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Animal Welfare Guidelines - Animals in Saleyards

Approved under Section 44B of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* by the then Minister for Primary Industries and Water – October 2008.
Replaces Animal Welfare Standard No 6 – Animals in Saleyards

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ANIMAL WELFARE GUIDELINES

Animal welfare considerations are becoming increasingly important in the keeping and farming of animals, both in Australia and internationally. Practices which may have once been deemed acceptable or justifiable, are now being reassessed in the light of new knowledge and changing attitudes. High standards of welfare are not only important legally and ethically, but also have direct economic benefits and are becoming increasingly necessary for continued market access.

Tasmania's Animal Welfare Guidelines are approved by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water, after consultation with the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, in accordance with section 44B of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.

Under the Animal Welfare Act, Animal Welfare Guidelines are to include guidelines for the education and guidance of persons involved in the care and management of animals. Animal Welfare Guidelines are therefore advisory in nature. They are intended to help people involved in the care and management of animals adopt high standards of husbandry.

The Animal Welfare Guidelines may be based on the *Australian Model Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Animals*, or the *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines*, endorsed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC). Alternatively, where there is no suitable national model, Animal Welfare Guidelines may be developed in Tasmania, in consultation with industry and animal welfare groups.

Animal Welfare Guidelines will be revised to take into account changes in animal management practices and knowledge of animal welfare.

The *Animal Welfare Guidelines – Sheep* are based on the *Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – The Sheep*, (2nd edition 2006).

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1. SCOPE AND INTENTION OF THESE GUIDELINES

These Guidelines set out the minimum animal welfare requirements for animals being sold or held in public saleyards. The intention of the Guidelines is to:

1. Set out the responsibilities of all persons concerned with this operation, including the saleyard operators, saleyard owners, vendors, livestock agents, livestock transport drivers, stockmen and saleyard attendants.
2. Encourage suitable preparation and efficient, considerate treatment of animals so that stress is minimised at all stages of the saleyard operation.

These Guidelines are intended as a guide for people involved in the preparation and management of livestock for sale in saleyards. They include aspects of on-farm preparation, unloading, pre- and post-sale handling, general care of livestock at saleyards and emergency slaughter of sick, crippled or "downer" animals.

Saleyard and livestock transport operations are mutually dependent. These Guidelines should be read in conjunction with *Animal Welfare Guidelines - Road Transport of Livestock in Tasmania*.

Procedures at saleyards subject animals to a number of stresses. Stressful situations may include:

- yarding and handling
- restricted access to food and/or water
- exposure to extremes of weather
- unfamiliar surroundings, noises and sensations
- overcrowding or isolation of animals
- mixing of animals unfamiliar with each other
- exposure to infectious diseases

Each species needs to be handled differently and these Guidelines describe some methods of handling to minimise stress.

These Guidelines are based on knowledge and technology available at the time of publication and may need to be varied in the light of new knowledge and community expectations.

2. DUTY OF CARE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the Animal Welfare Act, persons who have the care or charge of animals have a legal "duty of care" for the welfare of those animals, and must take all reasonable measures to ensure their welfare.

Section 3A of the Animal Welfare Act deems certain persons to have the care or charge of animals. Of particular relevance to saleyards, this includes:

- *a person who has control, possession or custody of an animal; and*
- *the operator or manager of premises where animals are held for commercial purposes.*

In the case of animals in saleyards, persons with this legal duty of care may therefore include the saleyard operator, saleyard manager, stockmen and attendants and, vendor or vendors representative, buyer or buyer's representative and livestock transport driver.

2.1 Responsibilities of the Vendor or Vendor's Representative

Vendors and their representatives have a responsibility to present livestock in good health, appropriately curfewed and able to withstand the rigours of transport and the saleyard process.

The appropriate curfew period will depend on the class of livestock, grazing history and seasonal conditions.

Adult ruminants on hard feed usually require minimal curfew. Animals which have been grazing lush crops may require several days on harder feed prior to transport.

Stock which are injured, emaciated, drought weakened or obviously diseased should not be consigned to or processed through saleyards.

Vendors and their representatives should not exert pressure on transport drivers, livestock agents or saleyard operators to accept animals which are unsuitable for sale in saleyards.

Vendors and their representatives have a responsibility to bring to the attention of the livestock transport driver and the saleyard operator any aspect of the history of the livestock which may affect their suitability for, or their welfare during transport and sale. This information should include curfew history (when the animals last had access to water and food, the type of food, when they were yarded), and in the case of mature females, their pregnancy status.

Note: Under the *Animal Health Act 1995*, a person must not sell animals which they know to be infected with certain diseases, unless authorised to do so.

2.2 Responsibilities of the Saleyard Operator

In accepting animals for sale in saleyards, the saleyard operator takes charge of those animals, and in the absence of any legal agreement to the contrary, is responsible for their welfare:-

- whilst they remain on the saleyard premises; or
- until the expiry of a clearly indicated and agreed time.

This includes responsibility for the actions of saleyard staff, livestock agents and contract stock handlers.

The operating conditions, including hours of operation of the saleyards, and hours for receipt and collection of livestock should be clearly publicised and displayed.

The responsibility for various aspects of the welfare of animals in saleyards may be delegated to managers, stockmen, livestock agents or saleyard attendants, provided the delegation is subject to clear, unambiguous agreement.

Saleyard operators should not accept for sale livestock which are emaciated, drought weakened or obviously diseased.

The responsibilities of saleyard operators include:

- Ensuring that all people with delegated responsibility for the welfare of animals are fully aware of their legal responsibilities.
- Ensuring that staff are competent stock handlers.
- Feeding, watering and regular inspection of all animals except those which are, by agreement, in the care of owners or the owners' appointed agents.
- Obtaining prompt veterinary attention for diseased, sick and crippled animals and arranging removal of crippled stock and/or carcasses from the yards.
- Appointment of stockmen (a) to be responsible for loading and unloading of animals when the owner or the owners' appointed agent is not present and (b) to accept responsibility for receipt of stock.
- Allocation of appropriate holding, drafting, selling and post-sale pens.
- ensuring that yard structures, buildings and facilities associated with the handling and housing of stock at saleyards are maintained in good condition for the safe and humane handling and holding of all livestock species to be sold. This includes the provision of suitable watering facilities.
- Ensuring the maintenance of cleanliness and upkeep of the yard structures, buildings and facilities for the handling and housing of animals.
- Ensuring access to suitable equipment to humanely dispose of any animal likely to be handled in saleyards.

- Bringing to the attention of the livestock transport driver any aspect of the history of the livestock which may effect their suitability for or their welfare during post-sale transport. This should include information on when the animals last had access to food and water.

Saleyard and transport operations should be co-ordinated to avoid overstocking of facilities and to minimise delays in post-sale clearance of livestock.

2.3 Responsibilities of Stockmen and Saleyard Attendants

The importance of competent stockmanship in animal welfare cannot be over-emphasised. The important skill of a competent stockman is the ability to recognise the early signs of distress and injury in animals, so that prompt action can be taken.

Stockmen are required to exhibit patience, common sense and responsibility in dealing with animals. Inexperienced staff should be given specific training in stock handling by competent and skilled staff, and should only be permitted to handle stock under the direct supervision of experienced staff.

2.4 Responsibilities of the Buyer or Buyer's Representative

The Buyer or Buyer's Representative must accept responsibility for the welfare of the animals purchased at the saleyard, upon the expiry of a clearly indicated and agreed time.

2.5 Responsibilities of the Livestock Transport Driver

In accepting animals for road transport, the livestock transport driver takes charge of those animals, and becomes legally responsible for their welfare. Livestock transport drivers have a responsibility to refuse to load animals which, in their opinion are unsuitable for travel. This includes animals which are ill, injured, too thin or too weak to travel.

Livestock transport drivers are responsible for all loading and unloading operations, including loading densities and penning arrangements.

Livestock transport drivers should not deliver livestock to saleyards outside of indicated operating hours unless there is clear, unambiguous agreement with the saleyard operator.

Saleyard and transport operations should be co-ordinated to minimise delays in post-sale clearance of livestock.

Detailed information is contained in the Animal Welfare Guidelines - Road Transport of Livestock Within Tasmania

3. STOCK HANDLING FACILITIES

Saleyards should be constructed and maintained in accordance with animal welfare and animal behaviour considerations.

3.1 Ramp design and construction

Loading and handling facilities should be constructed so that they do not cause injury to animals. They should allow both easy access for, and quick escape of handlers.

The internal walls of ramps should be smooth and high enough so that animals are not disturbed by activities outside the ramp and will not injure themselves. Footholds for handlers should be provided where necessary.

Loading/unloading areas are often used at night and must be provided with good quality lighting.

Adult cattle and horses

- The ramp should be wide enough to accommodate hip width of mature animals. A suggested internal width of 760 mm will cater for all animals. Excessive width may lead to obstructions.
- A flat area or platform at the top of the ramp not less than 1.5 metres in length assists loading and unloading.
- The platform should be level with the deck being unloaded.
- A slope of no more than 1 in 3 (about 20°) is recommended for permanently installed ramps. The surface
- should be made of a non-slip material with either cross-cleats or cross-grooved steps to provide a good grip when the ramp is wet. Recommended dimensions for steps for large animals are 300-500 mm treads and 90- 100 mm risers.
- The ramp should include an external walkway to allow an attendant to facilitate stock movement.
- Portable or adjustable ramps should have a slope of not more than 1 in 2 (about 27°) and they should be equipped with anchoring devices.
- Filler boards or flaps should be used to cover any gap between the loading ramp and the floor of the stock crate.
- Where ramps are used for horses, overhead clearance should be high enough to prevent injuries to rearing horses.

Pigs, lambs, sheep and goats

- Ramps should have an internal width of 500 mm for lambs, sheep and goats. For pigs, an internal width of 900-1000 mm is recommended, to accommodate two pigs side by side and prevent jamming.
- A flat area or platform at the top of the ramp not less than 1 metre in length assists loading and unloading.
- The platform should be level with the deck being unloaded.
- The surface should be made of a non-slip material with either cross-cleats or cross-grooved steps to provide a good grip when the ramp is wet. Recommended dimensions for steps for small animals are 250 mm treads and 50 mm risers.

3.2 Holding Paddocks and Yards

Sufficient yard space should be provided to avoid mixing different consignments of animals.

Fences and gates should have smooth internal surfaces without projections to prevent risk of injury. Fences should be high enough to prevent animals mixing or escaping. Gates should be wide enough to allow easy flow of stock without injury. A minimum gate width of 2500mm is recommended.

Animals kept on concrete for long periods may become footsore, making road transport difficult. The keeping of animals on concrete for prolonged periods should be avoided.

3.3 Laneways and Races

Laneways and races should be sheeted where appropriate to avoid animals being disturbed by outside activities and direct livestock along desired pathways.

Curved sheeted races and forcing yards are known to facilitate stock movements. Sheeted laneways, races and forcing yards should have footholds to allow livestock handlers to quickly escape if necessary.

Concrete floors should have non-slip surfaces. Walkways for handlers and buyers should be separate from laneways for livestock. Overhead walkways should be placed to minimise the casting of shadows on livestock laneways.

Drains should be effective, safe and non-obstructive.

A veterinary inspection crush should be available for individual animal treatment where necessary.

3.4 Drafting Facilities

Drafting facilities that utilise the natural tendency of livestock to follow one another are recommended.

Lighting should be installed so as to minimise shadows and dark areas across laneways and in drafting yards where stock are drafted at night. Animals need to see a clear path in front of them. Noise levels should be kept to a minimum.

Drafting will be facilitated by allowing time for stock to see where they are required to move giving them room to move.

3.5 Selling Pens and Buyers' Pens

Stocking densities should be appropriate to the species, the number and the nature of the animals. As a guide, 2.25m² per beast is recommended for adult cattle in selling pens. It is desirable to allow more space for resting in post-sale pens and 2.7m² per beast is suggested.

A stocking density of 0.47m² to 0.80m² per sheep is recommended, depending on the size of the animals and the length of the wool.

More space should be allowed where there are calves or lambs at foot.

Different classes of animals should be maintained separately, where possible.

3.6 Watering Facilities

Watering facilities must be provided in receiving yards, holding yards and in any other yards or pens for animals whose total water deprivation time, including curfew and transport, is likely to exceed 24 hours. They should be located and constructed to minimise injury to stock and fouling from faeces and should deliver cool, clean drinking water. See Section 4.

Small troughs are preferable to large troughs as they are more hygienic, provide fresher water and are less likely to injure or hinder animals.

In earth yards, concrete or gravel aprons should be provided around the watering points.

3.7 Maintenance

Yards, gates and equipment should be maintained in good condition for the safe and humane handling and holding of all livestock species to be sold. Boggy areas should be filled with gravel if more permanent preventive measures cannot be undertaken.

3.8 Truck Washing Facilities

Truck washing facilities are desirable at all major saleyards.

4. WATER AND FOOD

4.1 Water

Under the Animal Welfare Act it is an offence to fail to provide animals in your care with appropriate and sufficient water.

Livestock should not be without water for more than 24 hours. This period may need to be shortened in hot weather.

The following animals must have access to cool, clean drinking water:

- all animals which have been deprived of water for 24 hours or more
- all animals to be held overnight
- all animals to be held for more than 24 hours (less in hot weather)

4.2 Feeding at Saleyards

Under the Animal Welfare Act it is an offence to fail to provide animals in your care with appropriate and sufficient food.

The saleyard operator should ensure that livestock owners and livestock agents are aware of the requirement to feed animals in saleyards. Maximum feed deprivation times will depend on a number of factors, including:

- species
- age
- body condition
- stage of pregnancy
- prevailing weather

As a general rule, animals should not be without food for more than 24 hours including the time spent in curfew on farm, travelling and yarding. Thus, as a general rule *animals in saleyards, which have been without food for 24 hours should be fed*. It may be acceptable to extend this period to a maximum of 36 hours in the case of non-pregnant, adult ruminants in good body condition and in the absence of cold weather.

Saleyard and transport operations should be co-ordinated to minimise delays in post-sale clearance of livestock.

4.3 Curfews at Saleyards

If animals have had access to water in saleyards, they may be curfewed prior to transport, however no curfews should be used if they result in animals being off water for more than 24 hours

5 LOADING AND UNLOADING

5.1 Welfare Advantages of Efficient Handling

Animals should be unloaded as soon as practicable after arrival and in a way that does not cause them injury.

Trucks should be correctly aligned with the ramp so that no gaps exist. Flaps or adjustable bumper rails should be used to avoid such gaps. Proper alignment with the race will ensure the smooth movement of stock and minimise the risk of injury and bruising.

Lighting should be provided for loading and unloading at night.

Because stock tend to follow each other, sufficient area should be provided in forcing yards during loading and unloading to allow them to move easily towards the target area.

5.2 Methods of Assisting the Loading and Unloading of Animals

Cruelty or ill-treatment of stock cannot be tolerated. The excessive prodding or goading of animals, especially those which have little or no room to move, exposes the operator to the cruelty provisions of the Animal Welfare Act.

Electric prods should be powered only by dry-cell battery or hand-powered dynamo and should not be more powerful than necessary. Their use should be restricted to the absolute minimum.

"Flappers" (a length of cane with a short strap of leather or canvas approximately 300 mm in length attached) soft polythene pipes, or "metallic rattles" used sparingly will encourage movement of animals. Lengths of heavy plastic, metal piping or heavy leather belts should not be used.

Well-trained dogs are useful in assisting loading, unloading and movement of sheep, although they may cause stress in confined areas. Their use should be strictly limited to that necessary to complete the task. Dogs known to bite should be securely muzzled. Dogs not in use must be kept confined and under control.

Dogs should not be used to move horses or deer.

The loading/unloading area should be restricted to authorised persons only. Loading and unloading are the responsibility of the transport driver.

5.3 Separation of Animals During Holding

Animals of different species should not be mixed. Within species, the following categories should be kept separated, unless they arrived in one consignment from a single point of origin :

- females with suckling offspring;
- females known to be in advanced pregnancy;
- mature entire males;
- unfamiliar groups of pigs.

It is also desirable, wherever possible, to separate:

- horned and hornless cattle;
- animals of significantly different size.

5.4 Unloading of Injured Animals

Despite the obligation on producers and agents to present sound, healthy livestock for sale, it may be necessary to unload injured animals at saleyards.

At unloading, stock should be closely observed for evidence of disease or injury. If possible, sound stock should be unloaded first, as quickly and quietly as possible, so that any casualties can be dealt with immediately.

Severely injured stock should be humanely killed without delay and without moving them any more than is necessary. It may be necessary to destroy large injured animals on the transport vehicle. Humane destruction should be carried out by, (or at the direction of) the saleyard operator, a veterinarian, stock inspector or animal welfare officer. Recommended methods for the humane destruction of cattle, sheep and pigs are given in Appendix I.

It is unacceptable to hold severely injured animals for any length of time. If, in the judgment of the saleyard operator, veterinarian, stock inspector or animal welfare officer, an injury is minor and is not causing pain

and/or distress, the animal should be segregated.

The practice of winching, or dragging by other means, living injured animals from transport vehicles is not acceptable. Tying the animals to a fixed object, e.g. a tree or ramp, and driving the transport vehicle away is equally unacceptable. Live animals should not be lifted by the head, horns, wool or legs.

6. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS OF SPECIES

6.1 Pigs

Pigs are more susceptible to heat stress and sunburn than other livestock. They must not be exposed to long periods of direct sunlight or extremes of temperature. Panting is a sign of heat stress. Spray facilities should be provided for cooling pigs.

Pigs should not be transported or sold through saleyards if the temperature is expected to exceed 38°C. All procedures involving pigs, including holding and selling, should be conducted under a roofed or shaded area.

Pig holding pens should have non-slip floors impervious to moisture and should be constructed so that pigs cannot see and fight with strange pigs in adjoining pens.

6.2 Cattle With Eye Cancers

Cattle with cancers in or near the eye are often presented for sale. Such animals are often blind on one side. In addition, cancers which protrude are easily damaged.

As a general rule, and regardless of any considerations involving fitness for slaughter for human consumption, only those animals with very small cancers or those able to protect the cancer from injury by closing the eye are suitable for sale through saleyards.

The following cattle should not be sold through saleyards:

- cattle with cancer in both eyes
- cattle with eye cancer which cannot be protected by eye closure
- cattle with cancer occupying the majority or all of an eye, such that the animal is effectively blind on one side
- cattle with cancer which has become infected or is fly struck.

6.3 Bobby Calves

For the purposes of these Guidelines, bobby calves are defined as unweaned calves which have been separated from their mothers and are being sold under 2 weeks of age (under 4 weeks of age for artificially induced calves). These animals are highly susceptible to stress and disease and require special handling considerations.

Detailed information may be found in the *Animal Welfare Guidelines - Trade and Transport of Calves Including Bobby Calves*.

It is the responsibility of the producer or the producer's agent to ensure that bobby calves to be transported or sold comply with the following minimum requirements.

Bobby calves must:

- Be at least 15 kg bodyweight (Jersey) or 23kg bodyweight (Friesian)
- Be at least 4 days old. (Artificially induced calves must be at least 3 weeks old)

- Have dry navels. The umbilical cord at the junction with the skin must be dry, wrinkled, withered or shrivelled. It must not be pink or red coloured, raw or fleshy
- Be healthy, alert, robust and able to rise unaided. Calves which are lethargic, listless or immature should
- not be presented for transport or sale.
- Have firm, flat hooves with no soft, unworn tissue
- Have received colostrum within 6 hours of birth
- Be fed on the morning of the sale
- Be protected from adverse weather during transport and saleyard operations

Calf holding pens should be constructed to provide floor surfaces that have adequate drainage, are non-slip and capable of being easily cleaned. Holding pens should provide adequate shelter at all times. Vehicles containing calves should be unloaded immediately on arrival at saleyards.

Calves are highly susceptible to scours and dehydration. They should be removed from saleyards as quickly as possible following sale.

Sick or injured calves should be given appropriate treatment or be humanely destroyed. Provision must be made to feed calves which are to be left in saleyards overnight, and at least 24 hourly thereafter.

Handling of calves should be carried out in a manner which will avoid injury or unnecessary suffering. Calves should not be kicked, beaten, thrown or "dumped", or prodded with a sharp instrument. It is not acceptable to use electrical goading devices or un-muzzled dogs which are prone to bite when handling, driving, drafting, weighing, loading or unloading calves.

6.4 Unweaned Lambs and Kids

The general recommendations in regard to bobby calves, where applicable, also apply to unweaned lambs and kids. Lambs and kids under one week of age should not be taken to saleyards.

6.5 Animals in Advanced Pregnancy

Animals in advanced pregnancy should not be consigned to or sold through saleyards, unless this is unavoidable. In this case, such animals should be given special treatment in regard to handling, holding times and provision of feed and water.

7. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AT ABATTOIRS

Once management is advised of an impending dispute, consideration should be given to limiting further consignments of all stock to saleyards. It is the responsibility of the saleyard operator to contact stock agents, transporters and media so that the vendors and transport drivers involved are aware of the situation.

Where stock are already at the saleyards, the saleyard operator should endeavor to arrange an "emergency kill" with a slaughtering establishment. If this is not possible, adequate food and water must be provided for all livestock held during the dispute.

APPENDIX I

HUMANE DESTRUCTION OF STOCK

Previous sections of these Guidelines have drawn attention to those circumstances in which livestock may need to be humanely destroyed, e.g. following serious illness or injury during transport. This task is aesthetically unpleasant to most people and spectators should be discouraged.

The method of slaughter should be effective and humane, causing sudden and painless death for the animal. It is equally important that the animal be handled quietly beforehand to ensure it is not unnecessarily distressed or alarmed.

The most efficient and widely available method of humanely destroying farm livestock at saleyards is a gunshot to the brain from a close range. There may, however, be legal restrictions on the use of firearms in public places. Under those circumstances assistance should be sought from veterinary practitioners, the RSPCA or the Police.

The methods recommended hereunder are those which are considered the most suitable for cattle, sheep and pigs in saleyards.

1. USE OF FIREARMS

The use of firearms is subject to the provisions of the Firearms Act 1996.

The following aspects of firearms safety should be borne in mind:

- A .22 calibre rifle or a .31 calibre humane killer pistol is adequate for (close range) humane destruction of most animals.
- Any use of firearms is potentially hazardous.
- Persons other than the marksman and a handler for the animal, should be cleared from the area or should stand well behind the marksman.
- Never fire while the animal is moving its head; wait for a quiet interval before firing.
- To provide maximum impact and the least possibility of misdirection the range should be as short as circumstances permit
- Whilst the humane killer pistol and captive-bolt pistol are designed to be pressed firmly on the head prior to being discharged, it is not safe to do this with a standard rifle or pistol.

2. USE OF CAPTIVE-BOLT PISTOLS

An alternative to the firearm is to use a captive-bolt pistol which is safer since a blank cartridge is used. The operator does not have to be a marksman as the instrument's muzzle is firmly pressed against the skull before firing. It must, however, be assumed that the animal has only been stunned and a follow-up method of ensuring death, such as bleeding out, is required.

Blank cartridges for the captive-bolt pistol are colour-coded according to amount of charge they contain. For best results, the manufacturer's recommendations should be followed on the most appropriate blank cartridges for different farm animals. Regular maintenance of the captive-bolt pistol is essential for efficient stunning.

3. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STOCK

a) Cattle

Cattle should be destroyed using the frontal method. The captive-bolt pistol or firearm should be directed at the point of intersection of lines taken from the base of each ear to the opposite eye, whilst aiming along the neck (see Figure 1).

When the animal has been stunned using a captive-bolt pistol, it should be bled out as soon as it collapses to the ground by severing the major vessels of the neck. To avoid injury due to the animal's involuntary leg movements, the operator should stand behind the neck.

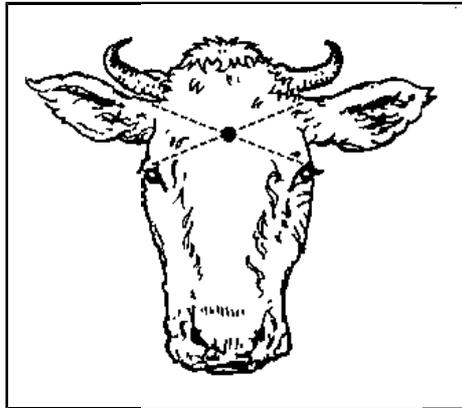


Figure 1: Humane destruction of cattle. Recommended position for frontal method (suitable for firearm or captive bolt pistol.)

b) Sheep

Hornless sheep and rams

Using a firearm: Two approaches are illustrated in Figure 2. The firearm is aimed (a) just behind the poll in the direction of the animal's muzzle, or (b) from the side of the head at a point midway between the eye and the base of the ear.



Figure 2: Recommended position and direction of fire for the firearm - hornless sheep and rams.

Using a captive-bolt stunner: Two approaches are illustrated in Figure 3. The captive-bolt stunner is placed firmly (a) on top of the head before firing, or (b) behind the poll in line with the animal's muzzle. The animal should be bled out immediately following collapse.

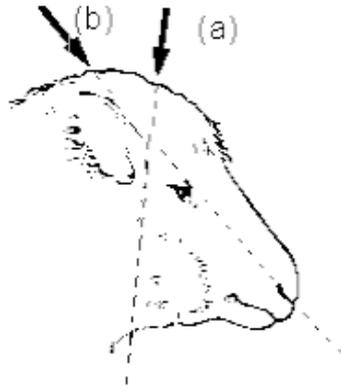


Figure 3 Recommended position and direction of fire for the captive-bolt stunner - hornless sheep and rams.

Horned sheep and rams:

Using a captive-bolt stunner: In horned sheep and rams, the top of the head position may not be suitable, in which case the instrument may be placed behind the poll and aimed in the direction of the animal's muzzle (see Figure 4). The animal should be bled out immediately following collapse.



Figure 4 Recommended position and direction of fire for captive-bolt pistol - horned sheep and rams.

Using a firearm: Shoot at a point in the middle of the face just above the level of the eyes whilst aiming along the neck as shown in Figure 5. The head may be steadied by an assistant who keeps out of the line of fire.



Figure 5 Recommended position and direction of fire for firearm - horned sheep and rams.

c) Pigs

Frontal method: The captive-bolt pistol or firearm should be directed as a point about midway across the forehead and (for adult pigs) about 2 cm above the level of the eyes (Figure 6). When using a firearm, aim horizontally into the skull. When using a captive-bolt stunner, the animal should be immediately bled out following collapse.

Temporal method: Suitable only for firearms. The pig is shot from the side of the head so that the bullet enters the skull at a point midway between the eye and the base of the ear on the same side of the head (Figure 6). The bullet should be directed horizontally into the skull. This method is preferred for adult pigs due to the heavier bone structure to the front of the skull.

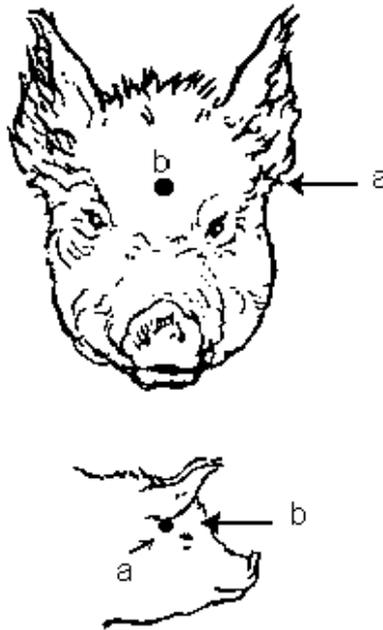


Figure 6: Humane destruction of pigs.
"a" indicates recommended position for temporal method (suitable for firearm only).
"b" indicates recommended position for frontal method (suitable for firearm or captive-bolt pistol).

d) Goats

Using either a captive-bolt pistol or firearm, direct the instrument to the skull behind the horns as shown by the point of the arrow in Figure 7. Aim the firearm in line with animal's mouth, and take care that no-one is in the line of fire.

Kids may also be shot from the front as for cattle (see Figure 1), but this method is not suitable for mature goats as the brain is located well back in the skull compared with other livestock.



Figure 7: Recommended position and direction of fire for captive-bolt pistol or firearm - goats.

4. BLEEDING-OUT OF SHEEP AND GOATS WITHOUT PRE-STUNNING

Bleeding out without pre-stunning is a humane alternative method of slaughter **for sheep and goats only, provided it is done by a skilled person using a suitable, sharp knife.**

The animal should be laid on its side and the head drawn back. The neck is quickly cut transversely completely through to the spine just behind the jaw bone. Do **not** dislocate the neck.

This method is not suitable for calves because an additional blood supply to the brain enables the animal to remain conscious for a considerable time after the throat is cut.