

During transport:

- Stock vehicles or trailers must be clean, well ventilated, and able to contain the animals safely.
- Calves need to be able to travel comfortably during the journey. There must be shelter from heat, cold, wind and rain. On commercial stock crates, shade cloth type covers or solid roofs must be used if the weather is bad.
- Load and unload calves carefully (do not use sticks, dogs or electric prodders). Calves may need to be lifted on and off trays of trucks or trailers.
- Monitor the density of calves on a per-pen basis. Calves should always be transported in sheep pens, not cattle pens and should be able to lie down to rest during travel.
- Drive steadily, avoiding rapid acceleration and sudden breaking. Take corners carefully. Standing calves need to be able to stay on their feet.
- Stop and check the calves within 30 minutes of starting the journey and again at least every two hours.
- Transport calves for the shortest possible time and distance.
- Assist any distressed or injured animals immediately and get help if necessary.



*Calves need to be strong, healthy
and fed to be fit for transport.*

For further information, including Codes of Welfare, minimum standards and recommended best practice, visit www.biosecurity.govt.nz/animal-welfare

Play a part in preventing the unnecessary pain and suffering of animals by reporting animals in distress to MAF on 0800 00 83 33.

Animal Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
PO Box 2526, Wellington, 6140

Telephone: 04 894 0366
Email: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz

www.biosecurity.govt.nz

Printed: July 2011



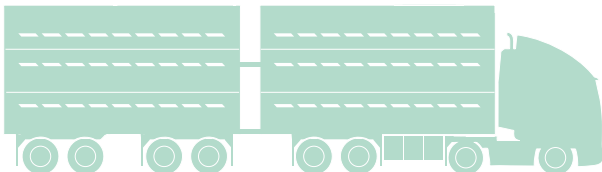
ANIMAL
WELFARE



A guide to the welfare of calves during transport



Transporting calves - photo courtesy of Fitzgeralds Transport





Farmers have a duty to ensure the welfare of their animals. In entrusting that responsibility to others, farmers need to be sure that all parties are fully aware of their responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Each year thousands of calves are sold for rearing, for slaughter as bobby calves or for pet food. The Animal Welfare Act places a “duty of care”, and prevention of unnecessary pain or distress, on all those responsible for animals. Failure to meet the physical, health and behavioural needs of any animal, including calves, can lead to prosecution under the Act.

The MAF Compliance and Response Group and Verification staff work closely together and take an active interest in the welfare of calves. If you are not meeting your obligations under the Animal Welfare Act you run the risk of prosecution.

Assistance is always available from industry representatives, your vet, MAF and local community.

On the farm:

- Ensure calves are strong and healthy (treat or humanely destroy sick, injured or premature calves).
- Give each calf colostrum or colostrum substitute as soon as possible after birth and preferably within the first six hours of life.
- Feed calves colostrum or milk at a rate of 10-12% of body weight per day (for example, two to four litres per day during the first week). Divide this amount into two or more feeds per day.
- Keep calves in a sheltered enclosure, with clean and dry flooring. There should be enough room for all calves to lie down.
- Handle calves gently and with care at all times. Do not throw, hit, drop, drag or use an electric prodder on a calf at any time.



Not fit for transport

Fit for transport:

- **Fed:** at least half of their daily ration of colostrum or milk not more than two hours before transport. Stomach must not be concave (sunken).
- **Healthy:** no visible disease (e.g. scours), deformity, injury, blindness or disability.
- **Alert:** eyes bright – not dull or shrunken.
- **Strong:** able to bear weight on all four limbs - not slow and unsteady. Able to rise from a lying position and move freely around the pen.
- **Hooves:** firm and worn flat – not rounded with unworn, soft tissue.
- **Navel:** dry and withered – not pink/red, raw, or fleshy
- Only transport bobby calves for sale or slaughter which are more than four days old.



Fit for transport