



FIT ANIMALS TRANSPORT

- Those that will arrive at their destination in good condition
- According to the *Health of Animals Regulations Part XII* and CFIA policies
- Consult also *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation*



COMPROMISED ANIMALS

TRANSPORT WITH SPECIAL PROVISIONS*

*Compromised Animal Policy
(Health of Animals Regulations
Part XII)*

Examples:

- Lameness, even if slight (may deteriorate quickly in transit)
- Cancer eye
- Bloating (if not weak or already down)
- Having given birth in the preceding 48 hours
- Acute frostbite
- Labored breathing
- Blindness in both eyes
- Open wound (depending on the severity of the wound, the animal may be unfit)
- Not fully healed after an operation, such as dehorning or castration
- Rectal or vaginal prolapse
- Lumpy jaw
- Left/right displaced abomasum (without weakness, toxicity)
- Abscess
- Acute penis injury
- Hardware disease with localized signs
- Unhealed broken tail or jaw
- Hobbled to prevent kicking, or
- Amputation or deformity (only if fully-healed and not painful)



UNFIT ANIMALS

DO NOT TRANSPORT

*Other than for veterinary
diagnosis or care*

Examples:

- Unable to rise, remain standing, or move without assistance, reluctant to move (non-ambulatory)
- Severe lameness
- Fractured limb or pelvis
- Rupture of pre-pubic tendon (after splitting)
- Likely to give birth
- Uterine prolapse
- Severe cancer eye
- Arthritis in multiple joints
- Cancer/leukosis (extensive)
- Pneumonia (unresponsive with fever)
- Water belly
- Nervous disorder (e.g. rabies – must be reported to CFIA)
- Emaciation, dehydration
- Fever, shock or dying

*Special Provisions for Compromised Animals

Compromised animals, if loaded, must be transported directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be slaughtered or euthanized — but only with special provisions, such as:

- Local direct transport only
- Extra bedding
- Loading in a rear compartment
- Separation from other animals
- Penning with a familiar companion animal
- Other measures as appropriate, e.g. veterinary assessment prior to loading when unsure of the animal's capacity to withstand transportation.

Do not continue to transport an animal that becomes compromised or unfit beyond the nearest available place where it can receive care, be euthanized or slaughtered.

Adapted from Appendix D of the beef cattle Code of Practice. Excerpts from the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle (©2013) have been used with permission from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the National Farm Animal Care Council.
www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/beef-cattle

ABSCESS

An abscess is a localized collection of pus in a cavity formed from tissues that have been broken down by a bacterial infection. Abscesses may occur on the skin surface, within muscle tissue, within joints, or within the body involving multiple organs.

Check Points: Compromised

- Single, minor abscess and the animal is otherwise in good condition.

Management Options:

- Treat or transport as soon as the abscess is visible.
- If the animal is transported, transport with special provisions directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).

Check Points: Unfit

- Multiple abscesses or single, large abscess with potential systemic effects.
- The animal may or may not be having difficulty walking.
- Multiple abscesses are often a sign of an infection affecting body tissue, which makes the carcass unfit for consumption.

Management Options:

- Do not load or transport.
- Euthanize on farm.



Cow with an abscess



AIP/RESPIRATORY

AIP (atypical interstitial pneumonia) is a respiratory condition that appears sporadically in cattle that have been on feed for several months.

Check Points:

- Breathing is very laboured
- Tongue may be sticking out
- Foam may be present around the mouth as the animal tries to breathe
- Sunken eyes, looks sick
- Reluctant to move or may become aggressive when pressured
- An animal with AIP or other respiratory disease can become very sick if transported. Cattle with advanced cases can die if subjected to the stress of handling or transport.

Management Options:

Early stages

- Transport with special provisions direct (NOT to an auction or assembly yard) and very short-haul.

Advanced stages

- Do not load or transport.
- Euthanize on farm.



BLOAT

Bloat occurs when the animal's belching mechanism is impaired or inhibited and the rate of gas production exceeds the animal's ability to expell the gas.

Check Points: Compromised

- Bloat is mild (animal is not in distress, skin over upper left flank can be easily grasped and lifted)
- Gas pressure is relieved (through tubing, anti-foaming agents or trocar)

Management Options:

- As long as the animal is not weak or down, transport with special provisions directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).

Check Points: Unfit

- Left side of animal is severely distended and this distension may extend to the right side of the abdomen.
- In severe cases, the animal is uncomfortable, will breathe through the mouth and protrude the tongue, will grind teeth in pain and may stagger or refuse to walk.
- Bloated animals can die if stressed during movement or transport.

Management Options:

- Do not load or transport.
- Immediately treat bloat in consultation with a veterinarian.
- Euthanize if the animal shows no signs of recovery.



BRISKET DISEASE

Brisket disease results from elevated pulmonary arterial pressure or pulmonary hypertension and generally affects animals less than one year of age residing at an elevation above 5000 feet.

Check Points:

- Heart disease is indicated by swelling of brisket, jowls, and neck area due to build-up of fluid (edema).
- Other initial signs include lethargy, weakness and an inability to rise, decreased appetite, diarrhea, bulging eyes, and distention and pulsation of the jugular vein.
- The condition is not treatable. If diagnosed early, the animal can be salvaged if sent direct to slaughter; advanced cases not salvageable.
- Do not confuse with the large, fatty brisket of a healthy finished animal.

Management Options:

Early stages

- Transport with special provisions directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).

Advanced stages (emaciated, weak, heavily laboured breathing)

- Consult a veterinarian.
- Do not load or transport advanced stages.
- Euthanize on farm



Cow with fluid build-up in brisket, jowls and neck area



BULLER-STEER SYNDROME

Buller-steer syndrome is an occasional behavioural problem among feedlot steers, where one steer (buller) is repeatedly mounted by a group of other steers (riders). If not promptly removed from the pen, the buller steer can become exhausted, have reduced feed and water intake, and develop injuries.

Check Points:

- Affected steer, yearling or older, is mounted repeatedly.
- May or may not have any visible physical marks such as hair loss on their back, leg injuries and swelling.

Management Options:

- Buller steers cannot be transported and dropped off with a large load of cattle. If harassment begins once the animals are unloaded and penned it can cause severe bruising, “dark cutters” and stress to the affected animal and penmates.
- Transport as soon as possible direct (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).
- Do not offload and mix with other animals before slaughter. Keep separate.

Code of Practice

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF BEEF CATTLE (2013)

Requirement under Section 3.3.4 Buller-Steer Syndrome

Bullers must be promptly removed from their pen.



Buller showing physical marks from repeated mounting



CANCER/LEUKOSIS (EXTENSIVE)

Leukosis is a cancerous disease caused by Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV) and characterized by the development of tumours in lymphatic tissues.

Check Points:

- Widespread tumour development.

Management Options:

- Do not load or transport.
- Euthanize on farm.



CANCER EYE

Cancer eye is a tumour of the eyeball or eyelid. Not to be confused with pinkeye.

If the cancer lesion is small and within the orbit of the eye and the eye is visible, the animal should either be treated promptly or transported to slaughter (but not through a sale or assembly yard).

Check Points: Unfit

- Large growth, may be ulcerated.
- Growth has obscured the entire eye causing the animal to be blind on the affected side.
- Foul smell.
- Weeping fluid.

Management Options:

- Do not load or transport.
- Euthanize on farm.
- Allowing the condition to progress to advanced stages without appropriate veterinary care qualifies as neglect.



FOUNDER/LAMINITIS

Check Points:

- Long toes, mainly on front feet but can be on all four feet.
- “Paddle” gait due to tenderness of feet.
- Can occur in finished feedlot cattle.
- Older cows may have one or more feet with long toes due to age or other afflictions but they may not show signs of tenderness.
- Foundered cattle may go down in the trailer on a long trip because it is too painful to stand.

Management Options:

- Transport with special provisions direct short-haul (under 4 hours) (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).
- See also page 23 – Lamé or Non-Ambulatory.



FRACTURE OR OTHER INJURY

Check Points: Compromised

- Unhealed broken tail or jaw
- Broken nose

Management Options:

- Transport as soon as possible with special provisions directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).

Check Points: Unfit

- Fractured limb or pelvis.
- Rupture of the prepubic tendon.
- Acutely “split” animals (torn adductor muscles).
- Reluctance to bear weight on the affected limb.
- Muscles and tissues in the affected area may be swollen and painful.
- Animal shows signs of pain, muscle trembling, grinding of teeth.
- Exposed bone or deep or gaping wound, bleeding.

Management Options:

- Do not lift or drag a conscious animal.
- Do not load or transport.
- Consult a veterinarian
- Euthanize on farm.



Penis injury



LAME OR NON-AMBULATORY

Check Points: Compromised

- An animal with imperfect locomotion, a slight limp; the lame leg may not be immediately identifiable.
- Lameness, even if slight, can deteriorate very quickly especially when the animal must negotiate ramps during loading and unloading. This animal is at risk of becoming non-ambulatory during transport.



Management Options:

- Transport as soon as possible with special provisions directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).

Check Points: Unfit

- Cannot rise without assistance and is reluctant to walk, and exhibits halted movement.
- Unable to rise or to remain standing without assistance.
- Cannot be transported without undue suffering because of lameness – the animal demonstrates one of the following:
 - ⇒ obvious arched back and head bob
 - ⇒ obvious limp with uneven weight bearing
 - ⇒ not bearing any weight on one leg immediately identifiable i.e. inability to use a foot to walk or obvious shortened strides
 - ⇒ must be strongly encouraged to move

Management Options:

- Do not lift or drag a conscious animal.
- Do not load or transport.
- Euthanize on farm.

A non-ambulatory animal can ONLY be transported for veterinary treatment or diagnosis on the advice of a veterinarian.

Code of Practice

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF BEEF CATTLE (2013)

Requirement under Section 3.3.2 Lameness

Provide appropriate care, convalescence or treatment for lame cattle without delay.

Monitor the animals' response to therapy or care and, if the initial treatment protocol fails, then reassess treatment options or seek veterinary advice.

Promptly cull or euthanize lame cattle that have a poor prognosis for recovery, or that do not respond to therapy or care.



LIKELY TO GIVE BIRTH OR RECENTLY CALVED

Check Points:

- Look for loose vulva area and a tight udder combined with a full belly.
- Sometimes a finished feedlot heifer may not display obvious signs of pregnancy but will deliver a premature calf or fetus in the trailer.
- Consult breeding records or ask producer or shipper if tendered cows are due to calve within a few weeks.

Management Options:

- Cows that have calved within the last 48 hours – Transport with special provisions and directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).
- Cows that are likely to give birth in transit – Do not load or transport.

Regulations

HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS

138(2) Subject to subsection (3) no person shall load or cause to be loaded on any railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel and no one shall transport or cause to be transported an animal (c) if it is probable that the animal will give birth during the journey.

ALBERTA ANIMAL PROTECTION REGULATION (203/2005)

Transportation of Animals 12(2) No person shall load or transport livestock that is likely to give birth during transport unless the livestock is being transported for health reasons.



LUMPY JAW & WOODEN TONGUE

Lumpy jaw is a bacterial infection that produces permanent hard swellings on the jawbones of cattle. It is difficult to treat successfully, but may respond in the early stages. Not to be confused with soft tissue abscesses.

Wooden tongue is also caused by a bacterial infection that enters through abrasions in the mouth, causing the tongue to be hard, swollen and painful. Wooden tongue may respond to treatment in the early stages.

Check Points:

- Permanent hard lumps on the jaw.
- Tissues inside the mouth are soft and swollen.
- Yellow pus may be present in swollen areas.
- May lose teeth irregularly.
- Wooden tongue: hard, swollen, and painful tongue, drooling, protruding tongue with nodules or ulcers.
- Both cause difficulty eating, resulting in weight loss and weakness.

Management Options:

Early stages body condition score of 2 or higher (out of 5)

- Transport with special provisions directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).

Advanced stages body condition score of 1 (out of 5)

- Do not load or transport.
- Euthanize on farm.

Note: Conscientious management should identify and treat or ship affected animals early in the disease process.



PERITONITIS

Peritonitis is an infection of the body cavity (peritoneum).
Peritonitis is almost always fatal.

Check Points:

- Pain, shock, depression, weakness
- Animal will not remain standing
- Foul smell
- Accumulation of fluid in the belly
- Animal may be very thin and appear sick.

Management Options:

- Do not load or transport.
- Contact a veterinarian.
- Euthanize on farm.



POOR BODY CONDITION

Body condition scoring (BCS) is an important tool for determining if an animal is too thin (BCS of less than 2 out of 5), too fat (BCS greater than 4 out of 5), or in ideal condition. Be aware that body condition scores are most applicable to mature cattle. The cause of poor body condition is not always nutritional.

For more information visit
bodyconditionscoring.ca



Poor condition or emaciation

Check Points:

- Thin, weak, no muscle mass, obvious signs of malnutrition, old age or disease.
- Wet manure running down hindquarters may indicate disease.
- A bone-thin but very lively animal may indicate disease (see page 29 – Reportable Diseases)
- Abscesses, healed or weeping sores on body may indicate disease.

Management Options:

Body score of 2

- Transport with special provisions directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).

Body score of 1

- Do not load or transport.
- Euthanize on farm.

Regulations

ALBERTA ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT

2.1 A person who owns or is in charge of an animal (a) must ensure that the animal has adequate food and water.

Code of Practice

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF BEEF CATTLE (2013)

Requirement under Section 2.1 Nutrition and Feed Management

Take prompt corrective action to improve the body condition score of cattle with a score of 2 or less (out of 5).



PROLAPSE

A prolapse is the protrusion of an organ or part of an organ to the outside of the body from its normal position (usually due to inadequate strength of the supportive tissue).

Check Points – Prolapsed vagina or rectum

- At onset, red coloured mucosa of the vagina or rectum protrudes.
- After a short period, the prolapse will become swollen and filled with fluid.
- Vaginal prolapses can be common in heavy, late-stage pregnant cows. Do not confuse with a uterine prolapse, which will be much larger, and occurs after calving.
- Rectal prolapses can occur in calves a few months old especially with diarrhea. They can also occur in conjunction with a vaginal prolapse.

Management Options:

- Consult a veterinarian.
- **Early stage** – transport as soon as possible with special provisions directly to the nearest available place to receive care, treatment, be humanely slaughtered or euthanized (NOT to an auction or assembly yard).



Vaginal prolapse



Rectal prolapse

Check Points – prolapsed uterus

- Typically occurs immediately after or within hours of calving.
- A prolapsed uterus begins with the appearance of red lining of the uterus and rapidly increases in size.
- Is a life threatening condition.

Management Options:

- Contact a veterinarian immediately.
- Do not load or transport.



Prolapsed uterus

Code of Practice

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE CARE AND HANDLING OF BEEF CATTLE (2013)

Requirement under Section 4.2 Reproduction and Calving Management

Monitor and promptly assist calves and recently-calved cows showing signs of distress.

REPORTABLE DISEASES

Check Points:

- Be suspicious of any animal that shows signs of disease.
- Look for staggering or circling, slobbering, depression, aggression, fever, oral erosions, anemia, abortion, coughing, signs of pain or shock, blindness, trembling or any other suspicious sign.

Management Options:

- Contact a veterinarian immediately.
- Do not load or transport.
- Take appropriate precautions (e.g. handle cautiously, wear gloves, wash hands etc.)

Regulations

REPORTABLE DISEASES REGULATIONS

There are some diseases in cattle that must be reported by law including rabies, BSE, anthrax, bluetongue, tuberculosis and foot and mouth disease.

Reportable diseases are listed in the federal *Reportable Diseases Regulations*. In addition, provincially reportable and notifiable diseases are listed in Alberta's *Reportable and Notifiable Diseases Regulation*.

Refer also to Appendix B – The Canada and Alberta BSE Surveillance Program.



TOO SMALL

Newly born or very young calves need special care whenever transported.

Check Points:

- Very young calves still have the curled-up dried umbilical cord hanging down.

Management Options:

- Transport with special provisions short-haul (under 4 hours).
- Calves under eight days of age cannot be sold through an auction market (see below).
- Must be segregated from larger animals (except a suckling calf with its dam – see below).

Regulations

HEALTH OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS

141 (1) Subject to this section, no person shall load on any railway car, motor vehicle, aircraft or vessel and no carrier shall transport animals of different species or of substantially different weight or age unless those animals are segregated.

141 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a female animal and its suckling offspring.

141 (3) Every cow, sow or mare with its suckling offspring shall be segregated from all other animals during transport.

ALBERTA ANIMAL PROTECTION REGULATION (203/2005)

7(1) The following may not be present at a livestock market:
(c) any other species of weaned livestock that is less than 8 days old.

15 A person transporting livestock must segregate the livestock during transport as follows: (a) livestock of the same species that are incompatible by nature and livestock of different species are segregated from one another; (b) groups of mature bulls, de-tusked boars, rams and goat bucks are segregated from all other livestock; (c) cows, sows and mares with suckling offspring are segregated from all other livestock; (f) livestock of the same species but of substantially different weight or age are segregated from one another.



URINARY TRACT INJURIES

Check Points:

- Animal may be in pain, shock.
- May wring the tail, grind the teeth, repeatedly get up and lay back down and kick at its belly.
- There may be a visible urinary swelling on the belly of bulls with broken urethras.
- Bladder rupture (“water belly”) can cause poisoning of the animal. A poisoned animal may appear tired, sleepy, groggy, won’t rise or remain standing.

Management Options:

Broken urethra

- Consult a veterinarian.
- Transport with special provisions direct short-haul (4 hours or less) upon veterinary recommendation.

Water Belly

- Do not load or transport.
- Euthanize on farm.



OTHER PROBLEMS

Compromised

- Transport with special provisions directly to the nearest available place where the animal can receive care, treatment, be slaughtered or euthanized.

Check Points:

- Blindness in both eyes.
- Broken horns or extremely long horns.
- Hobbled to prevent kicking.
- Amputation or deformity (transport only if fully-healed and not painful).
- Not fully healed after an operation, such as dehorning or castration.
- Left/right displaced abomasum (without weakness, toxicity).
- Hardware disease with localized signs.
- Wet cattle – hauling wet cattle on a cold day without special provisions is not acceptable.



Unfit for transport

- Do not load or transport other than for veterinary diagnosis or care.

Check Points:

- Emaciation, dehydration or weakness.
- Fever, shock or dying.
- Pneumonia (unresponsive with fever).
- Hobbled due to an injury (e.g. rupture of the pre-pubic tendon)

