animals, so if they get separated from their pack and/or are placed by them self in a stall they will be stressed.
- Available area per animal and total area has to be adjusted to the animal-needs. Sheep shall have access to a dry, comfortable and draught free sleeping place where the whole pack can sleep at the same time.
- The eating-places have to be adjusted so that the animals get a normal eating position.
- Sick animals, and animals that are in need of extra supervision should be separated from the other sheep.
- It is not allowed to tie up the sheep with a leash. The animal welfare law says that the animals shall have the opportunity for social contact, movement and other natural behavior.
- According to the regulations must sheep have access to daylight. It should be artificial lightning to make sure the animals gets enough light, but the light sources should be placed in a way they are not in any discomfort to the animals.
- There shall not be light on in to the sheep around the clock. The light shall be adjusted to their natural sleeping habit and contain a natural dark period. During lambing or other circumstances where light is necessary to animal welfare, an orientation light is the only light that is allowed to use as night light.
- In sheepfarms shall materials, constructions, maintenance and cleaning designed/executed with the thought to prevent fire.
- Owner or other with responsibility for the animals shall make sure that it is conducted a professional control of electric equipment at least every 3 years.
- Appropriate fire alarm system shall be installed in the building no later than September 1 2007 for sheep, but this doesn't count for sheepfarms with less than 30 winterfed animals, or when a fire alarm is obviously unnecessary.
- There shall be fire extinguishers in every building with sheep. These have to be controlled regularly.

- The animals must have the possibility of an easy escape in case of fire or other emergencies. Placing and design of hallways, doors etc. shall make it possible for a fast evacuation of the animals.
- Every new buildings taken in use after Mars 1 2005 shall have minimum two exits from every animal room.
- It is the owner's responsibility to make sure the animals get supervision after their needs, but animals that are being kept inside shall normally be seen after at least twice every day. If they are on the grassing area, you shall look after them at least once per week in areas without any special risks. With any hunch of increased danger the supervision have to be more frequent so that you can keep "updated" on your animals, and discover sick, injured and skinny animals as soon as possible.
- Sheep shall be kept on a suitably grassing area at least 16 weeks every year, with the exception of climatic or other animal welfare reasons is in the way. Sheep shall, when the conditions are right, be given access to outing areas also during the ordinary grassing season.

