

Sheep & Beef Talk

October 2018



Updated Animal Welfare Regulations

Animal welfare regulations have been updated with changes come into effect on the 1st of October this year. Relevant changes to the Animal Welfare Regulations are as follows:



Tara Gower
Veterinarian

- Horns must not left until they become ingrown resulting in inflammation or damage to tissue.
- Milk letdown may not be stimulated by inserting anything into a cow's vagina.
- Moving vehicles may not be used for traction during calving, and tools used for traction, such as pulleys, must have a quick release mechanism.
- Dogs on the back of utes must be tethered unless actively moving stock.
- Tail docking and articulated dew claw amputation of dogs is only allowed for therapeutic reasons.

Transport

- Ingrown horns require a veterinary certificate for transportation.
- Injured horns that have been bleeding or discharging, including those that have been removed correctly, require a veterinary certificate for transportation.
- Lamé animals require veterinary certificates for transportation.
- Animals in late pregnancy can only be transported with a veterinary certificate.
- Animals with abnormal udders, including signs of mastitis such as discharge other than milk and swelling, can only be transported with a veterinary certificate.
- An animal with cancer eye can only be transported with a veterinary certificate.
- All above transporting regulations allow travel within farm or within 20km of where the animal normally resides for treatment, without a veterinary certificate.

Prodders

- Electric prodders can only be used on cattle that weigh over 150kg, and can only be used on the muscled areas of the hindquarters or forequarters when the animal has space to

move away from the prodder.

- A goad (anything that is used to prod an animal that is not an electric prodder) must not be used in sensitive areas including udder, anus, genitals or eyes.

Docking and Castration

- Cattle beast's tails must not be docked, unless in an emergency situation (i.e. a rubber ring to stop haemorrhage after an emergency) or for therapeutic reasons by a veterinarian.
- Cattle beasts over 6 months of age may only be castrated with appropriate local anaesthetic.

Dehorning and Disbudding

- A cattle beast of any age may only be dehorned with appropriate local anaesthetic.
- As of October 2019, a calf of any age must only be disbudded with appropriate local anaesthetic.

The new regulations allow for infringement notices/ instant fines, rather than having to go through the court process. A table of these is attached on the following page...

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Updated Animal Welfare Regulations

	Infringement Fine	Maximum Conviction Fine	
		Person	Company
Owning animal with ingrown horn	\$500	\$1500	
Inserting object in cow vagina for milk let-down	\$300	\$900	
Using vehicle for traction during calving	-	\$300	\$15,000
Transporting cow with ingrown horns	\$500	\$1500	
Transporting with broken horns	\$500	\$1500	
Transporting lame cow	\$500	\$1500	\$7500
Transporting cow in late pregnancy	\$500	\$1500	\$7500
Transporting cow with diseased or injured udder	\$500	\$1500	\$7500
Transporting cow with cancer eye	\$500	\$1500	
Not complying with veterinary certificate instructions	\$500	\$1500	
Misuse of electric prod	\$500	\$1500	\$7500
Misuse of goad	\$500	\$1500	
Docking of a cattle beasts tail	-	\$3000	\$15,000
Castrating cattle >6 months without pain relief	-	\$3000	\$15,000
Disbudding calves without pain relief	-	\$3000	\$15,000
Dehorning cattle without pain relief	-	\$3000	\$25,000

Toxins - What can be poisonous to Large Animals?



Amy Watts
Veterinarian

Raisins, chocolate, grapes, lilies and onions are all poisonous to cats and dogs but what about sheep and cattle?

There are lots of natural and man-made products which can be toxic to animals. And as vets we occasionally get called out to cases of poisoning in large animals. Whilst it depends on how much exposure has occurred, the volume ingested and the period of time, unfortunately most poisoning cases do not have favourable outcomes for the animals involved.

Following are a few of the poisoning cases that we have been called out to treat:

Lead poisoning: Cattle licked an old phone battery that had accidentally been exposed when a paddock that had previously been a dump was worked over.

Salt poisoning: Coarse salt (not the commonly used rock salt), spread out instead and resulted in down sheep with damaged kidneys.

Copper poisoning in sheep: grazing orchards that have sprayed copper onto plants have ended up with poisoned animals (sheep are a lot more sensitive to copper than cattle).

Copper poisoning in cattle: We have been called out to treat cases of copper poisoning in calves which had been supplemented with meal containing excessively high copper levels, and who had then been further supplemented with copper bullets, with no prior copper monitoring having been undertaken.



Macrocarpa and Pinus Radiata poisoning: can be found to cause abortion in later stage pregnant cows.

Chemicals poisoning: over exposure to sprays including Paraquat which is used routinely in lucerne crops, barley grass control and water ways can result in seizures and death in sheep.

Abamectin drenches: death in calves under 120 kg at just over the recommended dose rate.

Fertiliser: Urea and DAP toxicity - especially if applied and not enough moisture to soak the product in prior to grazing by stock.

Organophosphates: used in lice and fly control at too high a dose rates. Organophosphates are equally as toxic to humans.

With calf rearing and the bloat season getting into full swing, just a reminder that 'Monensin' which is commonly found in most calf meals and 'Rumensin' capsules are extremely toxic to both dogs and horses. **Do not** let them eat even a little bit!

Finally, always follow label recommended dose rates, weigh stock before treating where possible and if you have animals that react to a product in any unusual way - let your local VetEnt vet know. There may be a problem with the product which needs to be investigated.

