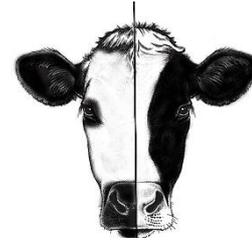


Welfare Checklist

Comprehensive welfare practices ensure all cattle receive an acceptable level of care and Tx as well as meeting the basic physiological and behavioural needs of the animal. The people in charge of the cattle are ultimately responsible for their welfare.



The below list is not an exhaustive list of welfare standards and guidelines for cattle. For a complete overview of the cattle welfare guidelines and standards, consult the resources listed in the resources section.

Essential standards
Responsibility
A person must take reasonable actions to ensure the welfare of cattle under their care
Feed and water
A person in charge must ensure cattle have reasonable access to adequate and appropriate feed and water
Risk management of extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury, and predation
A person in charge must take reasonable actions to ensure the welfare of cattle from threats, including extremes of weather, drought, fires, floods, disease, injury and predation
A person in charge must ensure the inspection of cattle at intervals at a level appropriate to the production system and the risk to the welfare of cattle
A person in charge must ensure appropriate Tx for sick, injured, or diseased cattle at the first reasonable opportunity
Facilities and equipment
A person in charge must take reasonable actions in the construction, maintenance and operation of facilities and equipment to ensure the welfare of cattle
Handling and management
A person must handle cattle in a reasonable manner
A person handling cattle must not: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) lift cattle off the ground by only the head, ears, horns, neck, or tail unless in an emergency; or 2) drop cattle except to land and stand on their feet; or 3) strike, punch or kick, cattle in an unreasonable manner; or 4) drag cattle that are not standing, except in an emergency, for the minimum distance to allow safe handling, lifting, Tx or humane killing; or 5) deliberately dislocate or break the tail of cattle; or 6) use metal pellets to wound cattle as an aid for mustering
A person must not drive cattle to the point of collapse
A person must consider the welfare of cattle when using an electric prodder, and must not use it: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) on genital, anal, or udder areas of cattle; or 1b) on facial areas, unless cattle welfare is at risk; or 2) on calves less than three months old, unless their welfare is at risk; or 3) on cattle that are unable to move away; or 4) in an unreasonable manner on cattle
A person in charge of a dog must have the dog under effective control at all times during the handling of cattle
A person in charge must ensure a dog is muzzled when moving calves less than 30 d old that are without cows
A person in charge must ensure tethered cattle are able to exercise daily
Electro-immobilisation
A person must only use electro-immobilisation on cattle if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the device is approved for use in the jurisdiction; and 2) the cattle are more than 6 mo; and 3) the operator is trained, or it is done under direct supervision of a veterinarian or a trained person; and 4) alternative restraining methods are not adequate to hold cattle sufficiently for the procedure being performed
5) A person must not use electro-immobilisation on cattle as an alternative to pain relief
Identification
A person must use the most appropriate and least painful method to identify cattle that is applicable to the jurisdiction and the production system
A person must not place a permanent brand on the head of cattle
Castration, dehorning and spaying
A person castrating or dehorning cattle must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills, or be under the direct supervision of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills
Castration
A person in charge must ensure the use of appropriate pain relief when castrating cattle, unless cattle are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) less than 6 mo; or 2) less than 12 mo if at their first yarding and where the later age is approved in the jurisdiction
A person must use appropriate tools and methods to castrate cattle
Disbudding and dehorning
A person in charge must ensure the use of appropriate pain relief when dehorning cattle, unless cattle are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) less than 6 mo; or 2) less than 12 mo if at their first yarding and where the later age is approved in the jurisdiction
A person must consider the welfare of the calf when using caustic chemicals for disbudding the calf, and must only use it if the calf: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) is less than 14 d old; and

- 2) can be segregated from its mother for 4 h after Tx; and
- 3) can be kept dry for 12 h after Tx; and
- 4) is not wet

A person must use appropriate tools and methods to dehorn cattle and disbud calves

Spaying

A person spaying a cow must be a veterinarian or, if permitted in the jurisdiction, be accredited or be under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or a person who is accredited

A person in charge must ensure the use of appropriate pain relief when performing the flank approach for spaying or webbing of cattle

A person must not use vaginal spreaders to spay small or immature cattle

Breeding management

A person performing artificial breeding procedures on cattle must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills, or be under the direct supervision of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills

A person performing artificial breeding procedures on cattle must take reasonable actions to minimise pain, distress, or injury

A person in charge must ensure the inspection of calving cattle at intervals appropriate to the production system and the level of risk to the welfare of cattle

A person in charge must ensure calving induction is done under veterinary advice

A person in charge must ensure that induced calves receive adequate colostrum or be humanely killed at the first reasonable opportunity, and before they are 12 h old

Calf-rearing systems

A person in charge must ensure the feeding and inspection of calves in calf rearing systems are performed daily

A person in charge must ensure that calves housed in pens can turn around, lie down and fully stretch their limbs

A person in charge must ensure sufficient iron in the diet to prevent anaemia in calves in veal production systems

A person in charge must not allow the faeces and urine of calves housed in indoor systems to accumulate to the stage that compromises calf health and welfare

Dairy management

A person in charge must ensure the daily inspection of lactating dairy cows

A person in charge must implement appropriate actions to minimise heat stress of cattle

A person must tail dock cattle only on veterinary advice and only to treat injury or disease

A person in charge must ensure dairy cattle that are kept on feed pads for extended periods have access to a well-drained area for resting

Beef feedlots

A person in charge must ensure a minimum area of 9 m² per Standard Cattle Unit for cattle held in external pens

A person in charge must ensure that the diet composition and quantities fed are recorded, and that records are maintained for the duration of the feeding period of each group of cattle

A person in charge must ensure feed is available daily to cattle in the beef feedlot

A person in charge must do a risk assessment each year for the heat load risk at the feedlot, and implement appropriate actions to manage ongoing heat load risk

A person in charge must have a documented Excessive Heat Load Action Plan, and must implement appropriate actions in the event of a heat load emergency

A person in charge must have a documented contingency plan in case of failure of feed or water supply, and must implement appropriate actions in the event of feed or water supply failure

A person in charge must have a documented contingency plan in case of an emergency animal disease, and must implement appropriate actions in the event of an emergency animal disease

A person in charge must ensure the daily inspection of all cattle within the feedlot

A person in charge must ensure the appropriate management of calves born in the feed yards, to ensure the welfare of the calves

A person in charge must ensure the cleaning of feed yards and maintenance of surfaces on a planned basis, to ensure that pen surfaces can drain freely

Humane killing

A person in charge must ensure killing methods for cattle result in rapid loss of consciousness, followed by death while unconscious

A person must have the relevant knowledge, experience, and skills to be able to humanely kill cattle, or be under the direct supervision of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills, unless:

- 1) the cattle are suffering and need to be killed to prevent undue suffering; and
- 2) there is an unreasonable delay until direct supervision by a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills becomes available

A person in charge of cattle suffering from severe distress, disease or injury that cannot be reasonably treated must ensure that the cattle are killed at the first reasonable opportunity

A person killing cattle must take reasonable action to confirm the animal is dead

A person killing a calf by a blow to the forehead must first ensure that the calf is less than 24 h old and only use this method when no other humane killing methods are reasonably available