



Humane Handling of Dairy Cattle

**Standards for the
Transportation of
Unfit Cull Animals**

This handbook has been produced with the support of the following organizations:



"We support and accept the standards of humane care prepared by Alberta Milk and will use these standards in the implementation of our enforcement program." Morris Airey, Director of Enforcement, Alberta SPCA.



"The Alberta Veterinary Medical Association fully endorses the standards of humane care practices set out by Alberta Milk." - Duane Landals, DVM, Registrar, AVMA

**Western Dairy
Science Inc.**

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Disclaimer

The primary purpose of this handbook is to assist producers in making responsible animal care decisions.

It is important to note that while the authors have made every effort to ensure accuracy and completeness, this should not be considered the final word on the areas of law and practice. Seek the advice of appropriate professionals and experts as the facts of each situation may differ from those set out here.

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Standards for Humane Handling of Unfit Dairy Cattle

It is unacceptable for unfit animals – those that are sick, injured or would suffer unduly if not handled properly – to be transported to market. It is the responsibility of anyone owning or handling dairy animals to ensure this does not occur.

Few producers realize that dairy animals entering the system often experience prolonged trucking to distant markets. It is important that producers identify less severe conditions early, so that animals can be treated or shipped, minimizing pain, discomfort and preventing further deterioration.

This handbook provides standards of what are acceptable practices to help producers make the right decisions and ensure due diligence. Producers should work with their herd veterinarian for decisions on cull animals. With this manual, Alberta Milk is providing enforcement and inspection personnel with these **consistent** guidelines, so decision-making is standardized in the province.

Responsible animal care decisions must be made, particularly in situations where animals become injured or diseased. It is in the industry's best interests, as well as the animal's, for producers to make sound and humane decisions regarding the handling of dairy cattle.

Consumers are concerned about animal care, with some making buying decisions based on animal care policies. Food companies, retailers and restaurant chains are beginning to dictate specific animal care guidelines and standards to their suppliers.

Alberta dairy producers have made proper care for their cattle an industry priority. Federal and provincial animal protection laws guide animal care decisions. They are also guided

ethically by dairy producers' commitment to deliver a quality product and by society's expectations that regulations are in place. Enforcement agencies will use this manual, and a producer's proof of due diligence, as guides for what are generally accepted practices and what are not.

Objective:

To provide dairy producers with a decision-making tool to ensure proper humane handling and transportation of unfit and cull dairy animals, as required by law and the Codes of Practice. Cull dairy animals are:

- Cows no longer fit for dairy production;
- Bulls not used for breeding, and;
- Calves that need special attention.

Transportation Decisions for Unfit Dairy Cattle

Do Not Transport

Very thin and weak^{BSE}

Severe Cancer Eye

Downer cattle^{BSE}

Nervous disorder indicative
of infection or poisoning^{BSE}

Unresponsive infection with
continuing fever over 104°F

Prolapsed Uterus

Infectious arthritis affecting
more than two joints

Deep wound and/or
Profuse bleeding

Bone fractures^{BSE}

Dehydration or exhaustion

Congestive Heart Failure with
brisket and abdominal fluid

Animals that are within
48 hours of giving birth

^{BSE} Animals over 30 months of age in these categories are among the '4D' groups (downers, diseased, distressed, deads) desired for BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: 'Mad Cow Disease') testing.

Transport Only with Special Provisions

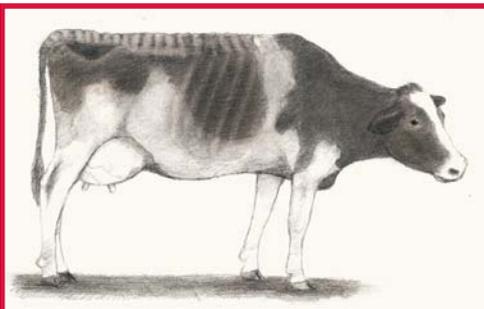
Lactating cows	① ④	Penis injury	① ②
Visibly lame, unable to keep up with group	① ② ③	Blindness	① ② ⑤
Slick - little winter hair or coming from warm barn	①	Amputated limb	① ②
Udder conditions	① ② ④	Calves under 8 days of age	⑥
Displaced Abomasum	① ② ③	Animals at risk of becoming non-ambulatory in transport	①
Frozen or frostbitten teats	①	Rectal Prolapse	①
Cancer Eye but cow can still see	① ⑥	<p>Special Provisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Ship promptly and directly to nearest suitable abattoir. Call facility first to ensure prompt access. Do not market through auction. ② Ship in separate rear compartment with ample bedding. ③ Do not load with steep ramps (more than 25°). ④ Dry off lactating cows. ⑤ Ship with another quiet companion animal. ⑥ Do not ship to auction market. 	
Respiratory distress	① ②		
Lumpy Jaw	①		

Do Not Transport

Cattle being shipped with any of the following conditions are deemed ‘unfit for transport’ under the Health of Animals Regulations and will be condemned at the packing plant. It is important that producers recognize these conditions and euthanize the animal on farm, preventing further production and transportation costs. Early recognition of problems leading to condemnation may allow for early shipping and salvage of an animal. This will also result in improved animal welfare.

1 Very thin and weak

Very thin and weak is used to describe animals that are in very poor body condition (see Appendix B). These cows are not sound on their feet, are very narrow in the loin, have a hollow flank area, have backbones that can be easily seen or felt and pin bones of the pelvis that are easily felt. Weak cattle can be dehydrated, toxic or wobbly. At processing, very thin dairy cows have



Very thin and weak cow

little or no internal fat and may have a jelly like material in the spine and around the heart and kidneys.

Cows that are in danger of this condemnable condition usually have a secondary condition.

Producer Action:

- Do not transport.
- Be aware of the conditions your cattle are in and ship animals before they become very thin and weak. Err on the side of animal welfare.
- If possible and practical, feed until in good condition; otherwise, euthanize on-farm.
- Animals over 30 months of age in this category are desired for BSE testing.

2 Downer cattle

Animals that cannot rise, remain standing or walk without assistance as well as those that are severely lame (Appendix C, Lameness Score 5) must not be transported.

Producer Action:

- Do not transport.
- Euthanize on-farm.
- Animals over 30 months of age in this category are desired for BSE testing.

3 Unresponsive infectious disease with a continuing fever after 3 days over 104°F or 40°C

Producer Action:

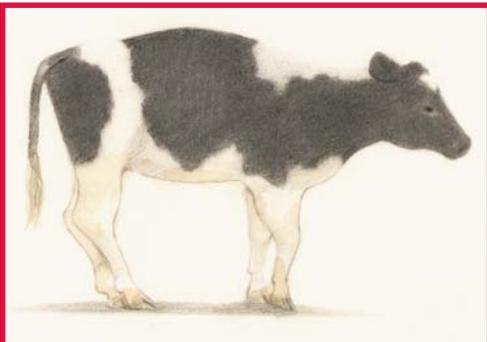
- Do not transport.
- Euthanize on-farm.

4 Infectious Arthritis affecting more than two joints

Arthritis is best handled in the next section where the animal is evaluated by the degree of lameness. Lameness is not always an indicator of arthritis. Swollen joints could be an indicator. However, consulting your veterinarian is needed for confirmation. An animal with more than two joints affected by arthritis will be condemned.

Producer Action:

- Do not transport.
- Euthanize on-farm.



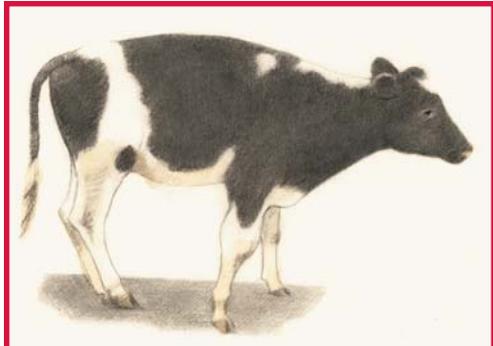
Swollen joints indicative of arthritis

5 Bone fractures

Broken or fractured bones can hamper mobility and cause severe pain. Any fracture can easily be agitated when an animal is handled or transported. **Alberta Milk has adopted a policy that dairy animals with broken limbs will not be transported except for therapeutic reasons and only if supervised by a veterinarian.**

Producer Action:

- Do not transport.
- Euthanize on-farm.
- Animals over 30 months of age in this category are desired for BSE testing.



Heifer with broken front leg

6 Congestive Heart Failure with brisket and abdominal fluid

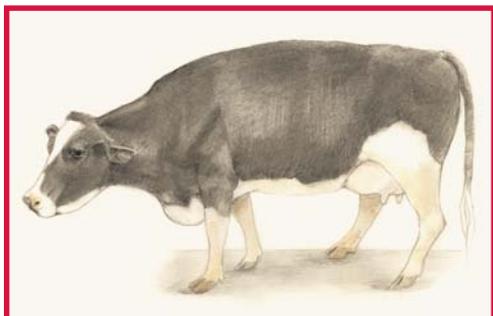
Congestive heart failure, obvious swollen brisket, engorged jugular.

Producer Action:

- Do not transport.
- Euthanize on-farm immediately.

7 Severe Cancer Eye

Where the infection is extended beyond the orbit of the eye and involves the bones and tissues of the face (see illustration on page 8).



Cow with brisket fluid

Producer Action:

- Do not transport.
- Euthanize on-farm.

8 Signs of nervous disorders or poisoning

These animals will be stumbling, hyper-excited, staggering and unresponsive to treatment. They may lie with neck bent back and one or more legs extended.

Producer Action:

- This could be a contagious, reportable disease. You must consult your veterinarian before the animal can be euthanized.
- Animals over 30 months of age in this category are desired for BSE testing.
- Do not transport.
- Euthanize on-farm.



Cow with nervous disorder

9 Prolapsed Uterus

Under no circumstances should a cow with a prolapsed uterus be transported.

Producer action:

- Do not transport.
- Call a veterinarian for treatment; if treatment is declined, euthanize on-farm immediately.



Cow with prolapsed uterus

10 Deep wound and/or profuse bleeding

Producer action:

- Do not transport.
- Call a veterinarian for treatment.
- If treatment is declined, euthanize on-farm immediately.

11 Dehydration or exhaustion

Producer action:

- Do not transport.
- Delay transport until rehydrated and rested.

12 Animals about to give birth and those that have given birth in the preceding 48 hours

Producer action:

- Wait until after 48 hours post-partum.

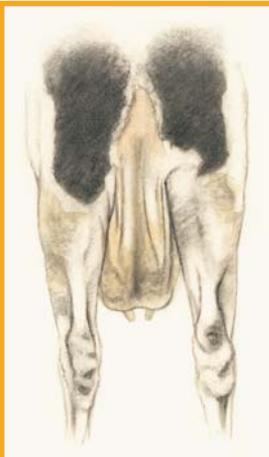
Transport Only with Special Provisions

Dairy cattle with less severe conditions should be segregated on the back of the truck or in a separate trailer to prevent trampling and trauma from other animals.

It is very important that producers identify these animals and either treat them or ship them early to minimize pain and discomfort and to prevent the condition from getting worse.

Animals segregated in trucks require extra protection from extreme weather. Abundant bedding is absolutely essential.

1 Lactating Cows



Cow with well involuted udder

Producer Action:

- All cull cows entering auction markets for meat should be dried-off and their udders should be well involuted.
- Lactating cull cows should go for immediate slaughter.

2 Lame Cattle (Leg problems)

Dairy cattle can be affected by different leg problems, which can range from mild to crippling, non-painful to extremely painful. Some examples of conditions that cause leg problems are foundering, arthritis, abscesses, fractures and skin ulcers in the joint area.

Determining the level of lameness allows you to make the right choices in dealing with lame cattle. Following these guidelines ensures the law is being followed.

The most important consideration when dealing with these cattle is assessing the whole animal. The animal may only be moderately lame, but if it is in poor condition and has other problems, it will likely be condemned. Therefore, it should be euthanized on-farm. **Conditions can't be viewed separately, the whole animal must be considered.**

Lameness Classes

Class A (see Appendix C, lameness score 3)

Visibly lame but can keep up with group; no evidence of pain.

Producer Action:

- Can be transported without any special conditions.

Class B (see Appendix C, lameness score 4)

Visibly lame and unable to keep up; needs assistance to rise; some difficulty climbing ramps; reluctant to walk; halted movement.

Producer Action:

- Segregate and load in rear compartment.
- Do not use steep ramps (must be less than 25°).
- Ship to nearest suitable abattoir.

3 Slick Cows

Slick cows (cows with no winter hair) and cows coming from warm barns must be shipped with special provisions to avoid hypothermia.

Producer Action:

- In winter, slick cows must be acclimated for at least 2 weeks before transporting. If this is not an option, take climate into consideration as an animal may be in transit for 2-3 weeks, or;
- As an alternative, ship directly to the nearest suitable abattoir (see definition, p 17).

4 Udder Conditions

Lactating cows that are not intended for milk production in someone else's herd should not be shipped to auction markets. Ideally, lactating cows to be sold for meat (NOT for further milking) are to go to the nearest suitable abattoir. Slaughter arrangements should be made within 24 hours. The alternative is to dry-off cows on-farm (about 3 weeks). It is important to monitor cows during dry-off, as there is an increased risk of complications.

The issue of cows dripping milk at auction markets is a public concern because you cannot further monitor her drying-off period (or the conditions associated with it) and treat any ensuing complications, thus creating an animal welfare problem.

Producer Action:

- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir.
- Load carefully in separate compartment or in rear of truck, or;
- Dry-off on-farm.

5 LDA/RDA – Left or Right Displaced Abomasums

Producer Action:

- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir.
- Call facility first to ensure prompt access.
- Ship in separate compartment with adequate bedding.
- Do not ship to auction.

6 Frozen/Frostbitten Teats

Producer Action:

- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir.
- Once cull decision is made, lactating animals must be slaughtered within 24 hours.

7 Cancer Eye

If the cancer lesion is small, within the orbit of the eye, the affected eye is visible and the animal can see, then the animal can be shipped to slaughter.

Producer Action:

- Do not ship to auction since there is no cure for the disease.
- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir.



Cancer Eye

How to tell Cancer Eye from Pinkeye	Cancer Eye	Pinkeye
White/pink tissue growth; tumors usually on the third eyelid, rarely on the eyeball	General swelling inside; white of eye is red; lesions on the eyeball	

8 Respiratory Distress

Producer Action:

- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir (see definition, p 17).
- Load carefully in separate compartment or in rear of truck.

9 Lumpy Jaw

Producer Action:

- If open and draining, ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir (see definition, p 17).



Lumpy Jaw

10 Bulls with penis injury

Producer Action:

- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir (see definition, p 17).
- Call facility first to ensure prompt access.
- Ship in separate compartment with ample bedding.



Penis injury

11 Blind

Blindness in both eyes.

Producer Action:

- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir (see definition, p 17).
- Do not ship to auction.
- Load carefully in separate compartment with one other quiet companion animal.

12 Amputee (other than claw)

Even though amputation is considered a beneficial medical procedure, animals in this condition are considered to be “very controversial at auction markets”.

Producer Action:

- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir (see definition, p 17).
- Load carefully in separate compartment or in rear of truck.

13 Calves under 8 days of age

It is unlawful to offer calves under 8 days of age for sale at auction (see Appendix A, Alberta Livestock Diseases Act).

Producer action:

- Make sure newborn calves ingest adequate amounts of good quality colostrum.
- Feed milk or milk replacer until calf is older.

14 Animals at risk of becoming non-ambulatory in transport

Animals that are debilitated due to injury, illness or surgical procedure (including castration and

dehorning) should be assessed before they are loaded for transport to determine whether they might become non-ambulatory during transport.

Producer Action:

- Ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir (see definition, p 17).

15 Rectal Prolapse

Producer Action:

- Treat on farm or ship directly to nearest suitable abattoir (see definition, p 17).

Appendix A: Legislation Affecting Livestock Transportation

Federal Legislation

1 Health of Animals Act (Transportation)

Under the Health of Animals Act it is illegal to:

- Transport a sick or injured animal where undue suffering will result, or when the animal is liable to give birth;
- Continue to transport an animal that is injured, becomes ill, or is otherwise unfit to travel;
- Load or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering;
- Crowd animals to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering;
- Transport animals if injury or suffering is likely to be caused by inadequate construction of the vehicle, insecure fittings, undue exposure to the weather or inadequate ventilation;

- Use ramps, gangplanks or chutes that are inadequately constructed or maintained and would be likely to cause injury or undue suffering to the animals;
- Confine monogastric animals, such as horses and pigs, in a motor vehicle for longer than 36 hours unless the animals are fed, watered and rested on a vehicle that is suitably equipped for the purpose;
- Confine ruminants, such as cattle, sheep and goats, in a motor vehicle for longer than 48 hours unless they can reach their final destination in 52 hours, or unless the animals are fed, watered and rested on a vehicle that is suitably equipped for the purpose;
- Load an animal for a trip of more than 24 hours without first providing food and water within 5 hours before loading.

The Health of Animals Act also requires that you:

- Segregate animals of different species, of substantially different weights and ages, or if incompatible by nature;
- Allow animals to stand in a natural position;
- Provide for drainage and absorption of urine;
- Either spread sand or have the vehicle fitted with safe footholds in addition to adequate bedding;
- Ensure that animals unloaded for feed, water and rest remain at least 5 hours, and longer, if necessary, for all of the animals to have access to feed and water.

2 Criminal Code of Canada

The Criminal Code states you are guilty of an offence if you:

- Willfully cause or allow unnecessary pain, suffering, or injury to an animal;
- By willful neglect cause injury to animals while they are being transported;
- Abandon an animal or fail to provide it with enough suitable food, water, shelter and care.

3 Meat Inspections Act

Every registered establishment in which food animals are slaughtered must have:

- Loading and unloading facilities;
- Outside shipping and receiving areas that are paved and adequately drained;
- A separate area to accommodate crates or pens for:
 - a) the housing and inspection of food animals;
 - b) segregation of animals where necessary;
 - c) holding of condemned, suspect, injured or sick animals.
- Facilities and equipment for:
 - a) restraining food animals *ante mortem*;
 - b) conveying injured or disabled animals in a humane manner;

- c) slaughtering condemned food animals.
- Facilities with secure footing for food animals during movement;
- Pens that provide adequate ventilation, space, and potable water and feed if the animal is held for more than 24 hours.

Every food animal that is slaughtered shall, before being bled:

- Be rendered unconscious in a manner that ensures it does not regain consciousness before death.

All people engaged in the handling and slaughtering of food animals should:

- Not subject the animals to avoidable distress or pain;
- Restrict the use of goads and electrical prods;
- Ensure no goad or electrical prod is applied to the anal, genital or facial region of an animal;
- Separate animals that are diseased, injured or potentially dangerous.

Provincial Legislation

1 Alberta's Animal Protection Act

This Act states that if you own an animal or are in charge of an animal, you cannot cause it to be in distress or permit it to remain in distress.

An animal is in distress if it:

- Does not have adequate, food, water, care or shelter;
- Is injured, sick, in pain or suffering, or;
- Is abused or neglected.

An animal is not in distress if:

- The distress happens through reasonable and accepted ways of raising or keeping animals (e.g. branding of calves, slaughter of livestock).

A Peace Officer (this includes Alberta SPCA Constables):

- Can legally do whatever is considered necessary to relieve an animal's distress if the owner does not quickly relieve that distress, or if the owner cannot be found. These expenses may be charged to the owner of the animal;
- Can decide that an animal cannot be relieved of distress or live without undergoing excessive suffering. The owner of the animal must pay for costs of destroying it.
- May enter any land, vehicle, or place (other than a private home) if there is a reason to believe an animal is in distress.
- May inspect any place (other than a private home) where animals are kept for sale, hire or exhibition. They may inspect any vehicle used to transport animals.

2 Livestock and Livestock Products Act and Regulations

The Livestock and Livestock Products Act deals, in part, with the transportation of animals, and is in force everywhere in Alberta. It parallels the federal Health of Animals Act. See federal act for more details.

3 Veterinary Profession Act

This Act states that no person except a registered veterinarian or permit holder shall engage in the practice of veterinary medicine. However, persons who engage in the following activities are exempt:

- Dehorning sheep, cattle or goats;
- Docking pigs, sheep or horses;
- Castrating cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or horses.

This Act also states that a person handling these animals should be merciful and humane by preventing needless suffering among animals.

4 Livestock Diseases Act (Livestock Market and Livestock Assembly Station Regulation)

In this regulation, the operator of a livestock market must ensure that the construction and maintenance provide:

- Adequate protection to all calves under 115 kg and all swine present;
- Separation of livestock that are infirm, ill, injured, fatigued, unable to stand or compete;
- Every pen and passageway inside and outside the building with a concrete or earth floor that is adequately drained.

No person or operator can:

- Unload at a livestock market or assembling station any livestock that by reason of infirmity, illness, injury, fatigue or other cause is unable to stand or is unduly suffering.
- Allow livestock to remain at that facility for a period exceeding six days. If livestock is present for more than 24 hours, it is the operator's responsibility to ensure sufficient space, shelter, feed, water and bedding for that animal.
- Offer for sale at a livestock market, any species of weaned livestock that is less than 8 days old.

5 Alberta Meat Inspection Act

No person shall slaughter an animal unless an inspector has inspected the animal immediately before the time of slaughter. This does not apply to a mobile butcher who slaughters or assists in the slaughter of animals, the meat from which is to be consumed by the producer of the animal or by the members of the producer's immediate household.

No person shall sell, offer for sale, transport or deliver meat to any person unless:

- The animal from which the meat was obtained was inspected by an inspector;
- The slaughter of the animal took place at an abattoir;

- There was a post-mortem inspection of the carcass of the animal;
- The meat is judged by an inspector to be healthy and fit for human consumption.

Abattoirs must:

- Have ramps, alleys and inclines for the movement of animals to slaughter that are constructed in a manner that provides safe movement, and that have good footing, for the animals;
- Be constructed in a manner that allows appropriate handling of all species of animals that will be handled there;
- Have pens for keeping animals before slaughter that:
 - a) are constructed with floors that enable easy cleaning and sanitizing;
 - b) have a roof capable of providing shade and shelter from precipitation;
 - c) have adequate ventilation;
 - d) are not overcrowded;
 - e) are not used to fatten animals.

General care of animals:

- A person shall not inflict unnecessary pain or discomfort on any animal that is being prepared to slaughter or slaughtered;
- The operator of an abattoir shall ensure that animals being received by the abattoir are provided immediate shelter;
- A person shall not keep an animal in a pen for more than 24 hours without providing it with adequate feed, water and bedding;
- A person shall not use any instrument for slaughtering or rendering unconscious an animal unless that person's ability and physical condition at the time are such as enable its use without inflicting unnecessary pain on the animal.

- A person shall not use any mechanically operated instrument in such a manner, in such circumstances or in such a need of repair, as to risk causing unnecessary pain to the animal.

Death from natural causes or accident:

- A person shall not take into an abattoir an animal that has died from natural causes or because of an accident;
- An operator shall ensure that an animal that dies in the abattoir from natural causes or because of an accident is removed forthwith from the abattoir and disposed of.

Mobile butchers:

- Shall carry out the complete slaughter operation, including rendering the animal unconscious and bleeding, eviscerating and removing the head, feet and hide on the animal owner's premises;
- Shall not carry out any part of that operation elsewhere;
- Shall identify the carcass and all other edible portions of the animal by affixing tags on them stating "UNINSPECTED – NOT FOR SALE".

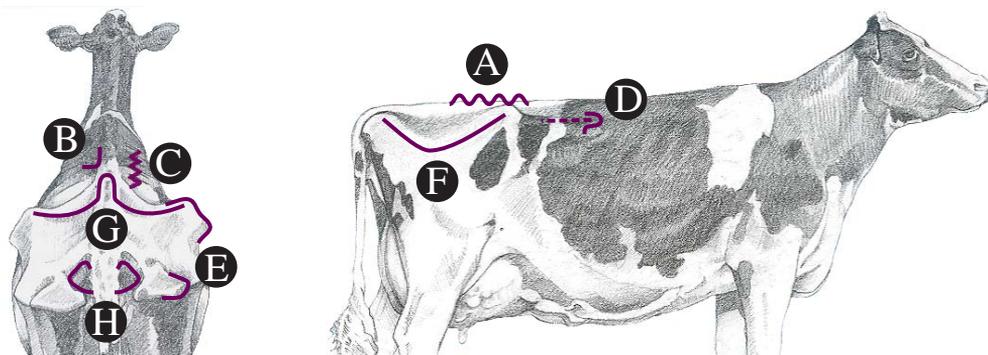
Live condemned animals:

- An operator shall ensure that a condemned live animal is slaughtered apart from animals not condemned.

The regulations prescribe humane methods of rendering animals unconscious prior to slaughter.

A person who contravenes this Act or the regulations under this Act is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term of not more than one year.

Appendix B: A Definition of Very Thin & Weak



- A** Individual vertebrae distinct, saw-like topline.
- B** Sharp angle between vertebrae and short ribs.
- C** Ends of short ribs very prominent.
- D** Definite shelf, tucked in below.
- E** Hooks and pins very sharp, no tissue cover.
- F** Very sunken between hooks and pins.
- G** Distinct depression between hooks and spine.
- H** Deep cavity under tailhead.

Animals that are both thin and weak are likely to be judged 'emaciated' or 'wasted' upon post-mortem inspection at the abattoir. Emaciated carcasses are condemned (see Appendix A, Alberta Meat Inspection Act).

Appendix C: Lameness Scoring System for Dairy Cows

Score	Description	Behavioural Criteria
1 Sound	Smooth and fluid movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat back when standing and walking • All legs bear weight equally • Joints flex freely • Head carriage remains steady as the animal moves
2	Ability to move freely not diminished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat or mildly arched back when standing and walking • All legs bear weight equally • Joints slightly stiff • Head carriage remains steady
3	Capable of locomotion but ability to move freely is compromised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat or mildly arched back when standing, but obviously arched when walking • Slight limp can be discerned in one limb • Joints show signs of stiffness but do not impede freedom of movement • Head carriage remains steady
4	Ability to move freely is obviously diminished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obvious arched back when standing and walking • Reluctant to bear weight on at least one limb but still uses that limb in locomotion • Strides are hesitant and deliberate and joints are stiff • Head bobs slightly as animal moves in accordance with the sore hoof making contact with the ground
5 Severely Lame	Ability to move is severely restricted Must be vigorously encouraged to stand and/or move	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme arched back when standing and walking • Inability to bear weight on one or more limbs • Obvious joint stiffness characterized by lack of joint flexion with very hesitant and deliberate strides • One or more strides obviously shortened • Head obviously bobs as sore hoof makes contact with the ground
source: University of British Columbia Animal Welfare Program		

Appendix D: Euthanasia Guidelines

Euthanasia is the humane termination of the life of an animal. The method used must be quick and humane and must be performed correctly using acceptable industry practices.

Acceptable

- *Penetrating Captive Bolt*: head must be captured in a chute or secured to a solid object using rope or halter shank.
- *Non-penetrating Captive Bolt*: same as above.
- *Gunshot*: .22 calibre for calves, .22 Long Rifle for cows, high-powered rifle for bulls.
- *Barbiturate*: only a licensed veterinarian may administer a drug to euthanize.

Not acceptable

- *Blunt trauma*: hammer or gate pin to the head.
- *Bleeding*: laceration of carotid arteries & jugular vein is not acceptable unless the animal has been stunned first (with captive bolt or gunshot).
- *Air embolism*: injecting air into the artery of an animal is not acceptable because a swift and painless death cannot be assured.
- *Any other method* (electrocution unless in a registered packing plant, injection of chemicals not designed for euthanasia) is prohibited.

In the trailer

It is NOT acceptable to drag or chain a broken legged animal or downer from the trailer. If the animal must be euthanized it is to be done inside the unit. Be extremely cautious when working in the confines of a trailer.

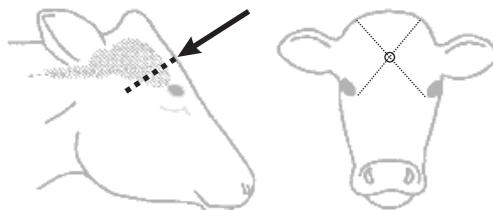
Confirmation of death

Confirmation of death is absolutely critical regardless of the method of euthanasia used. The following can be used to confirm death:

- Lack of a heartbeat—check by placing a stethoscope under the left elbow.
 - Lack of respiration—absence of chest movement.
 - Lack of corneal reflex—test by touching the eyeball and noting whether the animal blinks.
- Lack of heartbeat *and* respiration for more than five minutes should be used to confirm death.

Disposal

Carcasses that have been chemically euthanised by a licensed veterinarian can accidentally poison scavengers (coyotes, birds). Take the proper precautions.



The diagram above details the point of entry and direction of a captive bolt or firearm for the purpose of euthanasia. For captive bolt stunning, the head must be secured in a chute or tied to a solid object using a rope or halter.

Appendix E: Animal Welfare Definitions

Abscess: A localized collection of pus in a cavity of disintegrated tissue.

Animal Welfare: A state in which an animal's individual needs are met for nutrition, shelter, health and the ability to express its natural behaviour, and in which it is free from undue pain and suffering.

Arthritis: Joint inflammation, causing pain, which results in increasing reluctance to move; and which often causes the animal to spend more time lying down.

Distress: A condition in which an animal experiences excessive fear, pain or anxiety.

Downer: An animal that cannot rise, remain standing or walk without assistance.

Euthanasia: A painless killing without distress

Pain: Physical or mental suffering. Extreme discomfort. An animal in pain may show the following signs:

- Unwillingness to rise;
- Reluctance to place a foot on the ground and bear weight;
- Unwillingness to walk with equal weight distribution on all four limbs - limping;
- Lying on its side;
- Groaning;
- Vocalization when encouraged to rise or move;

- Trembling;
- Rapid breathing;
- An arched back combined with tucked up abdomen;
- Flinching in response to pressure;
- An expression of intense anxiety;
- Unwillingness to eat or drink;
- Standing or living apart from the group.

Prolapse: Protrusion of an organ or part of an organ from its normal position due to inadequate strength of supportive tissue (e.g., rectal, vaginal or uterine prolapse)

Slaughter: Humane killing of animals for food.

Suffering: The state of enduring physical or mental pain, or injury.

Nearest Suitable Abattoir: A facility less than 4 hours away and providing assurance that the animal will be killed within 24 hours.

