

## **Animal Welfare Policy**

Kroger was one of the first major supermarket companies to adopt meaningful animal welfare guidelines. Our commitment, leadership and results with respect to animal welfare matters are well established and recognized within the industry. Animal welfare is an important issue to Kroger, our customers and our associates.

In 2001, Kroger began working closely with the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and the National Council of Chain Restaurants (NCCR) to develop an industry-wide program that would introduce science-based guidelines to strengthen animal welfare practices across species. As a result, producers, processors and independent animal welfare experts – including national experts in animal husbandry, veterinary medicine and agricultural production – are working together to ensure animals are treated humanely at every step of the production process. Kroger requires all of our suppliers to adopt these “best practices” animal welfare standards and Kroger monitors our suppliers for compliance with these standards. Kroger is not directly involved in raising or processing of any animals.

We believe this joint industry effort, with retailers and restaurants working together with leading animal welfare experts, will make more progress in the humane treatment of animals than what any company could achieve by acting alone.

Kroger is proud to support this industry-leading animal welfare program. We believe this collaborative approach is raising the standards in the meat and poultry industries and helping to ensure that animals are raised, transported and processed as humanely as possible.