



Livestock Truck Emergencies Policies and Procedures Manual

October 2017



November 8, 2017

Dear Valued First Responder,

Following several livestock truck rollovers over the last few years, Farm & Food Care Ontario (FFC) along with the Beef Farmers of Ontario (BFO) recognized the need to have a network of trained people across the province who can act as advisors to first responders during the process of rescuing livestock from overturned trailers.

Currently over 3500 livestock trucks travel every year through Northern Ontario alone. That number does not include trucks running in the southern regions. We recognize the fact that most first responders do not have training in how to handle large livestock and are not familiar with aspects of cattle behaviour, livestock trucks, euthanasia methods, and the many different people who need to be notified and involved in the incident. Improperly handled livestock, especially those which are loose, can be a risk to both responders and the public at large.

With this in mind, we have put together the Ontario Cattle Emergency Network - an emergency advisory group to assist first responders. This network of cattle farmers, located strategically across the entire province, has been extensively trained to provide advice and guidance at the scene of a rollover. We have focused not only on the handling of livestock, but also on chain of command protocols at emergency scenes understanding that human health and safety must remain an utmost priority. We are not looking to be on-scene commanders but rather farmers on-scene who can make the necessary phone calls and reports, advise on livestock handling, and bring or find near-by necessary supplies, such as temporary fencing, large animal veterinarians, replacement trucks, holding facilities and more.

In the enclosed package you will find a flow-chart on how we envision the network working, suggested roles and responsibilities, information for you on livestock handling in the event that you require it and some draft media releases that you can use in case of an accident where media and animal activists are on-site.

We will be more than willing to help 24/7 in the event of an accident if our presence is requested on-scene. Our central contact point for the province is The Barn feeding station located in Kaministiquia, just outside Thunder Bay, at 1.807.933.4737. Ask for manager: Andy Livingston. The station is always open, and will connect your department with the closest members of our network regardless of location in the province.

We hope you see this as a valuable resource for you and your team. For further information on this initiative, please contact our project liaison at BFO, Michael Campbell, at michael@ontariobeef.com or 519.824.0334 x 226.

Sincerely,

Jason Reid, BFO Director
Chair, Emergency Response Working Group

Suggested Roles and Responsibilities of Rescuers



First Responders

- Start phone tree by calling 1-807-933-4737
- Take charge of the accident scene and coordinate rescue efforts. Injured persons are the first priority.
- Perform crowd control, traffic direction, maintain a clear path for and assist emergency vehicles. Keep unnecessary people away from the accident site. Keep media back from scene.
- Release official statements to media as required (using developed news releases where possible)
- Ensure everyone understands the priority response sequence - human safety is the first priority followed by the welfare of the animals and then removal of the truck and trailer
- Euthanasia by police (if animals are in immediate distress and/or posing threat to humans)
- Take photos of scene so that other responders know the scene to prepare proper supplies
- Invite BFO on scene

OSPCA

- Coordination with OMAFRA and CFIA if needed
- Assist where possible
- Bring resources as needed (human, technical, supplies)
- Writing compliance orders

Ontario Cattle Emergency Network 1 (OCEN1)

- Travels to accident scene
- Provides animal handling advice
- Provides advice on dismantling truck
- Bring safety gear/ supply kit/
- Applicable safety gear/kit
- Initial walk-around to assess scene
- Takes pictures of the accident with a camera or phone. Take pictures from all four sides of the truck to get views of the accident from all angles.
- Video evidence (combat photo manipulation)
- Advisory role only

Trucking Company

- Provide shipping manifest identifying types and numbers of animals carried, destination etc. [copy of shipping manifest]
- Calls insurance company
- Provides permission in written form that animals can be euthanized on site
- Call truck destination
- Provide rescue truck (if possible)
- Other roles depending on trucking company
- Contact cattle owners

Ontario Cattle Emergency Network 2 (OCEN 2)

- Lines up supplies and support as required which may include vet, tow truck, replacement truck/trailer, and supplies for reloading and sorting if there are loose animals (e.g. boards, fencing, portable gates etc.)
- Find location for holding live and diseased stock as necessary
- Lead conference call (if necessary)

CFIA

- Release animals to slaughter or rendering
- Ensure animal care at resting facility
- Ensure animals fit for transport

OMAFRA

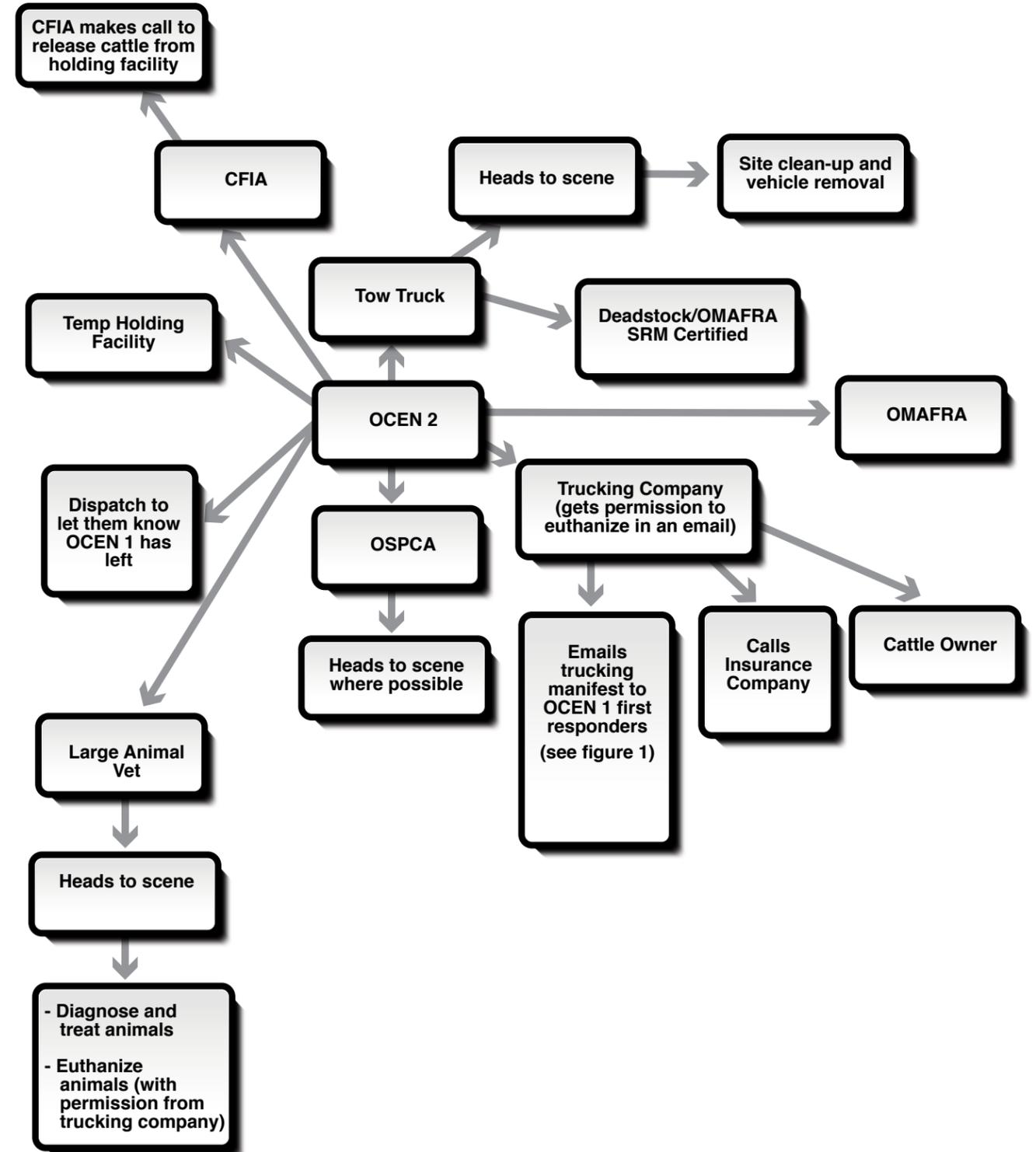
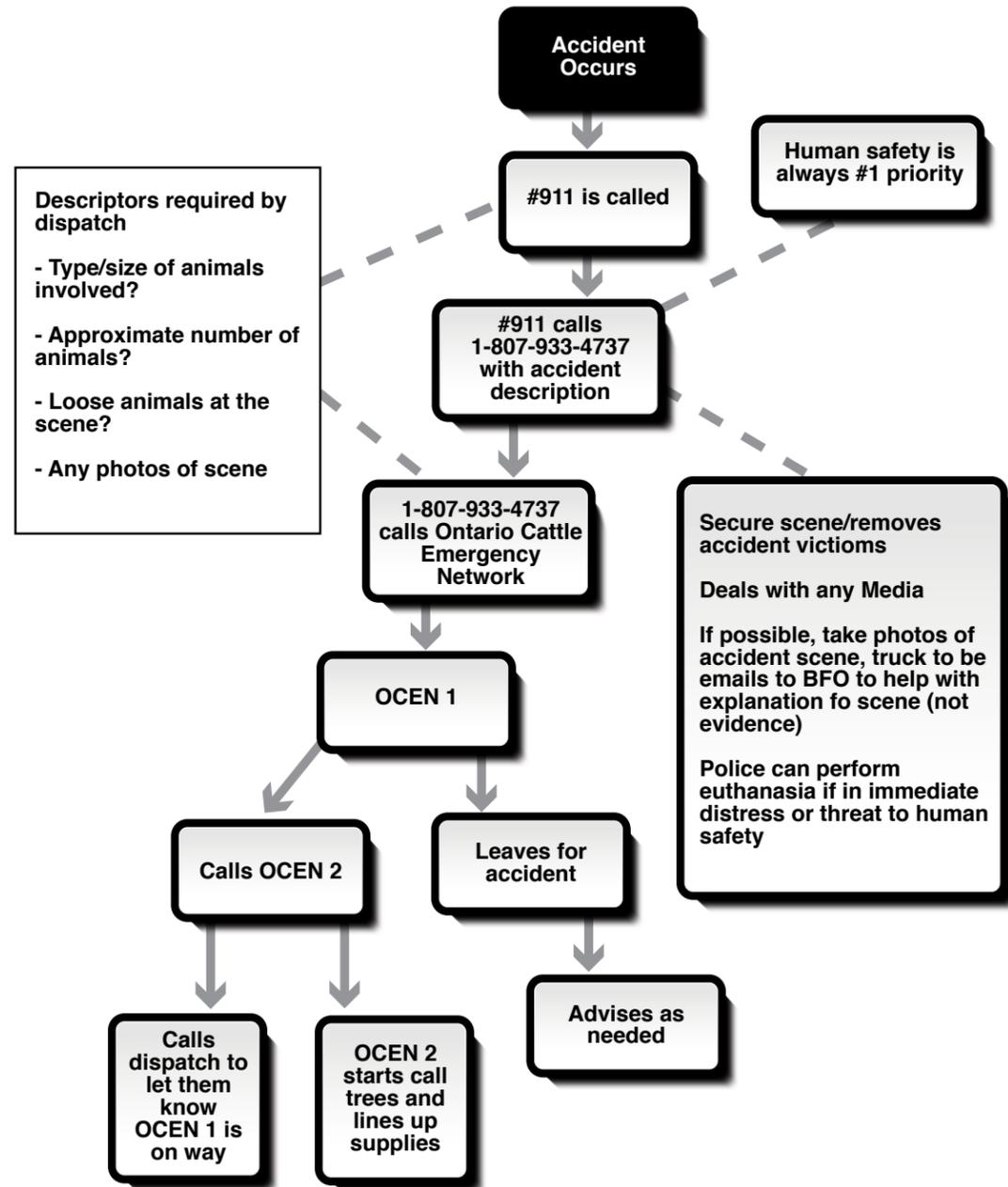
- SRM/deadstock issues

Veterinarian

- Makes call for euthanasia (with permission from trucking company)

Tow Truck Driver

- Ability to hire necessary support staff, even on-site
- Righting and removal of truck
- Clean up scene
- Call and coordinate with Deadstock





Large animals can seriously injure handlers and/or themselves if they become excited or agitated. When you understand how an animal instinctively reacts, you're better prepared to properly handle it in an emergency situation.

The following are common behaviour characteristics that apply to livestock in general.

- Animals have **sharp senses of smell, sight and hearing and experience** feelings such as fear, aggression, pain, nervousness, etc.
- All animals are **unpredictable**. Cattle may **stampede, charge or kick** if frightened. Be careful not to get too close and never assume an animal is going to be nice - no matter how calm they seem.
- Bulls should be considered very dangerous and unpredictable. **EXTREME CAUTION MUST BE USED WHEN DEALING WITH THEM.**
- Cows with calves will be **extremely protective of their calves**. Do not place yourself between them.
- **Horned animals** are aware they have horns or antlers and may use them in an aggressive manner.
- Because cattle have 310 to 360-degree vision, they have poor depth of vision and **are easily frightened by shadows**. They will often balk and refuse to walk over a hose, puddle, shadow or change of surface, etc. They will also shy away from bright sunlight if they are not used to being outdoors.
- Cattle tend to move from a **dimly lit area to a brighter area**, provided the light is not glaring into their eyes.
- Cattle are very sensitive to emergency clothing with reflective tape.
- Cattle have a **strong herding instinct**. Isolation is one of the strongest stressors of animals and should be avoided. They will calm more quickly if left in a herd and may also "follow the leader" when together. If possible use a wall or fence line as a guide.
- Injured or frightened animals may **kick or strike** when frightened.
- Cattle usually respond negatively to abuse, loud noises, and other confusing situations. Noisy equipment, including trucks and generators should be kept as far as possible from cattle.
- Metal chutes and alleys should be constructed and used so as to eliminate loud clanging and banging noises. Yelling increases the stress of both the animal and the handler.
- Allow animals to calm down before attempting to handle them. **If you spook them, it may take approximately 30 minutes to calm them down.**
- A small flag on the end of a stick is useful for moving or sorting cattle. Cattle should NOT be moved with the use of a whip or electric prod.

- If you don't have to handle the animals... **DON'T**. All personnel not required to deal with the animals should stand back for their own safety before animals are moved.
- **Take your time**. The old saying is: "If you make the animal feel you have all day, it will take ten minutes. If you make it feel that all you have is ten minutes, it will take all day."
- **Do not chase** the *animals*, let them move at their own pace.
- **Moving lights (headlights, emergency lights, and flashlights) agitate animals**. Avoid shining lights into the animals' faces and ask emergency crews to switch off flashing lights wherever possible. Place generators at a comfortable distance from the animals.
- Always have an **escape route** for yourself and stay alert as you may have to move quickly.
- **Never turn your back** on an injured or frightened animal.
- Unless absolutely necessary, **do not approach an animal from directly in front**. The animal might interpret this as an aggressive move. If you must, use a board, such as a spinal board, to create a barrier between the animal and yourself.
- **Never walk up behind an animal**, whether it is standing up or lying down. It may startle causing a panic reaction resulting in possible injury to personnel. Animals have very accurate aim when kicking. Make sure the animal knows you are there and speak softly while approaching.
- **Be confident** - animals sense fear and hesitation and may take advantage of it.

The Flight Zone

The distance you are from an animal before it moves away is called the flight zone.

- * Each animal has a different flight zone. The size of the flight zone is determined by the wildness or tameness of the animal.
- * Cattle are moved best when you are on the edge of the flight zone. Cattle will move away when you enter the flight zone and stop when you leave the flight zone.

Here's what may happen when you enter an animal's flight zone.

- the animal will be happy to see you
- it will move away
- it will run away and pressure the facilities, damaging or possibly destroying them.
- it will remove you from its zone

Notes:

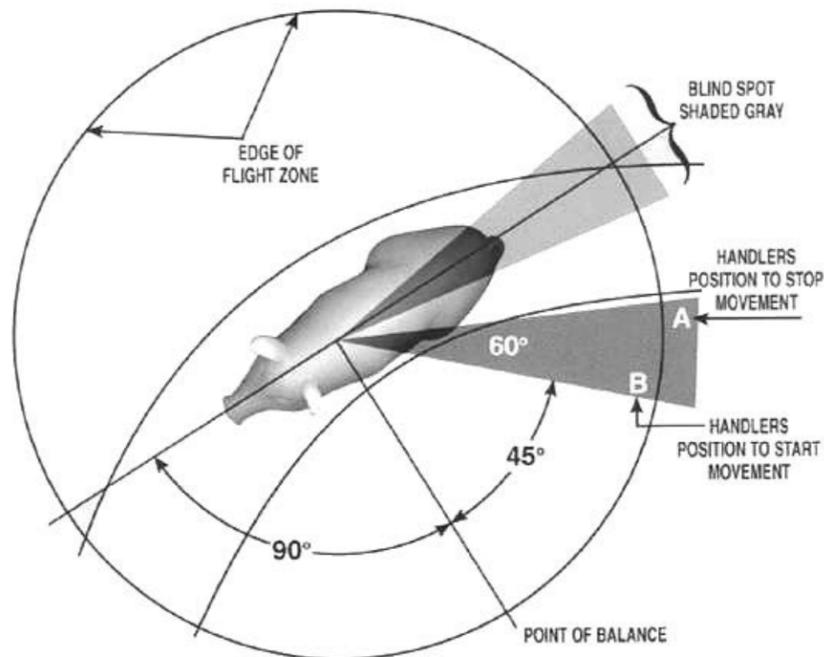
- Sight is the main sensory factor used by the animal in this zone.
- Approach the animal calmly and slowly and continue to announce your presence. Entering the flight zone too suddenly (surprising the animal) or too quickly will make the animal bolt or move in an unpredictable way. Stressed animals will have a great flight zone than calm ones.
- If too much pressure is applied they will turn back on you - back off when the animal is not responding in the way you wish.
- Stay out of the cattle's blind spot. Work at its hip and not behind the animal.
- There is no such thing as one best position or manoeuvre for all circumstances.
- If you want an animal to go somewhere, it must have room to go there.
- The two main motivators of livestock are fear and food. These are two things prey animals need to stay alive. Utilize these to get animals to move or do what you want them to do.
- Round pens enhance cattle movement and prevent injury to excitable cattle.



If a handler is outside the flight zone, the animals will turn and face the handler, maintaining a safe distance. When the handler enters the flight zone, they will turn away.

The point of balance is the point at which an animal will move forward or backwards. This is located in the shoulder area of an animal. If the pressure is coming from behind the point of balance the animal will go forward. If the pressure is in front of the point of balance, the animal will go backwards.

Flight Zone and Point of Balance



If a handler is outside the flight zone, the animals will turn and face the handler, maintaining a safe distance. When the handler enters the flight zone, they will turn away.

Source: Ontario Humane Transport Working Group, 2004

It is recommended that rescuers avoid entering the trailer whenever possible.

- A temporary containment facility should be located or created before animals are released from the trailer (i.e. paneled corral, directly onto another truck, or even police tape for certain species such as horses). A nearby fenced field may be used for containment.
 - If you are presented with a situation where the trailer and/or bedding is on fire do not release animals from the trailer until a plan for containment is established. Loose animals will pose a serious risk to passing vehicles etc.
 - Live animals should be removed from the trailer before it is righted.
 - The ideal way to remove an animal from a trailer is through the existing doors.
 - To decide the optimum method of extrication, first evaluate the trailer and the condition of the animals.
 - a) Position of trailer - on side, roof or upright, on right or left side
 - b) Position of animals - lying down, pinned or trapped, tied or loose
 - c) If the animals are uninjured and standing calmly in the trailer, leave them alone until it is necessary to move them.
 - No person should enter a trailer to check or treat animals until a rescue plan is established and the trailer is stabilized.
 - With a trailer is on its side, the preferred extrication point is through the back where the door is located.
 - If the door is not at ground level, wide or high enough for animals to exit, then consider cutting a hole in the roof. The structural integrity of the trailer must not be jeopardized or the trailer may collapse on the animals and rescue personnel. Ensure the hole is cut in a location that permits easy transfer of animals onto the rescue vehicle.
- a) Ascertain the design of the trailer (i.e. Angle haul, multi deck, dividers, etc.)
 - b) Determine what material the trailer is made of - most new trailers are a combination of fiberglass and/or aluminum with steel supports. Older trailers are usually all steel.
 - c) Ensure that the trailer is, or has been stabilized before proceeding with any rescue attempt.
 - d) Before entering the trailer, ensure that the decks and gates etc. are or have been stabilized. Try to determine which direction gates will swing when opened.
 - e) Animals may be held in place by a closed gate. To avoid injury, use caution when opening.
 - f) Check to be sure the animals do not have any limbs trapped. The animal(s) may need sedation before dismantling. This must be done by a licensed veterinarian.
 - g) Ensure that animals inside will not be injured while cutting into the trailer.
 - h) Cut the hole only as wide as the doorway of the rescue truck.
 - i) Don't cut the hole out completely, you may wish to use the attached metal as a wall, or door.
 - j) Bend the cut edges out to prevent the animals getting cut while exiting the trailer.
- When entering the trailer always approach a downed animal from the spine side. Never approach via the belly, back or front legs. You will get hurt.
 - Animals prefer to walk downhill, therefore it is recommended that the hole be cut in the lowest part of the trailer, or park the rescue vehicle at a lower location.

Evaluate and decide:

- a) no immediate treatment necessary
- b) treat animal where it is
- c) move animal to another location
- d) move animal for immediate slaughter IF it can be moved humanely
- e) humanely destroy the animal

A veterinarian should be called when:

- a) requested by the owner;
 - b) the animal is considered a non-slaughter animal and cannot be transported to facility for treatment;
 - c) sedation of the animal is required.
 - d) an animal that is unable to walk without assistance must be transported from the accident scene
 - e) the animal should be destroyed
- If an animal is injured but can move, work slowly and quietly around it. If it has a halter on, be very careful while leading it. Walk slowly and talk calmly. If loose, walk calmly to its side and do not yell or chase it.
 - It is strongly recommended that severely injured animals be euthanised on the trailer.
 - Animals that are alert but unable to rise should be handled with caution only after the mobile animals have been removed from that compartment (if possible).

- To keep an injured animal which is down from struggling, stand at the animal's spine, place a blanket over its eyes leaving the nostrils exposed and press down lightly on the neck with your knee. If the animal is in an enclosed space, no one should go in until safe.
- If it is an animal for slaughter, euthanasia should be considered at the scene. With a large number of injured animals that require euthanasia an expert with a captive bolt pistol should be called.
- An animal that needs to be moved for treatment or euthanasia should be moved the shortest distance possible. If dragging is the **ONLY** means of rescue, a sled must be used. A spinal board may be an effective sled. Ensure it is strong enough to handle the weight of the animal you intend to move.
- If a forklift or front end loader is used to move a **sedated** animal, the animal should never be pressed against a wall to load and should be secured in the bucket.

As a general rule, **any animal that is unable to stand up on all of its legs by itself is not fit for transport and should be humanely destroyed.** This reflects the requirements of the Health of Animals Regulations (section 138) and CFIA's Compromised Animal Policy. Please refer to the requirements contained within the Ontario *Livestock and Livestock Products Act* – Ontario Regulation 732/94 for moving non-ambulatory animals in this province and the Ontario Dead Animal Disposal Act for moving fallen animals.

In the case of slaughter animals, it is doubtful if such an animal will pass for human consumption. Its carcass will likely be partially or fully condemned at the meat plant. There is nothing to be gained by re-loading and transporting such an animal.

If transport to the nearest place where additional care can be provided, will not cause further undue pain, injury, or suffering; loading and transportation may be considered.

Note: At all times the comfort and safety of the animal must be considered. At the same time, do not disregard your own safety or the safety of other personnel at the scene!

Definition humane death that occurs without pain and distress

It is important to remember that animals are property, and are therefore owned. If an animal needs to be destroyed, this can only happen in one of three ways: with the consent of the animal owner or designate; by way of a certificate issued by a veterinarian pursuant to the authority contained in the *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*; by police officer using the authority contained in the Police Services Act

Proper procedure for euthanasia:

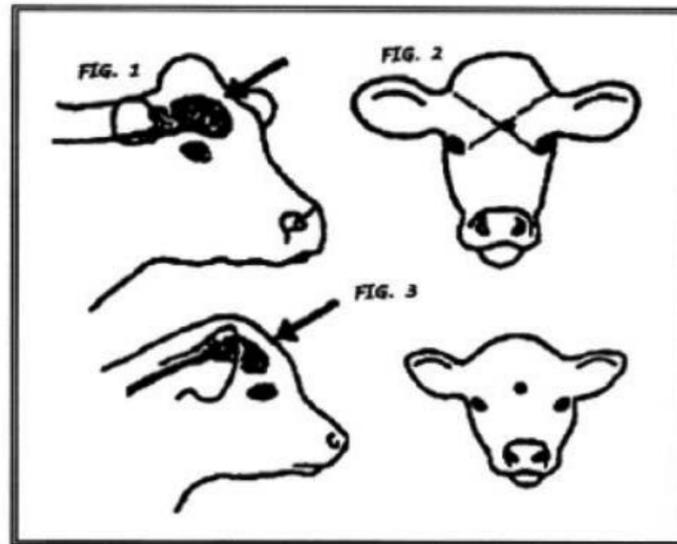
- Allow animal to calm down if necessary.
- A 22-caliber firearm is sufficient for most cattle, pigs and horses. The muzzle should be held approximately 2 inches from point of entry, not flush with the skull. Shotguns should be fired 10-12" away.
- Make sure the animal is dead before walking away from it. Check for vital signs - pulse, breathing, etc. An animal will "wiggle" for 2-3 minutes following death.
- The point of penetration is in the following diagram - the **point between the eyes is not the appropriate point of entry.**

Mature Cattle

Where possible, the head should be secured to a solid structure. The firearm is held at right angles to the skull and aimed at a point 2/3 of the way up the forehead at a point intersecting imaginary lines drawn between the back of the ears and corner of the eyes. It may be easier to shoot slightly to the side of the ridge that runs down the centre of the face.

Calves

Calves can be handled in the same manner as mature cattle, but the aim of the firearm should be squarely on the midlines of the forehead slightly lower than in mature cattle.



Source: Longair, J. (Al), Finley, G., Laniel, M-A., Mackay, C., Mould, K., Olfert, E.D., Rowsell, H., and Preston, A. 1991. Guidelines for euthanasia of domestic animals by firearms. Can. Vet. J. 32: 724-726 December.

MEDIA RELEASE

TITLE

(Location, Date.) At approximately (TIME am/pm) a (SITUATION) occurred resulting in (DETAILS OF IMPACT) to (SPECIFIC LOCATION(S))

Emergency response teams from (LIST AGENCIES) are on site. Initial reports indicate that (DETAILED INFORMATION).

There have been (no) reports of (minor/serious) injuries as a result of this event. Injured people (are being / have been) transported to (HOSPITAL NAME) for treatment.

Every effort is being taken to ensure the well-being of the animals involved and veterinarians have been dispatched to the scene to examine and treat every animal when it is safe to do so.

At this time we ask the public to refrain from travelling in the area as some animals may be loose and pose a hazard to motorists and pedestrians.

Media Inquiries:

Police Contact name and number

MEDIA UPDATE

TITLE

(Location, Date.) The (highway/road/street) which was the scene of an accident earlier today involving a _____ and a cattle truck has now been cleared. The victims (names, ages if released publicly) involved have been taken to (hospital) and are in (critical/serious/stable/unknown) condition.

(Severely injured/injured) cattle have been (humanely euthanized/treated) and the remaining have been removed safely and are recovering at a nearby farm.

Media Inquiries:

Police contact name and number

Livestock Truck Emergencies Policies and Procedures Manual produced in collaboration with Farm & Food Care Ontario and Beef Farmers of Ontario



This project was funded in part through Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of GF2 in Ontario