

**CODE OF PRACTICE
FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS - CATTLE**

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Introduction

The aims of this Code are:

- to promote humane and considerate treatment of beef and dairy cattle, and the use of good husbandry practices to improve the welfare of cattle in all types of farming enterprises;
- to inform all people responsible for the care and management of cattle about their responsibilities; and
- to set an industry standard by defining acceptable cattle management practices.

"Cattle" includes all domestic bovines eg. cows, bulls, steers, heifers, and calves. "Calves" are under 6 months of age.

This Code should be read in conjunction with other Codes of Practice endorsed by the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand (ARMCANZ), and with ACT animal welfare legislation.

Advice and/or assistance with specific management or disease control problems is available from the ACT Government, veterinarians in private practice and consultants.

1. Basic Welfare Needs

Whatever the form of husbandry, owners and managers have a legal and moral responsibility to attend to the welfare of the cattle under their control.

Persons managing and handling cattle must be competent. The skills for managing and handling cattle include the ability to:

- work so that stress to cattle is minimised;
- use the natural behaviour of cattle; and
- recognise the early signs of distress or disease and to initiate prompt and appropriate preventive or remedial action.

Good stockpersons are flexible in their approach to cattle management and handling and adapt to the needs of differing cattle and circumstances.

The basic needs for the welfare of cattle are:

- Adequate quantity and quality of water, food and air to maintain good health;
- Social contact with other cattle. Individual cattle, such as house cows, may adapt to solitude, provided other welfare requirements are met;
- Sufficient space to stand, lie down, stretch and groom, and to perform normal patterns of behaviour;
- Protection from predation;
- Protection from disease or injury, and appropriate treatment if they occur;
- Protection from adverse extremes of climate or unseasonal changes in weather conditions, where possible;
- Precautions against the effects of natural disasters; and
- Protection from unnecessary, unreasonable or unjustifiable pain, suffering or injury.

1.1 Water

Cattle must have access to an adequate supply of cool clean drinking water. For approximate consumption rates of water for cattle see **Appendix 1**.

Cattle should not be deprived of access to water for periods longer than 24 hours - unless in transit, in which case the ARMCANZ codes of practice for the road, rail and air transport of livestock apply.

Cattle used to drinking salty water may need special consideration. If they refuse fresh water, they may need a gradual change from salty to fresh water.

Where water medications (eg bloat or facial eczema preventatives) are to be used they should be introduced gradually. Cattle should be observed to ensure they do not refuse to drink the medicated water.

1.2 Air

Cattle must not be kept in or exposed to any situation where the air is so contaminated with dust or noxious chemicals, as to be harmful to the long term welfare of those animals. Use of sprinklers or misters to settle dust should be considered in extremely dusty situations. Dust is not only a health hazard but may impede smooth, safe working of cattle in yards.

1.3 Food

Cattle should have access to or be provided with food that will maintain their well-being (**see Appendix 2**). They should not be deprived of access to food for periods longer than 48 hours. Animals in poor condition, in late pregnancy or early lactation, should not be deprived of access to food for periods longer than 24 hours.

Food available should meet the requirements of maintenance, growth, pregnancy and lactation, and provide for any extra demands, such as exercise or cold stress.

If the pasture is poor, in quality and/or quantity of feed, and no supplements are being fed, the stocking rate should be reduced accordingly.

Cattle should be protected as far as possible from toxic plants or other substances harmful to their health. Where by-products are fed to cattle, adequate treatments must be used to destroy potential toxins, and adequate monitoring for toxic substances should be carried out regularly.

Dusty feeds cause breathing and eye problems. Handfed rations should not be too finely processed. Dusty feeds should be dampened daily with a fine water spray.

If feed is fed in a form cattle are not accustomed to, appropriate measures such as "teacher" animals should be used to encourage animals to eat. If an animal does not commence eating the new feed within 24 hours, an alternative feed acceptable to the animal should be provided.

1.4 Precautions Against Drought/Seasonal Feed Shortages

Drought may be defined as a severe shortage of food and/or water, usually the result of prolonged periods of low rainfall. It is not a normal seasonal decline in the quantity and quality of food available.

Where minimal water and food requirements cannot be met (whether or not drought conditions prevail), cattle should be moved or agisted to a place where feed and water is adequate, sold or humanely slaughtered, as soon as possible.

Cattle being fed for survival should be attended to at least twice a week. Where possible they should be grouped appropriately, by sex, age & size, to reduce competition. Shy feeders require special attention and treatment, depending upon type of food, method of feeding and strength of competing cattle.

Weak cattle, or cattle in poor condition, which go down after limited exercise are not fit to travel, and should not be permitted to do so. They should be fed and watered until they are fit to travel or promptly and humanely destroyed.

Weakened cattle which are strong enough to travel should be transported to their destination by the shortest possible route. Weakened cattle should not be mixed with strong animals or subjected to the stress of sale through saleyards.

As far as possible, weakened cattle should be given special protection against exposure to extremes of weather, especially when in transit.

1.5 Protection from Climatic Extremes and Predation

As far as practicable cattle should be protected from adverse weather conditions, including climatic extremes, unseasonal changes and other factors causing cold stress or heat stress. The provision of shade, or alternative means of cooling such as misters and sprays, is required where cattle would otherwise suffer from heat stress.

Where cold stress is likely, shelter (eg. windbreaks) and additional fodder should be provided. Cold stress is worsened by wind chill and wetting of the coat. Calves are particularly at risk.

Plans should be made and reasonable steps should be taken to ensure protection from the effects of natural disasters. Cattle must be attended to after a natural disaster such as bushfire or flood. Immediate treatment or humane destruction may be required depending on the animal's condition.

All reasonable steps should be taken to protect stock from predators.

2. Artificial Rearing of Calves

Housing for artificially reared calves should be hygienic, with adequate ventilation, climate control and lighting. 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.

Careful attention to group sizes, access to feed, milking shed location, ancillary accommodation, lighting, air inlets and outlets, handling facilities and stalls can alleviate problems of health, stress or aggression.

For multiple calf rearing systems, where individual calf pens are used, these should be so made and located to allow each calf to see and hear other cattle (ie. at least one other individual). 1.5 to 2.0 m² of floor area per calf should be provided to permit self-grooming and prevent overcrowding. The total shed volume should provide for at least 5.5 m³ per calf.

In cold weather, adequate shelter or housing, and feeds with a high energy content should be provided.

Calves should receive at least two litres of fresh or preserved colostrum or an approved substitute within the first 12 hours following birth. Thereafter, they should be fed on liquid milk, commercial milk-replacer or colostrum, in sufficient quantities to provide essential requirements for maintenance and growth. High quality pasture, hay or pellets should be available to calves from no later than 3 weeks of age to help in development of their digestive tracts.

Hygienic calf feeding practices, including thorough daily cleansing of all equipment are essential to protect calf health and welfare and to prevent diarrhoea.

Milk-replacers based on skim milk should not be fed to calves under three weeks of age, unless they are in a properly balanced formulated mixture of protein, fat and vitamins. Milk replacers should be reconstituted according to manufacturers instructions. Milk and milk-replacers should not be fed in excess of body temperature (39°C).

Calves should be weaned off milk, milk replacer or colostrum on to rations providing all essential requirements, only when their ruminant digestive systems have developed sufficiently to enable them to maintain growth and well-being, and not earlier than 6 weeks of age. Restricted rations of the "white veal" type ie. iron-free diets which cause anaemia, are unacceptable.

Where large numbers of calves are reared, they should be grouped by age and segregated by size to reduce competition for food and to allow closer observation and management.

3. Cattle Handling Facilities, Mustering and Yarding

Sheds, pens, yards, lanes, ramps and other areas where cattle come together should be constructed and maintained so as to minimise stress, injury and disease. The design and construction of such areas should enable dust and noise to be minimised.

Yard design should avoid sudden changes in levels, poor lighting, narrow passages and awkward or 90° turns. Well-designed yards will take advantage of the natural behaviour of cattle and encourage the free movement of animals through the facility. Effective use of visual barriers and visible passageways and gateways will assist easy working of cattle.

Objects such as water and feed troughs, gate hinges and latches should be designed and located so as to avoid injury to cattle. Yard pens should be calf-proof.

Floors of yards, sheds, pens and loading ramps should have a surface that minimises slipping and is easy to clean.

Holding yards should be designed to minimise stress or injury and to allow all animals held to lie down and to exercise.

Yards should be constructed and maintained to avoid development of boggy areas. Yards should have sufficient slope to provide effective drainage. Uneven or steeply sloping surfaces increase the risk of falling. Surfaces or gratings which upset the smooth movement of cattle should be modified.

Depending on management requirements cattle should be confined on concrete surfaces as briefly as possible. Prolonged physical contact with concrete floors predisposes cattle to lameness, particularly in wet conditions when the horn of the hoof is softened. Artificial floors should be non-slip, nonabrasive, and easy to clean and dry.

Gravel tracks to and from paddocks, sheds or dairies should be maintained adequately to avoid excessive hoof wear and consequent lameness. Cattle with worn hooves should not be forced to walk on rough tracks.

Restraint facilities should allow for safe inspection and treatment of cattle. Races and crushes should be constructed to allow efficient handling of cattle without endangering animals or handlers. Head restraint facilities should allow for quick release and avoid choking. Walk-through bails are preferred; guillotine headbails are not recommended.

Cattle must not be driven to the point of collapse.

Cattle should be handled quietly. The use of goads and dogs for the handling and moving of cattle, should be limited to the minimum necessary to complete the procedures. Dogs that bite cattle should be muzzled when working.

The use of shotgun pellets on cattle as an aid to mustering (or for any other purpose) is not acceptable.

Goads should be made of cane, leather or plastic. "Flappers" (leather straps attached to a cane) are acceptable. Metal or wooden pickets, pipes, strikers and fencing wire are not acceptable for use on animals.

Electric goads should be powered only by battery or hand dynamo. Use of electric goads on animals with no room to move or on young animals in mixed-age groups is unacceptable.

The use of unreasonable force in twisting an animal's tail to cause it to move is unacceptable. Force sufficient to cause breakage or dislocation of the tail is unreasonable.

Electric fences should be designed, maintained and used so that contact with them does not cause unnecessary pain or distress. When first exposed to electric fencing, cattle should have adequate time and space to become accustomed to it.

Cattle being moved should be kept in familiar groups: except where they are normally in together, it is best to keep separate:

- horned and polled animals;
- bulls and cows; and
- calves and unfamiliar older cattle.

4. Management Practices

4.1 General

Restraint should be the minimum necessary to perform management procedures efficiently.

Procedures and practices that cause pain should not be carried out if painless and practical methods of husbandry can be adopted to achieve the same result.

Procedures and practices applied to cattle must be competently performed.

Any injury, illness or distress observed should be promptly treated.

Appropriate hygienic precautions should be undertaken for all operations.

4.2 Supervision

In any situation, supervision should be by competent stockpersons.

Frequency and level of inspection should be related to the potential risks to the welfare of the cattle and their handlers.

Cattle kept under intensive management in sheds, lots or yards should be inspected at least daily, fed daily and have ready access to water. Due attention should be given to shy feeders.

Grazing cattle require supervision, according to the class of cattle, density of stocking, availability of suitable feed, reliability of the water supply, age, pregnancy status, climatic conditions and management practices.

Absentee landowners have a responsibility to ensure that cattle grazing their land are inspected frequently enough to prevent welfare problems.

4.3 Milking Practices

Dairy cows should be milked at regular times each day. Cows in full milk should be milked at least twice daily.

Careful management of the milking procedure and proper milking machine function are essential to the welfare of dairy cattle. Milking machines should be checked and correctly adjusted by a competent technician at least annually. Milking technique must minimise the risks of discomfort or injury to the cow and the development or transmission of disease.

4.4 Castration

Castration by knife or burdizzo without local or general analgesics/anaesthetics should be confined to calves at their first muster and preferably under the age of six months. Only under exceptional circumstances should castration of older bulls be performed, and then preferably by a veterinarian.

Castration with rubber rings is only recommended for calves up to 2 weeks of age.

4.5 Spaying

Spaying by vaccination is preferred to surgical spaying. It enables cull females to survive and achieve marketable condition by preventing the stress of unmanaged pregnancy, calving and lactation. It also assists in controlling the genetic quality of the herd. Surgical spaying should be conducted only by a veterinarian.

4.6 Tail Docking

Tail docking of dairy cows should be performed only where necessary for udder health or when otherwise prescribed by a veterinarian.

4.7 Identification

Ear-tagging, ear-marking, tattooing, implanting, freeze-branding, electronic characterisation and photography are the preferred methods of identifying cattle, from a welfare viewpoint.

Branding with corrosive chemicals is unacceptable.

4.8 Dehorning

Breeding for polled cattle makes dehorning unnecessary and is therefore recommended.

To minimise injury all horned cattle should be dehorned as young as possible and prior to weaning and at a suitable time to reduce fly worry. After dehorning, cattle should be inspected regularly for the first 10 days, and any infected wounds treated.

Dehorning domesticated cattle without local analgesics should be confined to animals at the first muster and preferably under 6 months of age. Older animals may be "tipped" without anaesthetic in order to reduce their potential to cause injury. Dehorning of adults must be done by a veterinarian using anaesthetic.

Dehorning by means of chemicals should only be performed by a competent operator and within the first few days after birth.

The recommended methods for dehorning of calves are by heat cautery, scoop dehorner or gouging knife, as soon as the horn buds are detectable.

4.9 Mating

Testing of bulls for serving capacity should only be performed under veterinary supervision using mature cows with normal reproductive organs; such cows should not be used for longer than two hours in any 24 hour period. Females which have had one calf may be used with 2-3 year old bulls; older cows should be used with adult bulls.

Female cattle should not be mated to bulls whose calves are likely to be too large to be born normally.

Semen collection, artificial insemination, embryo collection, embryo transfer, and associated operations should be performed only by or under the direct supervision of operators with recognised qualifications.

4.10 Calving and Weaning Practices

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

- select heifers for mating only when they have reached the minimum target weight for the breed;
- avoid over- or under-feeding pregnant cows and heifers;
- avoid mating heifers to large bulls, or British breed heifers to European breed bulls; and
- cows close to calving should be supervised, and veterinary help summoned early if needed.

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

Calving cows should be checked frequently, where possible, but with minimal disturbance. Difficult calvings should be promptly detected and attended by a competent operator.

Manual removal of retained foetal membranes is seldom helpful. It should only be carried out by a competent operator, and only once separation of cotyledons is complete at around 3 days after calving.

Calves should be weaned only when their ruminant digestive systems have developed sufficiently to enable them to maintain growth and well-being, and not earlier than 3 months of age for naturally fed calves, or 6 weeks of age for artificially reared calves.

Cattle handlers should use weaning time to familiarise weaners with routine management practices.

The dam's condition should be taken into account when deciding when to wean.

Cows with cancer eye should be culled or treated as soon as possible after cancer is noticed. Cancers must not be allowed to progress untreated simply to permit the cow to complete raising a calf.

4.11 Marketing of Bobby Calves

See Appendix 3.

5. Health

Appropriate preventive measures should be used for diseases that are common or are likely to occur in the herd. A suitable vaccination, internal and external parasite control plan should be devised and followed for each farm.

Internal medications, such as vaccines and drenches, and external medications, such as dips and pour-on formulations, should be stored and given in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and recommended methods of administration. Overdosing may harm cattle and underdosing may result in failure to reach the required effect. Expiry dates should be strictly observed.

Sick, injured or diseased cattle should be treated promptly and appropriately, or humanely slaughtered. Separation from other cattle is recommended while the condition persists. Disposal of carcasses should be hygienic, eg by burial, especially to control any access by dogs, and so prevent the spread of disease such as hydatid disease.

6. Agistment

The responsibility for the welfare of agisted cattle remains with the owner of land and the cattle and must be defined by agreement in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

7. Humane Destruction of Cattle

The preferred methods of humane destruction are:

- overdose of anaesthetic by veterinary surgeon; or
- euthanasia using gunshot of appropriate charging calibre or captive-bolt pistol by 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 (**See Figure 1**).

Use of shotguns is prohibited for the destruction of cattle.

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

Killing may also be by gunshot using the temporal or poll methods. All other methods of killing are unacceptable (eg neck or chest shots and the use of a pole axe).

Appendix 1 - Water Requirement Guidelines

1. Guidelines to Consumption

Water requirements depend on age, bodyweight, production level, air temperature, humidity, dry matter intake, and dry matter content of the feed eaten.

Body weight (kg)		Average Water Consumption (litres per day)
50		6 - 7
70		7 - 9
90		10 - 11
120		14 - 16
150		18 - 20
190		20 - 25
350		25 - 35
450		35 - 45
540 to 730	(including dry cows)	20 - 40
540 to 730	(including lactating cows)	45 - 110

2. Mineral Salts

Salty water can cause gastrointestinal symptoms, wasting and sometimes death. The severity of the symptoms can depend on other factors which must be taken into account with a knowledge of local conditions.

Factors to consider:

- Tolerance to salinity varies from high to low in: sheep, cattle and buffalo, horses, pigs, poultry.
- Climate - e.g. animals are less tolerant to salty waters during hot, dry periods.
- Age and condition- lactating, growing and weak animals require better quality water.
- Composition of pastures - higher salinity water is tolerated better if cattle are on green pastures.
- Habituation - stock not accustomed to salty water can suffer ill effects or refuse to drink, but adjust if introduced gradually.
- Composition of feed - salt content of prepared feed should be reduced if water is salty. In summer and during dry periods, the salinity of water increases, rivers and troughs increases due to evaporation, and drinking troughs should be flushed regularly.
- Where salinity of water may be high, it should be tested and ACT Government and/or specialist advice sought about its suitability as stock drinking water.

Appendix 2 - Feed Requirement Guidelines

1. General Statement

Cattle should have their appetites satisfied, which requires about 2.5% of their bodyweight per day on a dry matter basis. Dry feeds normally contain about 10% moisture. Feed mixtures should contain sufficient digestible energy, protein and minerals to allow for the healthy growth of different classes of stock.

Requirements vary with age, growth rate, pregnancy and lactation, so the quality and digestibility of the ration must be adjusted to supply the needs of the animals within the limits of appetite. Diets should be formulated with reference to tables of nutritional data on feeds and tables showing the requirements of different classes of livestock.

Advice should be sought from various publications on the subject, from ACT Government advisers, or private consultants. Computer programs are available to assist in feed formulation.

The most important feed characteristic is its energy content, which must be matched to the needs of the particular class of animals. Various units are used to measure digestible energy values in formulating feeds for example, megajoules (MJ) of metabolisable (usable) energy (ME) per kg of feed.

2. Dry Cattle

For young cattle under 300 kg liveweight at maintenance, the ration should contain not less than 7.5 MJ ME/kg DM and be fed at the rate of 2.5 kg DM/100 kg liveweight/day.

For older cattle over 300 kg liveweight the ration should contain not less than 6.3 MJ ME/kg DM and be fed at the rate of 2 kg DM/100 kg liveweight/day, up to 500 kg liveweight, reducing to 1 kg DM/100 kg liveweight for cattle over 500 kg liveweight.

3. Breeding Cows

For pregnant cows in the last third of pregnancy, the ration should contain not less than 9.6 MJ ME/kg DM and be fed at the rate of 1.5 kg DM/100 kg liveweight.

Appendix 3 - Bobby Calves

Guidelines for the Welfare of Bobby Calves

Introduction

The basis of good commercial management of bobby calves for pink veal is the correct care and attention to the health and welfare of the calves.

The objective of these guidelines is to set out the requirements for humane handling and transportation of bobby calves.

Due to their size and age, bobby calves are particularly sensitive to adverse conditions during handling and transport. Care needs to be taken to ensure humane treatment of bobby calves.

People in possession of bobby calves and those who handle bobby calves have a responsibility to be sensitive to the welfare of the bobby calves under their control. This responsibility is separate from the economic interests of the industry.

Purchase of bobby calves by private organisations for fund raising purposes is to be discouraged unless competent stock handling skills can be demonstrated by the persons involved.

Transporters must ensure that bobby calves reach their destination as speedily as possible, within the confines of the road-traffic laws, and in a condition not significantly less than the condition they were in when they were assembled for loading. The possibility of either injury or illness occurring during transport must be minimal. Good management and skilled driving are important to the welfare of bobby calves carried by road or other forms of transport.

Management practices need to be considered in terms of the impact they have on the welfare of the bobby calves. The importance of good stock handling skills in animal welfare cannot be over-emphasised. The important skill of the competent stock person is the ability to recognise the early signs of distress or disease in bobby calves so that the cause can be identified and prompt, appropriate action initiated.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of these guidelines :-

- A bobby calf is a calf not accompanied by its dam and under the age of 4 weeks.
- Slaughterhouses, meatworks and abattoirs are collectively described as abattoirs in these guidelines.
- Transport includes the act of loading, waiting periods during loading, transit, rest periods and the act of unloading at the point of destination.

3. Selection and Handling

Bobby calves which are presented for sale should be bright, alert, strong, vigorous, able to stand on their own, capable of being transported and, at least, 4 days old. Bobby calves must be fed in the six (6) hours prior to delivery to a sale yard or pick-up point.

The minimum live-weight for bobby calves being sold is 23 kilograms at the point of sale.

The umbilical cord at the junction with the skin should be dry and shrivelled. Fresh, wet, raw, pink or "green" cords indicate excessively young bobby calves which are not to be presented for sale or transport. Bobby calves which have had their cords removed and/or treated should be inspected individually for evidence of dryness by the person responsible for the calves.

Calves which are "dopey", lethargic or obviously immature, should not be presented for sale or transport regardless of actual age.

Sick or injured-calves should be provided with veterinary or other appropriate attention or treatment or be humanely destroyed. Sick or injured calves should not be presented for sale, transport or slaughter.

Handling of bobby calves should be carried out in a manner which avoids injury or unnecessary suffering for the calf. Bobby calves should not be kicked, beaten, pulled, thrown, "dumped", or prodded with any sharp instrument. The use of electrical goading devices or dogs when handling, driving, drafting, weighing, loading or unloading bobby calves is not acceptable practice.

Calves treated with veterinary drugs and/or agricultural chemicals should be identified as having been treated and be withheld from slaughter according to the instructions on the label.

Bobby calves intended for slaughter should be fed on whole milk or milk replacer, not milk from cows treated for mastitis or any other ailment.

Veterinary advice should be sought for treatment of calves with diarrhoea.

4. Holding Facilities

These include on-farm holding facilities, public calf sales, pickup facilities (including mobile operations), calf scales and abattoirs.

Facilities should be constructed to prevent calves being hurt or injured during loading or unloading.

Holding pens should be constructed to provide floor surfaces that are dry, sanitary, non-slip and capable of being cleaned. Holding pens should be constructed so as to provide shelter from wind and rain at all times.

The handling of bobby calves at calf sales and calf pick-up points should be conducted so as to prevent calves being hurt or injured. The operation of calf-scales and calf pick-up points and the transport of calves to saleyards or direct to an abattoir should be coordinated to permit the slaughter of bobby calves within 24 hours of leaving the farm.

Places where bobby calves are held (public saleyards, pick-up facilities, scales and abattoirs) should have facilities and contingency plans to feed calves in the event of delayed removal or slaughter of the calves. Disposable calf drenchers, such as the model produced by Bovi-vet, are ideal for feeding individual calves with milk replacer. Special attention should be given to any weak calves.

Bobby calves which are not collected from the pick-up points by 8.00 a.m. (0800 hours) on the day following the day of offering should be fed by the person in possession, or having custody of the calves, at that time. Thereafter, the calves should be fed at a maximum interval of 24 hours or slaughtered/destroyed.

If, for any reason, slaughter of bobby calves is delayed at the abattoir beyond 24 hours after leaving the farm, then the calves should be fed at intervals not exceeding 24 hours.

Fresh or stored whole milk or re-constituted milk replacer provides all the essential nutrients for bobby calves. There are no satisfactory substitutes. Milk replacers should be re-constituted according to the manufacturer's instruction.

Milk and milk replacer should not be fed to calves at a temperature exceeding body temperature, 37° C.

To minimise the transmission of disease and to have feeding utensils in an hygienic condition it may be necessary to clean the utensils for calves between feeds.

Calves should have access to clean drinking water.

5. Transportation

All bobby calves should be fed on the farm within 6 hours of transportation for sale.

The driver of the vehicle is responsible for the care and welfare of all bobby calves during transport. The owner of calves during transport is also responsible even when not present.

Owners, or owner's representatives, should not put forward for transport bobby calves which are either ill, in a weakened state, or injured. The driver of the transport vehicle should not permit the loading of such animals.

Exceptions to the above recommendation are bobby calves that are either ill, in a weakened state or injured and requiring transport either to or from a place for veterinary treatment.

Bobby calves that become ill, become weak, or are injured during transport should receive veterinary or other appropriate attention or treatment. If necessary they are to be destroyed humanely.

Bobby calves should be transported directly from the point of sale to the abattoir in the shortest possible time.

Slaughter of calves at an abattoir should take place as soon as possible after the calves arrive at the abattoir. This should take place not later than the day following their departure from the farm.

Vehicles used for the transportation of bobby calves should be thoroughly cleaned at the end of every journey and checked prior to loading.

Transport drivers should check calves during the journey at least once every three hours to ensure that calves are not injured. Any sick, weak or injured calves should be segregated from the rest and veterinary or other appropriate attention or treatment should be provided to them at the earliest opportunity.

Bobby calves should be transported in stock crates with enclosed fronts in order to prevent wind chill of calves during the journey.

Bobby calves should be transported in separate compartments from other classes of stock, such as adult cattle, vealers, and pigs.

6. Specific Responsibilities at Abattoirs

The general recommendations already outlined apply to all situations, including abattoirs.

Because of the special circumstances existing at abattoirs the following additional, specific situations are the responsibility of Abattoir Management, overseen by Meat Inspection Staff and A.C.T. Veterinary Services.

6.1 Unloading Trucks

Bobby calves that arrive either ill, in a weakened state, or injured, should be isolated and receive veterinary or other appropriate attention or treatment at the earliest opportunity. If the calves arrive either in a moribund state or seriously injured then they should be destroyed immediately using humane techniques.

6.2 Calf Kill

Bobby calves should be slaughtered on the day of delivery to the abattoir or within 18 hours of delivery. The sequence for the kill should be in the order of arrival at the abattoir with bobby calves taking priority over all other categories of livestock.

6.3 Carry-over and Delayed Kill (Overnight)

Where the slaughter of calves is delayed overnight or where calves are carried-over until the following day's kill, the calves:

- should be fed as soon as possible after the delay is known, (see 4.5);
- should be inspected at a maximum of 12 hour intervals, and sick, weak, or injured calves isolated for veterinary or other appropriate attention or treatment or destroyed humanely; and
- should be slaughtered first during the following day's kill.

6.4 Extended Delayed Kill (in Excess of 24 Hours or Length of Delay Unknown)

Where there is an extended (or unknown) delay in the slaughter of calves the abattoir management should:

- immediately inform buyers to stop sending calves to that abattoir;
- redirect any calves in transit to an alternative abattoir;
- inspect all calves at a maximum of 12 hour intervals, see 6.3 above;
- give priority to bobby calves in the sequence of kill ahead of all other categories of livestock;
- find alternative abattoirs for calves already on-site and calves arriving at the abattoir, and/or commence a staff kill as soon as possible after it is clear that an extended delay is to occur; and
- follow the recommendations on feeding requirements, methods and intervals, as detailed in section 4 of this document under the heading "Holding Facilities".

6.5 Feeding and Shelter

Abattoirs should have on hand sufficient feeding equipment (see 4.5) and feed (milk replacer) to feed at least 20 per cent of the largest possible day's kill.

Abattoirs should also have ready access to feeding equipment and sufficient feed (milk replacer) for three days for the largest number of calves likely to be on site at any one time.

Abattoirs should have sufficient pens with appropriate shelter for the largest calf kill expected, and access to bedding material (such as straw, rice hulls) for bedding in the event of an extended "delayed kill".