

Animal Welfare Considerations for Pest Management

Background and Context

Pests in an operational environment can often be associated with a range of social and health concerns as well as damage to stock and infrastructure. This is exacerbated by a global rise in urbanisation and changes to environmental conditions which have made effective pest control a key consideration in a number of different industries.

While pests may cause a disturbance, damage property and stock, act as vectors in transferring diseases and affect food safety standards, they are afforded protection in South Africa under the Animal Protection Act, No. 71 of 1962. As a result, it is imperative that where business interacts with problematic pest species, they are dealt with humanely and in a way that minimises harm and distress to the animal.

Walmart Position

Walmart is committed to continuous improvement of animal welfare and aspires to ensure the globally-recognised Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare. Walmart work alongside their suppliers and have developed a comprehensive set of welfare priorities animals in their supply chain.

Massmart's position

Massmart is committed to minimising negative interactions between pests, employees and customers as a way to reduce the potential level of stress the animal experiences. We do this through focusing on proactive, non- intrusive measures that involve reducing access to food sources, limiting access to the store and following good housekeeping practices.

Along with this, Massmart are fully aligned to the Animal Protection Act, and work closely with the National Council of Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSPCA) to ensure that we adopt the most progressive and humane pest control measures.

To this end, Massmart provides the following guidance when dealing with pests:

Guidelines

- Staff not trained in handling pests are prohibited from interacting with the pests;
- The first active step in managing pests is to limit their access into the store/ facility by installing, where necessary, anti- perching devices and strip curtains at entry points, removing or blocking water and food sources, fixing all holes and installing mesh or chicken wire on open spaces in the structure;
- All food waste must be stored in lidded bins/ skips to prevent attracting pests;
- Any products damaged by pest activity should be removed from areas accessible to customers to prevent health and safety risks and attracting additional pest animals;
- Always keep waste management areas tidy;
- No unauthorised feeding of animals on site is permitted, whether by employees or by members of the public;

- Under no circumstances would any inhumane treatment of pest species be tolerated by Massmart.

To the extent that direct interaction with pests is required, permission must be granted by the appropriate pest control team at Massmart.

Should you become aware of a store or facility that is experiencing a pest control issue, kindly contact the Group Sustainability Executive in Corporate Affairs at the Massmart Head Office.

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