

## Animal welfare matters

New Zealand's great animal welfare system enhances our reputation as world leaders – let's keep it that way.

Regulations make it easier for MPI to take action against animal mistreatment. Fines for breaching animal welfare regulations start at \$300 for individuals and go up to \$25,000 for businesses. Some breaches may also result in a criminal conviction.

If an animal's welfare is seriously compromised, higher penalties under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 apply.



Check!



Ask!



Tell!

Are you doing it right? Encourage others to check too at [www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)

Email us your questions to [animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalwelfare@mpi.govt.nz)

Call us about an animal welfare issue on 0800 00 83 33

## Horns and tail docking

From tip to tail

### Tail docking

When **disbudding** or **dehorning**, you must use pain relief authorised by a veterinarian.

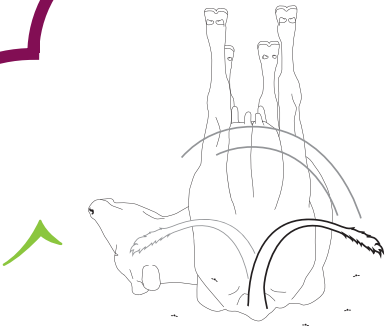
**Ingrown horns** are painful. An ingrown horn is when any part of the horn pierces, inflames or causes abrasion to any part of the body.

Do not allow horns to become ingrown, or transport an animal with an ingrown horn (with limited exceptions).

Removing any part of a cow's tail is prohibited.

If a cow's tail is injured and needs immediate attention, you may carry this out, but talk to your veterinarian.

A veterinarian can dock a tail for therapeutic reasons, with pain relief.



## Animal Welfare Regulations

# Dairy Cattle

May 2022



## More information

Many of the regulations come from the codes of welfare. These set out minimum standards and recommended best practices when caring for animals. Codes that may be relevant to you include:

- dairy cattle
- deer
- dogs
- goats
- horses and donkeys
- llamas and alpacas
- pigs
- sheep and beef cattle
- transport within NZ

You can find the regulations, our guidance on the regulations and the codes of welfare on our website at [www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs)

Ministry for Primary Industries  
Manatū Ahu Matua



## Fit for transport

On the farm, on the road, and on arrival

Transport is stressful. Animals need to be well prepared and fit for the entire journey.

Your cattle are not fit for transport if they:

- ✗ have an injured or diseased udder (e.g. mastitis), or lesions on the udder
- ✗ are in late pregnancy, and then give birth on the truck, or within 24 hours of arrival at the meat processor or sale yard
- ✗ have an injured or ingrown horn
- ✗ have eye cancer more than 2 cm in diameter, or not confined to the eye or eyelid, or any bleeding or discharging
- ✗ are lame (cannot bear weight on one or more limbs when moving or standing still, or have a definite limp)



Manage and treat on-farm before transporting



Consult your vet if you're unsure if your animal is fit for transport

**If in doubt – leave it out**

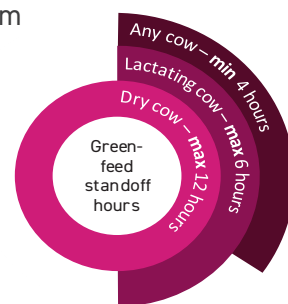
## Prevent Down Cows

Cull cows need careful preparation and management prior to transport. Lactating cows are at increased risk of going down.

- ✓ Dry off, or milk just before transport
- ✓ Know where they're going so you can prepare them for the length of the journey – communicate with your agent/transporter
- ✓ Travel time should be as short as possible
- ✓ Stand them off pasture (green feed) for 4-12 hours prior to transport
- ✓ Provide roughage/dry feed and water while they're stood off
- ✓ Supplement with calcium (lime flour) as well as magnesium



Download the free **Fit for Transport** app from the Apple store or Google play store to check your stock on the spot



## Tall or horned stock

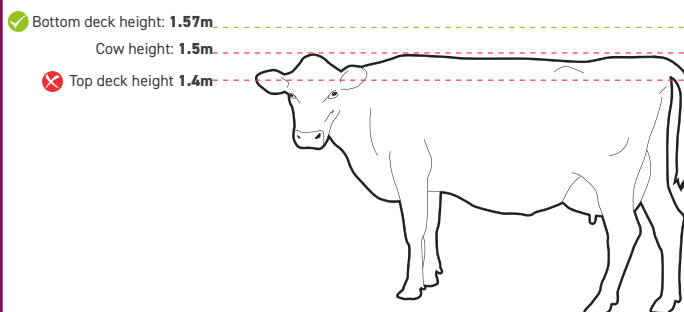
Tall or horned stock are at more risk of injury during transport.

- ✓ If you have tall or horned stock, tell your stock agent and transport company well in advance, so they can plan the best journey and select the right truck.

### Back rub

“Back rub” is a **serious injury** caused when an animal rubs against the top of a stock crate, damaging the skin and muscle. It can happen when animals are too tall for the crate, on long journeys or rough roads.

- ✓ Animals over 1.4 metres at the hip need to be transported on the bottom deck or on a single-decked truck.
- ✓ Draft tall stock into a separate mob before the truck arrives, for separate loading.



## Teat procedures

If **sealing** your cow's teat, you must be competent to undertake this procedure and use the right equipment.

- ✓ You must only use a teat sealant registered under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997.

✗ No other methods of teat sealing are allowed, e.g. rubber rings or glue.

Only a veterinarian can use a teat plug or a teat drain, and only for therapeutic purposes.

If **removing a supernumerary (extra) teat**, you must be competent to undertake this procedure and use the right equipment.

- ✓ The teat must be removed with a clean cut and not tear the tissue.
- ✓ From 10 weeks of age, you must use pain relief authorised by a veterinarian.

**Main teat removal** at any age can only be done by a veterinarian using pain relief.