

**A GUIDE TO
TASMANIAN
DAIRY CATTLE
WELFARE**



**This guide was prepared by the
Dairy Animal Health & Welfare Action Group.**

**The group was formed under the
Tasmanian Dairy Industry Strategic Plan 2006-2010.**

The aim of this document is to improve the welfare of dairy cattle in Tasmania. While every effort has been made to ensure the information provided in this document is accurate and up-to-date, welfare standards are continuing to be updated. Links to where the latest information on animal welfare standards can be found provided in the appendix.

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Funded by 

Chaired and administered by 

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This information has been published for your information only. It is published with due care and attention to accuracy but the Action Group accepts no liability if for any reason the information is inaccurate, incomplete or out of date. The information is a guide only.

FOREWORD

The Tasmanian dairy industry takes its responsibilities for animal welfare seriously and has developed *A Guide to Tasmanian Dairy Cattle Welfare*. This guide has been produced through a collaboration of all industry sectors including farmers, milk processors, animal welfare groups, veterinarians and The Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment. This demonstrates the whole of industry commitment to deliver good animal welfare, including improvement where relevant.

The guide is a valuable resource, providing practical information and guidance for farmers working with dairy cattle, and assists them in their understanding of the expectations the industry holds.

The animal husbandry practices used by Tasmanian dairy farmers are intrinsically linked with animal welfare. Most dairy farmers realise to deliver safe, quality dairy products, and they must practice sound animal husbandry and keep their animals in peak condition.

A demonstrated commitment to animal welfare is becoming increasingly important, both domestically and for access into the international trade arena. To continue to grow as a competitive, innovative and sustainable industry, it is essential that we are able to demonstrate and communicate our credentials in animal welfare.

Our industry supports good practice. We need to ensure all interested groups understand that we can, and do, deliver excellent animal welfare through our existing husbandry practices.

It gives me great pleasure to present the dairy industry's *A Guide to Tasmanian Dairy Cattle Welfare*.

Alan Davenport
Chairman
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INTRODUCTION

Dairy farmers rely on their animals for their livelihoods. Healthy and contented cows are more productive and less prone to disease. The Tasmanian *Animal Welfare Act* (1993) states that ‘a person who has the care or charge of an animal has a duty to take all reasonable measures to ensure the welfare of the animal.’ Animal welfare isn’t just about ‘the herd’, it is about individual animals and the Tasmanian Dairy Industry is committed to ensure that every animal on the farm is given due regard to its welfare.

Those responsible for the care of dairy cattle should be competent and well trained. Everyone involved in the care and handling of the cattle should be able to recognise normal and abnormal behaviour of the animals they are responsible for. Personnel who are inexperienced with animal husbandry should be given formal or on-the-job training with an experienced supervisor. It is also important that there are **enough** people to ensure the appropriate standard of care is given.

THE FIVE FREEDOMS

A commonly accepted assessment of animal welfare is the Five Freedoms which states that farm animals should have:

1. **Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition** – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. **Freedom from discomfort** – by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. **Freedom from pain, injury and disease** – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. **Freedom to express normal behaviour** – by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals own kind.
5. **Freedom from fear and distress** – by ensuring conditions that avoid mental suffering.

Farmers who keep in mind these principles of animal welfare will reap the rewards of a healthy and productive dairy herd.

OUTLINE

This guide outlines the key management principles of a dairy herd to ensure that all welfare needs are addressed. It is designed to provide information to dairy farmers about improving the welfare of dairy animals and a checklist to allow for self-assessment.

This guide is divided into sections around the eight key areas of dairy welfare:

- nutrition
- cow health
- young stock management
- animal husbandry management
- bull management
- transport
- euthanasia
- stock handling and training

Each section contains information about improving the welfare of dairy animals and a checklist for best practice management. The appendix of this kit contains links to further information.

NUTRITION

This chapter contains information about dairy cow nutrition in the areas of:

- cow nutritional requirements
- condition score

INTRODUCTION

Healthy cows are more efficient and productive. So not only is it a legislative requirement that an animal's nutritional needs are met, it makes business sense as well.

NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Cows require energy, protein, fibre, vitamins and minerals to remain healthy. In addition to their health, the better their nutritional needs are met, the more productive the cows will be.

Water is also an essential requirement. Cattle must have access to water of suitable quantity and quality. Healthy cattle should not be deprived of water for longer than 24 hours.¹ Lactating cattle or cattle in poor condition should not be deprived of water for longer than 12 hours.²

With regards to animal welfare, the most common aspect of malnutrition is lack of energy. Cows require energy to maintain their body (maintenance), for pregnancy, milk production and liveweight gain. Table 1 shows the energy required by cows at a standard milk test. Table 2 shows how the energy requirements change for cows depending on the milk test.

Table 1 Total daily megajoules of metabolisable energy required (excluding pregnancy) for a cow producing milk at 4.2% fat and 3.2% protein

Liveweight (kg)	Milk production (litres/day)				
	10	15	20	25	35
400	109	137	164	192	247
450	114	142	169	197	252
500	119	147	174	202	257
550	124	152	179	207	262
600	128	156	183	211	266

1 Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle, 2nd edition.

2 Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle, 2nd edition.

Table 2 Energy (Megajoules of Metabolisable Energy) to produce 1 litre of milk at varying milk composition

ENERGY (MJ ME) REQ. TO PRODUCE 1L MILK		PROTEIN %					
		2.6	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.6
FAT %	3.0	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8
	3.2	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.0
	3.4	4.7	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1
	3.6	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2
	3.8	5.0	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3
	4.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.5
	4.2	5.3	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6
	4.4	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.7
	4.6	5.5	5.6	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.9
	4.8	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0
	5.0	5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.1	6.1
	5.2	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.3

Cows will require additional energy for pregnancy, weight gain, long walking distances or adverse climatic conditions (Table 3).

Table 3 Additional energy required above maintenance and milk production

Situation	Additional energy required above maintenance & milk production (MJ ME)
Pregnancy	
Month 6	8
Month 7	14
Month 8	25
Month 9	43
Walking	
Flat ground	1 MJ for every kilometre walked
Hilly ground	5 MJ for every kilometre walked
Weight gain	
When lactating	34 MJ/kg liveweight gain
When dry	43 MJ/kg liveweight gain
Daily Temp range 0-10°C	
CS >3.5, calm day	Add extra 5% to maintenance requirements
CS <3.5, calm day	Add extra 15% to maintenance requirements
CS >3.5, wind 16kph	Add extra 15% to maintenance requirements
CS <3.5, wind 16kph	Add extra 25% to maintenance requirements

CONDITION SCORE

A good way of monitoring the energy status of cows is through condition scoring. Condition scoring is a visual assessment of the amount of fat (condition) that a cow has on her body. The main points assessed on a cow are around her tail, pins, backbone and short ribs. In Australia a scale of 1 to 8 is used. The ideal range for a cow to be is 4 to 5.5 (1-8 scale). In early lactation it is normal for cows to lose condition (if losses are less than 0.6 of a condition score there will be minimal impact on herd reproductive performance). Some points that should trigger intervention:

- if the herd average drops below condition score 3.8
- if individual cows drop below condition score 3.5
- if the herd loses more than a condition score over a period of 4 weeks.

A guide to condition scoring is included in Appendix 1. More information can also be found in the InCalf book for dairy farmers or the InCalf website (www.incalf.com.au).

CHECKLIST FOR NUTRITION

CHECKLIST FOR NUTRITION			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Nutritional Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> The nutritional needs of animals are not met	<input type="checkbox"/> The nutritional requirements of animals are known <input type="checkbox"/> Animals are fed to meet known requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> A feed budget/plan is developed and updated regularly <input type="checkbox"/> The amount of feed (including pasture) being fed to stock is calculated on a regular basis <input type="checkbox"/> The diet of the different classes of stock is balanced for all major nutritional requirements on a regular basis
Condition score	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual animal condition score drops below condition score 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual animal condition score is maintained above 3.5 <input type="checkbox"/> Cows are condition scored at dry-off	<input type="checkbox"/> Cows are condition scored on a monthly basis

COW HEALTH

This chapter contains information on cow health in the areas of:

- identifying and treating poor health
- calving practices
- lameness
- mastitis
- downer cows
- eye and skin cancers

INTRODUCTION

Good management practices will minimise the number of cows that suffer from illness. However, as in any population, there are likely to be individual animals that do become ill. This chapter covers the most common health problems encountered on dairy farms. This information should be used as a guide only, not to replace veterinary advice.

IDENTIFYING AND TREATING POOR HEALTH

A healthy cow

A healthy cow will :

- be alert and interested in what is happening around it
- have a shiny coat
- graze and rest in the general vicinity of herd mates
- spend about 16 hours standing, 7 hours lying and 1 hour walking (this will be broken into approximately 10 hours grazing and 8 hours ruminating)

Individual, whole-of-cow assessments should be made on a regular basis in order to detect ill health and ailments such as eye or skin cancers that may not be noticed in the normal day-to-day routine.

Cow identification is important in ensuring that cows requiring treatment are treated appropriately. Most commonly, cows requiring treatment will be segregated from the herd at milking time and if individual cow identification is poor, or non-existent, it makes it less likely that this will happen in a timely manner.

Good record keeping is also important in ensuring that cows receive the full course of a prescribed treatment, that withholding periods are kept and analysis of the records will also help identify if there are health issues that can be reduced or eliminated through preventative management.

CALVING PRACTICES

Care should be taken to minimise calving difficulties by the adoption of proper management practices such as³:

- selection of heifers for mating only when they have reached the minimum target weight for the breed
- avoidance of over- or under-feeding of pregnant cows and heifers
- avoidance of mating heifers to bulls known to sire large birth weight calves
- supervision of cows and heifers close to calving where possible and early intervention if required.

The diet of the pregnant cow or heifer should be maintained at a level that minimises calving difficulties, and favour calf survival.

Calving cows and heifers should be checked frequently but with minimal disturbance. The process of calving in a cow normally takes about 4 hours from start to finish – heifers may take up to 6 hours. If a calving cow or heifer takes longer than this, or progress stops, they should be assisted as soon as possible.

Cows and heifers should be calved in an area that is as clean and dry as possible.

LAMENESS

There are many different causes of lameness including bruised soles, laminitis, foot rot, white line disease, axial wall cracks and abscesses. Lameness can cause severe pain to the animal as well as causing lowered milk production, liveweight and reproductive performance.

Identifying and treating

A lame cow will demonstrate tenderness or pain in one or more feet by limping. The cow will most likely spend more time lying down than its herd mates and when being moved, will be at the back of the herd. When a lame cow is identified:

- the cause of lameness should be determined by an experienced person
- the appropriate treatment should be carried out by a competent person (rest, trimming, antibiotics, blocking or a combination)
- if more assistance is required a vet should be consulted

Whatever the cause of lameness, the cow should be removed from the main herd and grazed in paddocks close to the dairy to minimise walking distance.

When to seek help

- In first 3 months of lactation if the incidence of lameness in heifers is greater than 3-4% and in cows is greater than 2-3% seek help.
- Further to this, if the incidence of lameness over a lactation exceeds 7%, there will be identifiable problems that can be fixed and help should be sought to deal with this. Good record keeping with regards to the number of lame cows and the type of lameness will help identify if lameness is an issue on your farm and can also be the first step in identifying the cause of the lameness.
- If individual cows are not responding to treatment, seek help. Some improvement should be seen within 2-3 days of treatment

Keep in mind that each individual case needs to be resolved – it isn't just about staying below trigger points.

Prevention

In pasture-based grazing systems, the main cause of lameness tends to be due to injury from walking on laneways. Lameness due to injury can be minimised by:

- using a cow-friendly surface on laneways
- regular maintenance of laneways
- moving the cows along the laneway at a speed that allows them to watch where they are putting their feet. As a guide, cows should be able to walk at 2-3 km/hr but if the laneway is in poor condition it may be necessary to let them walk slower than this to avoid injury
- calm, quiet stockhandling, particularly in the dairy yards

MASTITIS

Mastitis is a bacterial infection in the udder. It causes discomfort and pain to the cow.

Identifying and treating

A cow with clinical mastitis may have an inflamed quarter(s) and exhibit behaviour changes in the dairy such as restlessness or kicking when the cups are being attached to the teats. Milk from the infected quarter will be lumpy and or/watery. Treatment is with the use of antibiotics.

Prevention

Good hygiene practices and teat spraying procedures in the dairy will help reduce the incidence of mastitis in the herd. Further information about preventing, identifying and treating mastitis can be found from the national mastitis program 'Countdown Downunder' (www.countdown.org.au).

DOWNER COWS

Downer cows are cows which cannot stand. It is very important that the cause of the problem is identified by a competent person and treated correctly based on that diagnosis. The most common causes are milk fever and calving paralysis but there can be other reasons such as back or hip injuries. If the cause cannot be determined, or if problems persist, a veterinarian should be consulted – for the best chance of recovery, this should be done within 6 hours of the first treatment.

Care of the downer cow

Downer cows should be provided with food, water and protection from adverse weather. A downer cow should be kept on soft ground and in an upright position (i.e. lying on their sternum with legs tucked under them). Cows should be turned on to alternating sides several times during the day (there are lifting devices available). If a cow isn't standing within 3 days, it should be assessed by a veterinarian or euthanased. If downer cows cannot be looked after adequately, they should be euthanased to prevent further suffering.

EYE AND SKIN CANCER

Eye and skin cancers begin as small growths either in the eye, on the eyelid or elsewhere on the body of the cow. In the early stages, some cancers can be treated by a vet. If treatment is not possible, the animal should be sold before the growth causes pain and discomfort. Once the growth is protruding to the point where it is easily bumped and damaged, the animal cannot be presented for sale. In the case of eye cancers, the animal should be sold before it gets to the stage where it cannot close the eye over the cancer. An animal that cannot close its eye over the cancer or is effectively blind in the eye, cannot be presented for sale and must be euthanased on site.

CHECKLIST FOR COW HEALTH

	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Identifying and treating sick cows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Sick cows are not identified and are left in the main milking herd, untreated. <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel are not given the appropriate training in identifying and treating cows <input type="checkbox"/> Cows are not individually identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel are given the appropriate training to identify sick cows <input type="checkbox"/> Sick cows are treated promptly and removed from the main milking herd if necessary <input type="checkbox"/> Cows are individually identified in order to make identification and recording of treatments easier <input type="checkbox"/> Vet assistance is sought on a regular basis and in a monitored manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A written animal health policy is developed with vet. It contains standard procedures for dealing with sick cows and is available and used by all personnel. It also includes preventative animal health programs <input type="checkbox"/> An individual cow inspection is carried out annually – whole cow e.g. injuries, eye and skin cancers
Lame cows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lame cows are not inspected to determine cause of lameness <input type="checkbox"/> Lame cows are left in with the main milking herd and forced to walk long distances to and from the dairy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The herd is regularly assessed and monitored for lameness <input type="checkbox"/> Lame cows are inspected to determine cause of lameness <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate treatment is provided <input type="checkbox"/> Lame cows are grazed in paddocks close to dairy to minimise walking distance and pain caused by walking <input type="checkbox"/> A vet is consulted if problems persist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lame cows that do not respond to treatment within 3 days are checked by a vet <input type="checkbox"/> Milking frequency is reduced to once-a-day to reduce walking
Mastitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No attempt is made to monitor incidence of mastitis in the herd <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk milk cell count is regularly higher than 250,000 cells/ml <input type="checkbox"/> Cows treated for mastitis with antibiotics are not clearly marked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Incidence of mastitis is monitored through the use of bulk milk cell count <input type="checkbox"/> Cell count is below 250,000 cells/ml for the majority of the season <input type="checkbox"/> Cows treated for mastitis are clearly marked <input type="checkbox"/> Preventative strategies are in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular herd recording is carried out and individual cow cell counts are monitored <input type="checkbox"/> Cows with mastitis are managed as a separate herd to the main milking herd <input type="checkbox"/> Mastitis treatment program developed and followed with a veterinarian

CHECKLIST FOR COW HEALTH

CHECKLIST FOR COW HEALTH			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Downer cows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Downer cows are left for longer than 6 hours without providing food, water or shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Downer cows are not treated <input type="checkbox"/> Downer cows are left on concrete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Downer cows which are not standing after 3 days are regularly assessed by a vet <input type="checkbox"/> Downer cows are provided with food, water and shelter within 6 hours <input type="checkbox"/> Downer cows are checked frequently and moved onto alternate sides several times during the day <input type="checkbox"/> Downer cows are moved on to soft ground or deep soft bedding 	
Cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cows with eye or skin cancer are not treated or culled in a timely manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cows with eye or skin cancer are treated or culled before the cancer grows to a size that can be knocked or is causing discomfort to the cow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cows with growths are assessed by a vet at an early stage

YOUNG STOCK MANAGEMENT

This chapter contains information on calf and heifer management in the areas of:

- birth to weaning
- selling of calves
- weaning
- weaning to calving

INTRODUCTION

All calves born should be provided with the same level of care for their health and welfare regardless of their endpoint.

Good management of young stock will ensure that mortality rates are below 6% from birth to weaning and below 2% from weaning to calving. Mortality rates that are higher than this indicate that improvements to young stock management should be made.

BIRTH TO WEANING

Facilities

Acceptable housing facilities that can be used for calf rearing range from indoor to outdoor systems and from individual pens to group pens. The key principles that need to be followed with all of these facilities are:

- the calves should have protection from cold, heat, wind and rain
- the housing should be clean and dry
- there should be adequate light and ventilation (no draughts)
- flooring should be well drained with adequate dry lying space for each calf
- flooring and internal surfaces should not cause injury and should allow easy cleaning
- there should be adequate space for the calves – 2 m² for calves in individual pens or 1.5-2.0 m² per calf for calves in group pens⁴
- the total shed volume should provide at least 6 m³ for each calf⁵
- calves in individual pens should have visual contact with at least one other calf⁶

The first 24 hours

Careful management in the first 24 hours of a calf's life is necessary. Most importantly, all calves should receive a feed of high quality colostrum within 6 hours of birth (highest quality colostrums comes from the first milking). Calves are born without any immunity against diseases and the colostrum contains antibodies that protect them from diseases until they can develop their own immunity. Ensuring that calves drink 2-4 litres of colostrum soon after birth is important because the calf's ability to absorb the antibodies from the colostrum begins to decrease within 6 hours of birth and virtually stops by 24-36 hours after birth. If calves miss this window of opportunity to gain immunity from the colostrum, they are susceptible to becoming sick while they develop their own immunity. Leaving calves on the cows for longer periods does not guarantee they will get a drink of colostrum. Calves should be brought into the calf rearing facilities within 24 hours and fed with either stored or fresh colostrum. If the calves will not drink, they should be stomach tubed.

4 Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle. 2nd Edition

5 Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle. 2nd Edition

6 Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle. 2nd Edition

Before the calves are brought in to the calf rearing facilities, they should be identified. Ear tags should be applied carefully to avoid permanent damage to the ear. Follow the manufacturers directions to ensure correct eartag placement. Calves should be moved to the calf rearing facilities in a quiet and gentle manner. If they are being transported in a trailer, they should have their navels sprayed with iodine (7% solution). If they are being walked, their navels should be sprayed either when they are ear-tagged or when they are placed in their pens – the sooner this is done, the better. Spraying the navel with iodine helps prevent bacteria from entering the calf's blood stream through the umbilical cord.

It should be kept in mind when working with calves in their first few days of life that they are newborns and have no understanding of what we want them to do. All handling should be done in a quiet and gentle manner. Calves should not be carried by the legs, thrown, kicked, beaten, dragged along by their head or prodded by sharp instruments.⁷ And at no time should dogs, sticks or electric prodders be used on calves of this age. If calves are transported in a vehicle or trailer, overcrowding should be avoided. The standard for transporting calves for sale is to allow 0.2m² per calf⁸ – while calves being transported to the calf rearing facilities are contained in the vehicle or trailer for a much shorter period, this could be used as a guide.

Feed and nutrition

A calf's diet should contain all the nutritional components required for normal growth and health relative to the calf's age and there are many different systems that will achieve this. The basic principles are:

- all calves should be fed at least once daily on colostrum, whole milk or milk replacer
- the quantity of milk fed will depend on the system being used but should be about 10% of the calves birth weight (this will normally be between 3-6 litres) per day – unless an early weaning system is being used in which case the appropriate nutritional plan should be followed
- all calves should have access to fresh, clean water at all times

Health

Calves that are housed in good facilities, have received colostrum within their first 12 hours and are fed appropriately should have minimal health problems. However, sometimes calves do become sick.

The first step should be to isolate the sick calf to reduce the risk to the rest of the calves. There are many different causes of illness in calves and if the problem cannot be identified or a large number of calves are affected, veterinary advice should be sought.

One of the most common diseases of calves is scours. This can be caused by many different factors. It is important to isolate the calf or calves and treat them quickly with electrolytes to prevent them from becoming dehydrated. If the calf is sick, passing blood or there are several deaths, a vet should be consulted.

Calves that do not respond to treatment should be euthanased.

7 Animal Welfare Guidelines – Care and Transport of Calves, Including Bobby Calves

8 Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Livestock Transport

SELLING OF CALVES

Calves for slaughter

There are strict standards on the sale of calves for slaughter and these are outlined in the Animal Welfare Guidelines – Trade and transport of calves, including bobby calves which states that to sell calves for slaughter they must:

- be at least 4 days old i.e. in their 5th day of life (or 3 weeks old in the case of artificially induced calves)
- weigh at least 23 kg
- have been fed on colostrum, milk or milk replacer
- be free from drug residues
- have a navel cord which is wrinkled, withered and shrivelled and not pink or red coloured, raw or fleshy
- have hooves that are firm and worn flat and not bulbous with soft unworn tissue
- be in good health, alert and able to rise from a lying position; they should not be listless and unable to protect themselves
- be strong enough to be able to withstand the stress of travel and have been adequately fed; not obviously diseased, not malformed, blind or disabled in any way; and not be wet or cold

The calves must also have been fed within 6 hours of transport.⁹

Loading of calves on to the transport vehicle should be done in a way that minimises stress and avoids injury, bruising or unnecessary suffering.

Polythene pipe, sticks, electric prodders and dogs should not be used when handling calves, nor should they be hit or kicked.

Calves destined for slaughter must not be fed with any milk that contains antibiotics from treated cows.

Any calves that become sick should be isolated and treated, or euthanased in the method outlined in the Animal Welfare Guidelines – Trade and transport of calves, including bobby calves.

Calves that are treated with drugs that have a withholding period should be clearly identified and kept until the withholding period has expired.

Calves for rearing

Calves that are being sold for on-rearing can be transported when they are less than 5 days old provided that special provisions are met. Calves less than 5 days old travelling without their mother must only be transported directly to a calf rearing facility and must:

- be fed a liquid feed within 6 hours before loading
- be provided with thick bedding and room to lay down
- be protected from heat and cold
- not be consigned through saleyards
- not be transported for longer than 6 hours

⁹ Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle. 2nd edition.

WEANING

Weaning from milk should only take place when the calves ruminant digestive systems have developed sufficiently to enable them to maintain growth and wellbeing.¹⁰ To develop the ruminant digestive system, calves must be fed solid food in addition to milk. Concentrates will help develop the rumen faster than the addition of hay or straw to the diet.

WEANING TO CALVING

In the period of weaning to calving, there are two main aspects that need to be considered in the area of animal welfare: nutrition and mating.

Nutrition

From weaning to calving, heifers need to grow at a consistent rate. As a guide, Friesian heifers need to grow at a rate of 0.7 kilograms per day and Jerseys need to grow at 0.45 kilograms per day to reach optimum target weights. More information about target weights can be found in herd assessment pack (heifer rearing tool) on the InCalf website (www.incalf.com.au). To achieve target growth rates, the heifers will require 16% crude protein in their diet, plus the appropriate amount of energy for their age.

Heifers should not be allowed to lose weight for any significant period of time (greater than a month) as this indicates that their nutritional needs are not being met.

Mating

Ideally, heifers should reach the target weight for their breed prior to being mated. Extra care should be taken with heifers that are below target weight with respect to bull selection.

Heifers should not be joined to bulls that, because of incompatibility of size of breed, are likely to cause mating injuries or predispose the cow to calving difficulties.

Artificial insemination should be performed only by trained artificial inseminators¹¹, and in such a way that causes minimal stress to the animal.

Preventative animal health

A preventative animal health plan should be in place that covers procedures such as vaccinations and parasite control.

10 Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle. 2nd edition.

11 Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle. 2nd edition.

CHECKLIST FOR YOUNG STOCK MANAGEMENT			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No shelter provided <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter is draughty and calves cannot stay dry <input type="checkbox"/> Sheds or pens are overcrowded <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities not cleaned and disinfected between batches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter is provided that protects calves from wind and rain <input type="checkbox"/> Shed has adequate light and ventilation <input type="checkbox"/> Calves have a minimum of 1.5 m² floor space in individual pens and 1.5 m²-2.0 m² in group pens <input type="checkbox"/> The total shed volume provides at least 6m³ per calf <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring and internal surfaces do not cause injury and are easy to clean 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Calf rearing facilities are a pleasant place for animals and staff <input type="checkbox"/> Ideally no more than 20 calves per pen
First 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are left in paddock for longer than 24 hours after birth <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are not fed colostrum <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are not identified <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are treated in a rough manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are moved to the calf rearing facilities within 24 hours of birth <input type="checkbox"/> Calves receive of colostrum (10% of their bodyweight) within 6 hours of birth <input type="checkbox"/> Heifer calves are individually identified <input type="checkbox"/> Navels are sprayed with 7% iodine solution prior to the calves entering the calf rearing facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Calf handling is carried out in a quiet and gentle manner <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles used for transporting calves are washed on a regular basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are moved to the calf rearing facilities within 12 hours of birth <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are fed colostrum for 3 days <input type="checkbox"/> Heifer calves are individually identified and breeding recorded <input type="checkbox"/> Navels are sprayed with 7% iodine as soon after birth as possible <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles used for transporting calves are washed and disinfected as needed and at least on daily basis

CHECKLIST FOR YOUNG STOCK MANAGEMENT			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Selling calves	<input type="checkbox"/> Standards for selling of calves are not met	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves less than 5 days old and travelling without their mother are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ Only transported to a calf rearing facility ⇒ Not consigned through saleyards ⇒ Provided with liquid feed within 6 hours before loading ⇒ Provided with thick bedding and room to lie down ⇒ Be protected from cold and heat ⇒ Not transported for longer than 6 hours <input type="checkbox"/> Calves that are being sold for slaughter (5-30 days old) are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ In their 5th day of life ⇒ Are protected from cold and heat ⇒ In good health, alert and able to rise from a lying position ⇒ Adequately fed milk or milk replacer on farm within 6 hours of transport 	
Weaning	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves are weaned from milk too early	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves are provided with solid food in addition to milk or milk replacer <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are weaned only when their digestive system is developed sufficiently to enable them to maintain growth and wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHECKLIST FOR YOUNG STOCK MANAGEMENT			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Feed and nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves nutritional needs are not met	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves have access to clean, fresh water at all times <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are fed to meet their nutritional demands	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves are fed according to a feed plan that has been developed to achieve target growth rates <input type="checkbox"/> Calves and heifers are weighed on a regular basis to ensure targets are being met and if any animal is below target they are separated and preferentially fed
Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Sick calves are not isolated and treated when ill	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves are checked twice daily <input type="checkbox"/> Sick calves are isolated and treated <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are vaccinated with 7-in-1 and other vaccines e.g. Salmonella at the appropriate times <input type="checkbox"/> Mortality rates from birth to weaning are in the range of 4-6% or lower	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves are checked a minimum of twice daily <input type="checkbox"/> A health plan is developed with advice from a veterinarian <input type="checkbox"/> Sick calves are isolated, treated and treatment is recorded <input type="checkbox"/> Calves are vaccinated and wormed according to a health plan <input type="checkbox"/> Cows are vaccinated pre-calving to improve immunity of calves
Heifers	<input type="checkbox"/> Put on the run-off block and forgotten about until mating time	<input type="checkbox"/> Heifers are checked at least weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Heifers are fed to meet their nutritional needs <input type="checkbox"/> Sick heifers are treated <input type="checkbox"/> Mortality rates are 2% or less from weaning to calving.	<input type="checkbox"/> Heifers are checked on a daily basis <input type="checkbox"/> Heifers are rotationally grazed <input type="checkbox"/> Heifers are fed according to a feed plan based on achieving target weights <input type="checkbox"/> Heifers are weighed regularly to ensure target weights are being met

CHECKLIST FOR YOUNG STOCK MANAGEMENT			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Mating		<input type="checkbox"/> Heifers are at target weight before mating <input type="checkbox"/> The appropriate bulls or semen are selected making sure the size of the bull is appropriate and the breed is unlikely to cause calving difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> AI is carried out by trained artificial inseminators and in a way that causes minimal stress to the animals	<input type="checkbox"/> The appropriate bulls or semen are selected making sure the size of the bull is appropriate and the breed is unlikely to cause calving difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> The correct number of bulls are used <input type="checkbox"/> AI is carried out by trained artificial inseminators and in a way that causes minimal stress to the animals

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY MANAGEMENT

This chapter contains information on procedures that are carried out on dairy animals including:

- disbudding
- tail docking
- calving inductions
- castration

INTRODUCTION

Procedures that are carried out on animals should be done in a manner to minimise pain and stress.

DISBUDDING/DEHORNING

Horns on cattle can be dangerous to other cattle and people, especially on a dairy farm where the cattle are yarded and handled on a daily basis.

To minimise stress:

- it is preferable to dehorn dairy cattle as young as possible
- calves can be disbudded as soon as the horn buds are detectable.
- calves should be adequately restrained while being disbudded to ensure the procedure is carried out quickly and cleanly.

There are two main methods of disbudding:

- hot iron – causes little or no bleeding
- disbudding knife or scoop dehorner

Cattle that are older than 6 months of age must only be dehorned by a veterinarian with the use of a local anaesthetic. Cattle should be observed closely for 24 hours after the procedure to ensure the bleeding stops. Dehorning should be done at a time of year when dust and flies are at a minimum.

Tipping of horns (cutting off the tip) can be carried out in adult cattle to prevent ingrown horns or injury to other cattle.

TAIL DOCKING

The dairy industry strongly encourages the trimming of the tail (where the bush of tail is trimmed) and does not support tail docking. If tail docking is carried out, the use of a rubber ring placed on the tail between vertebrae is the preferred option. Enough tail must be left behind to cover the tip of the vulva.

CALVING INDUCTIONS

Inducing a cow to calve earlier than her predicted calving date is carried out in order to keep a tight calving pattern. Cows are also sometimes induced to calve if letting them go to full-term is going to be detrimental to their health. Calving inductions should always be done under the supervision of a vet.

Cows that are to be induced to calve as a strategy to shorten the calving spread should be:

- aged 3-8 years
- body condition score of 4.5-5.5 (1-8 scale)
- in good health
- between 6-13 weeks before their predicted calving date
- have had a dry period of at least 7 weeks
- pregnancy tested and evaluated by a vet immediately prior to injection

Cows that are induced should be monitored closely.

Induced calves that are not viable should be euthanased immediately. Any viable induced calves that are kept will need extra care.

CASTRATION

Bull calves that are to be castrated should be castrated as young as possible. Rubber rings are not recommended on animals over 3 months of age. Animals over 6 months of age must not be castrated without the use of analgesic/anaesthetic.

CHECKLIST FOR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY MANAGEMENT

	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Dehorning	<input type="checkbox"/> Cattle older than 6 months are dehorned without anaesthetic <input type="checkbox"/> Using chemical disbudding	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves are disbudded by 8 weeks of age <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle older than 6 months are dehorned by a veterinarian using anaesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/> Calves are disbudded as soon as horn buds appear <input type="checkbox"/> Poll dairy breeds are used in the breeding program
Tail docking	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals are not given analgesic/ anaesthetic <input type="checkbox"/> Tail stump is too short (vulva is exposed)	<input type="checkbox"/> Analgesic/anaesthetic is used <input type="checkbox"/> Tail is left long enough to cover the tip of the vulva <input type="checkbox"/> Alternatives to tail docking are considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Tail docking is not carried out <input type="checkbox"/> Tail bushes are trimmed regularly
Calving induction	<input type="checkbox"/> No records of predicted calving dates are kept	<input type="checkbox"/> Calving inductions are carefully planned with veterinary supervision <input type="checkbox"/> Cows are healthy and in target condition score <input type="checkbox"/> Non-viable calves are euthanased immediately <input type="checkbox"/> Viable induced calves that are being kept are given extra care	<input type="checkbox"/> Calving inductions are not routinely carried out
Castration	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals over 6 months of age are castrated without use of analgesic/ anaesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals requiring castration are castrated by 6 months of age <input type="checkbox"/> Animals over 6 months of age are castrated with the use of analgesic/ anaesthetic	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals requiring castration are castrated by 3 months of age

BULL MANAGEMENT

This chapter includes information on the management of bulls in the areas of:

- nutrition
- health
- handling

INTRODUCTION

Bulls have the same welfare requirements as all other classes of stock. Information about bull management can also be found in *The InCalf Book* for dairy farmers or on the InCalf website (www.incalf.com.au).

NUTRITION

Bulls do not have milk production or pregnancy requirements but they do have minimum maintenance requirements in order to keep them healthy. The energy requirements of bulls can be seen in Table 4. Any growth or condition improvement will require additional energy.

Table 4 Maintenance requirements of stock at varying liveweights

BODYWEIGHT (kg)	MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS (MJ ME/head)
500	54
550	59
600	63
650	67
700	72
750	77
800	81
850	86
900	90
950	95
1000	99

HEALTH

Probably the two most common health issues affecting the welfare of bulls are lameness and injury caused through fighting/bullying.

Bulls can become lame quite easily when they are put in with the milking herd. Firstly because they are not used to frequent walking on the laneways (as cows are) and secondly, because they spend a lot of their time trying to mount cows rather than watching where they are walking. Lame bulls should be rested until they are fully recovered. It needs to be kept in mind that if bulls suffer an infection it can affect their fertility. Rotating bulls in and out of the herd can help minimise lameness due to walking. Lameness and injury can also be reduced by keeping the bulls out of concrete yards as much as possible.

Injury from fighting is difficult to eliminate but it can be minimised by:

- ensuring bulls have room to get away from each other, especially when introducing a new bull(s) to the bull herd
- regularly checking the bulls and segregating a bull if it is being overly bullied by the others
- ensuring bulls are run together 1-2 months prior to mating

A preventative health program which includes vaccinations and drenches should be in place.

HANDLING

In general bulls are bigger, stronger and handled less often than the cows which can make the handling of them challenging. Treat bulls with care and respect and remember bulls in mating condition are going to be more aggressive.

- handle bulls in facilities that are strong enough to hold them and high enough to prevent them from trying to jump out.
- set-up before yarding the bulls to minimise waiting time in the yard.
- split the bulls into smaller groups in the yards to reduce the potential for fighting and injuring themselves or the people trying to handle them
- keep a barrier between you and the bulls and use a paddle, or polypipe, and voice to encourage them in the direction you want them to go
- excessive use of an electric prod is unacceptable

CHECKLIST FOR BULL MANAGEMENT

CHECKLIST FOR BULL MANAGEMENT			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Nutrition	<input type="checkbox"/> The nutritional requirements of bulls are not met	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulls are fed to meet nutritional requirement <input type="checkbox"/> Individual bull condition score does not drop below 3.5 <input type="checkbox"/> Water supply is checked every 2-3 days	
Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulls are checked infrequently	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulls are checked every 2-3 days and their health status assessed <input type="checkbox"/> Injuries or illness are treated immediately <input type="checkbox"/> During mating, bulls are rotated in and out of the herd and bulls that become lame are rested <input type="checkbox"/> The appropriate number of bulls are used in the herd to prevent overwork <input type="checkbox"/> Preventative health plan is in place	<input type="checkbox"/> Lame or sick bulls are isolated to prevent them being bullied <input type="checkbox"/> Bulls kept off concrete as much as possible
Handling	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulls are handled aggressively	<input type="checkbox"/> Movements and yarding of bulls is planned in advance to minimise contact and stress to the bulls	<input type="checkbox"/> Paddocks and facilities are designed to handle bulls

TRANSPORT

This chapter contains information about transporting livestock:

- fitness to transport
- curfew
- transport vehicle
- yarding
- loading
- care while transporting
- documentation

INTRODUCTION

There are many reasons why cattle may need to be transported. If done properly, stress will be minimised and injuries avoided.

FITNESS TO TRANSPORT

Any animal to be transported must be able to stand and bear weight on all four legs and be fit enough to withstand the journey. Cows that are likely to calve on the journey should not be transported. Calves being sold for slaughter must be in their 5th day of life and meet all other requirements for sale (see chapter on young stock management for more details). More information can be found in “Is it fit to load?” produced by Meat and Livestock Australia and available on their website (www.mla.com.au).

CURFEW

Adult cattle should be yarded prior to transport to allow them to empty out. As a minimum standard, adult cattle should have no access to green feed for at least 12 hours prior to loading

TRANSPORT VEHICLE

Any vehicles used for the transport of livestock, whether on the farm or outside the farm gate, need to be appropriately designed and maintained (e.g. free from protrusions that may cause injury, have a floor designed to minimise slipping, have adequate ventilation and be of a height or with a roof that will prevent the livestock from escaping or injuring itself in attempting to escape).

YARDING

Cattle should be yarded in a way that minimises stress. Different classes of stock, with the possible exception of cows with calves at foot, should be yarded, and loaded, separately.

If cattle are to be yarded for longer than 24 hours, they need to be provided with food and water.¹²

Young calves should be provided with shelter/shade in inclement weather.

LOADING

The use of dogs and implements such as electric prodders and sticks should be carried out in a manner appropriate to the class of stock. The purpose of these implements is to provide a safer working environment for the people handling the animals so they do not have to put themselves in physical danger – implements are not to be used to ‘punish’ the animals. The use of electric prodders or dogs on calves is not allowed.

CARE WHILE TRANSPORTING

Livestock should be observed during transport and the appropriate action taken if animal welfare is compromised. Problems can be minimised by keeping different classes and unfamiliar or aggressive animals in separate pens and by ensuring that animals are fit to be transported prior to loading.

¹² Animal Welfare Guidelines – Animals in Saleyards

CHECKLIST FOR TRANSPORT			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Fitness to transport	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals that are lame or sick when transported <input type="checkbox"/> Animals are transported in a vehicle that is unsuitable <input type="checkbox"/> Animals are overcrowded	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals are fit and healthy for transport <input type="checkbox"/> Animals are transported in a vehicle that minimises stress and injury <input type="checkbox"/> Transport vehicles are designed to allow stock to be given optimum space	
Transport vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Various classes of livestock are yarded together <input type="checkbox"/> Unfamiliar and aggressive bulls are yarded together <input type="checkbox"/> Stock are not provided with appropriate shelter and water	<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock are yarded according to their class <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive animals are yarded separately <input type="checkbox"/> Stock are provided with appropriate shelter and water	
Loading	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive force and noise in loading animals causing pain and distress	<input type="checkbox"/> Stock are handled quietly and with minimum use of force <input type="checkbox"/> All handlers are trained in safe stock handling practices	
Care while transporting	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals are not checked during transport <input type="checkbox"/> Problems during transport are not dealt with	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals are checked during transport <input type="checkbox"/> Any problems are dealt with appropriately	

EUTHANASIA

This chapter contains information about the appropriate method of euthanasing dairy cattle.

INTRODUCTION

The decision of whether and when to euthanase an animal can be subjective. Key principles should be kept in mind:

- If an animal is ill or injured and is suffering pain but an attempt is to be made to rehabilitate, it should be attended by a veterinarian to give appropriate advice and treatment.
- If an animal has suffered a severe injury from which it cannot recover, it should be euthanased immediately.
- Unviable calves should be euthanased immediately.
- Do not leave animals to suffer once the decision has been made to euthanase.
- Animals should be euthanased by a competent person following the correct procedures

USE OF FIREARMS

An appropriate calibre rifle (based on the class of stock and distance from animal) or humane killer pistol is adequate for close range humane destruction of cattle.

Only people licensed and trained in the use of firearms should euthanase cattle using this method.

To provide maximum impact, the rifle should be fired from as close as possible to the animal (but do not press the rifle against the animal's head). The recommended position to aim for can be seen in Figure 1. A check must be made to ensure that the animal is dead and not merely stunned (bleeding of the animal is recommended).

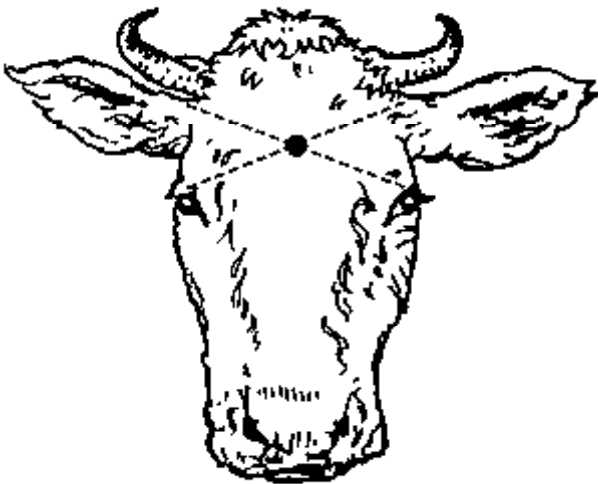


Figure 1 Humane destruction of cattle. Recommended position (centre of forehead where lines intersect) for frontal method (suitable for firearm or captive bolt pistol). Taken from: *Animal Welfare Standard – Tasmania No. 6 – Animals in Saleyards.*

USE OF CAPTIVE BOLT PISTOLS

A captive bolt pistol contains a blank cartridge and is held against head of the animal (in the position shown in Figure 1). Once the animal is stunned by the captive bolt, it should be bled out as soon as it has fallen to the ground by severing the major

blood vessels in the neck. Manufacturers' recommendations for the type of blank cartridge to use and maintenance of the pistol should be followed to ensure the animal is killed humanely.

EUTHANASING CALVES

Calves should be euthanased in the same manner as adult cattle. This is the preferred method of euthanasia. If a firearm is not available, calves that are less than 24 hours old can be euthanased by the delivery a blow to the head with a blunt instrument - however this is undesirable. The blow needs to be of sufficient strength to produce unconsciousness. The calf should then be bled by severing the blood vessels in the neck.¹³

13 *Animal Welfare Standard – Tasmania No. 11 – Trade and Transport of Calves including Bobby Calves*

CHECKLIST FOR EUTHANASIA

CHECKLIST FOR EUTHANASIA			
	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Euthanasia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Animals that are sick or injured are not euthanased in a timely manner <input type="checkbox"/> There is no plan in place on farm for the euthanasia of animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> There is a plan in place with regards to the euthanasia of animals and all people involved with the care of animals are aware of the plan and procedures <input type="checkbox"/> Anyone who is, or may be, required to carry out the euthanasia of animals is properly trained and has the appropriate licenses <input type="checkbox"/> The appropriate firearm or captive bolt pistol is used to euthanase animals and checks are made to ensure that the animal is dead <input type="checkbox"/> If a firearm or captive bolt is not available, a vet is called in to carry out the euthanasia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle are bled after being shot to ensure they are dead

STOCK HANDLING AND TRAINING

This chapter contains information about stock handling and training in the areas of:

- General stock handling principles
- Importance of training
- Responsibilities of owners, managers and employees

INTRODUCTION

A good stockperson will handle livestock in a compassionate and humane manner. A good stockperson has the ability to recognise the normal behaviour traits of the animals that they work with and identify early any issues that may impact on their welfare. A good stock person has high animal welfare standards and expects the same from others.

GENERAL STOCK HANDLING PRINCIPLES

Some general principles for handling livestock are:

- Work quietly and confidently around livestock, avoid sudden loud noises and quick movements. Be patient.
- When moving stock through yards or the dairy, try and look at the area from the animals point of view to identify obstructions or distractions. Removing a coat hanging on the fence that is distracting the cows will improve cow flow more than yelling at them to keep them moving. Shadows and reflections are other causes of poor cow movement.
- Dairy cattle, compared to any other cattle, spend a lot of time walking to and from the dairy. Cows should be moved at a comfortable walking pace (2-3 km/hour). Using a bike or dog to push the cows faster than this increases the incidence of lameness.

IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING

People working with animals need to be trained to handle them in the correct manner as well as to identify common health problems. Training can either be on-farm or through a training organisation. For a list of contacts for training see the appendix.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS, MANAGERS AND EMPLOYEES

Under the Animal Welfare Act, those that have the care or charge of animals have a legal “duty of care” for those animals. This includes owners, managers, sharefarmers and employees.

A good owner/manager will have a farm policy for the management of animal welfare and ensure that all people involved with working with animals are aware of their responsibility towards those animals. Strong leadership and a positive attitude towards good animal welfare from the owner/manager will go a long way towards ensuring good animal welfare outcomes.

Every farm should have a planned protocol in place to address humane destruction.

CHECKLIST FOR STOCK HANDLING AND TRAINING

	Unacceptable Industry Practice	Acceptable Industry Practice	Above Acceptable Industry Practice
Stock handling and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No training is provided to staff in the handling of animal or identifying sick or injured animals <input type="checkbox"/> Animals are handled in a manner that causes unnecessary stress and/or pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> All people working with animals are given the appropriate training in stock handling and identifying sick or injured animals <input type="checkbox"/> Staff are given the required support to ensure animal welfare needs are met <input type="checkbox"/> The procedures for the humane destruction of animals is known by everyone involved with caring for animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A written animal health and welfare policy is developed with a vet. It outlines the standard of care for animals on the property and contains standard procedures for dealing with sick cows. This policy is available and used by all personnel

FURTHER INFORMATION

This section contains information on where to find further information

Animal welfare standards

- Tasmanian animal welfare standards
www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/inter.nsf/WebPages/EGIL-535VVF?open
- Australian animal welfare standards www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au
- Dairy Australia www.dairyaustralia.com.au

Assistance or information on animal health and welfare issue

- Local veterinarian
- Dairy Helpline Ph. 6421 7601
- RSPCA
- Dairy Australia

Training

- CowTime (stock handling) www.cowtime.com.au
- Countdown Down Under (mastitis control) www.countdown.org.au
- DairyTas (lameness workshops) email: dairytas@eburnie.com.au
- InCalf (nutrition, condition scoring, bull management) www.incalf.com.au
- Low stress stock handling www.lss.net.au

