

HANDLING AND MOVING CATTLE

To illustrate safe practices when handling and moving cattle.

- 2.1 Trained and qualified staff.
 - 2.2 Veterinarian
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- 3.1 Personnel must be knowledgeable in cattle behaviour and must only use low-stress techniques in the routine handling of cattle.
 - 3.2 The main principles of low-stress handling are accommodating the animal's natural behaviours and motivations, reducing noise and other stressors in the environment, and ensuring handlers interact calmly and patiently with cattle.
 - 3.3 Behavior and temperament are influenced by various factors mainly by genetics, human interaction, and environment.
 - 3.4 Cattle are visual animals. They have a 300-degree range of vision.
Be aware of the area in front and to the side of the rear leg as they tend to kick forward and then back.
 - 3.5 Cattle will mill or circle if frightened or distressed.
 - 3.6 Their instinctive reaction to danger is to flee or fight, and therefore might charge or stampede.
 - 3.7 When restraint is necessary the safest, least stressful restraint must be used.
 - 3.8 Abusive handling PROHIBITED and will be NOT tolerated. Abusive handling includes, but is not limited to:
 - 3.8.1 Using loud noises to frighten or move cattle.
 - 3.8.2 Kicking, beating, striking, tail twisting, dragging
 - 3.8.3 Forcefully pulling cattle by the tail, head, and neck
 - 3.8.4 Improper use of a prod: Electric prods must not be used on calves.

NOTE:

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- 4.1 Announce your presence when approaching the animal.
 - 4.2 In an alleyway or chute system, cattle should be worked with in a head to tail sequence.
 - 4.3 HANDLING AND MOVING CALVES:
 - 4.3.1 Handling:
 - 4.3.1.1 Stroke the calf under the chin or on the withers to encourage a submissive posture.
 - 4.3.1.2 Never stroke or pet them on the head. This may lead to butting.
 - 4.3.1.3 Calves should be handled and petted regularly.
 - 4.3.2 Moving:
 - 4.3.2.1 Several methods can be used to move a young calf:

- 4.3.2.1.1 Place it in a calf cart.
- 4.3.2.1.2 If not walking yet.: Place in a wheelbarrow. The assistance from an additional person is needed to prevent the calf from attempting to escape.
- 4.3.2.1.3 Lift and carry.
- 4.3.2.1.4 Push it forward gently to continue to walk.
- 4.3.2.2 When the animal is too big to use the methods listed in 4.3.2.1, a halter can be used to move it. [Refer to 4.4.2: Placing a halter.](#)

4.4 HALTERING:

4.4.1 Unplug the electric trainers.

4.4.2 Placing a halter:

4.4.2.1 Always be attentive of the positioning of your fingers/ hands/ arms when haltering an animal in a stall/pen to prevent injury.

4.4.2.2 Do not lean over the head of an animal when haltering.

4.4.2.3 Always halter from the left side.

4.4.2.4 When using a rope halter:

4.4.2.4.1 Loosen the rope.

4.4.2.4.2 Place the top piece over and behind the ears first.

4.4.2.4.3 Drop the loop over the nose.

4.4.2.4.4 Tighten and adjust the halter, placing the nose piece halfway between the eyes and the nose.

4.4.3



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DATE	NEW VERSION
15-Jan-2021	Version 01: MacDonald Campus FACC approved
3-aug-2023	Version 02: MacDonald Campus FACC approved