

## **JERSEY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF**

### **CATTLE**

For the purposes of this Code, the word 'cattle' refers to all bovines and an animal under six months old is considered to be a calf. The only breed of cattle currently kept is the Jersey Island breed. The measurements stated in this Code are therefore to be used only for the needs of this breed.

#### **THE CODE**

The Code of recommendations for the welfare of cattle is intended to encourage all those responsible for looking after these animals to adopt the highest standards of husbandry. It takes account of five basic needs, known as the "Five Freedoms".

#### **The Five Freedoms are:**

##### **1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST**

- by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;

##### **2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT**

- by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;

##### **3. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE**

- by prevention or by rapid diagnosis and treatment;

##### **4. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR**

- by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind;

##### **5. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS**

- by ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The welfare of cattle can be safeguarded and their behavioural needs met under a variety of management systems. The system, and the number and stocking rate of cattle kept at any one time, should depend on the suitability of the conditions and the skills of the stockkeeper.

2. Consideration should be given to the question of animal welfare before installing more complex or elaborate equipment than has previously been used. In general the greater the restriction imposed on the animal and the complexity of the system or degree of control which is exercised over temperature, air flow or food supply, the less the animal is able to use its instinctive behaviour to modify the effect of unfavourable conditions and the greater the chance of suffering if mechanical or electrical failures occur. Thus systems involving a high degree of control over the environment should only be installed where conscientious staff skilled in both husbandry and the use of the equipment will always be available.

3. Although very large herds can be managed successfully, in general the larger the size of the unit the greater the degree of skill and conscientiousness needed to safeguard welfare. The size of a unit should not be increased nor should a large unit

be set up unless it is certain that the stockkeeper in charge will be able to safeguard the welfare of the individual animal.

4. All stockkeepers should be familiar with the normal behaviour of cattle. Badly managed and unhealthy cattle will not do well, and it is essential that the stockkeeper should watch for signs of distress or disease. It is important for management purposes that stockkeepers should have ample time for the inspection of stock and checking of equipment.

5. The signs of ill-health in cattle include listlessness, loss of appetite, sudden fall in milk yield, cessation of cudding, discharge from the nostrils or eyes, excessive salivation, persistent coughing, swollen joints, lameness, and scouring. In particular, calves should be watched carefully for signs of scouring or respiratory disorders which could spread rapidly.

6. The good stockkeeper should be able to recognise trouble in its earliest stages and may often be able to identify the cause and put matters right immediately. If the cause is not obvious or if the stockkeeper's immediate action is not effective, veterinary or other expert advice should be obtained as soon as possible.

## **HOUSING**

### **General**

7. Advice on welfare aspects should be sought when new buildings are to be constructed or existing buildings modified.

8. Internal surfaces of housing and pens for calves should be of materials which can, and should, either be cleaned and disinfected, or be easily replaced when necessary. The recommended dimensions for individual calf pens is a minimum length 10% greater than the calf's length, measured from the nose tip to the tuber ischii (pin bone) and a pen width at least equal to the height of the calf's withers.

9. Construction and siting of individual calf pens should allow individual calves to see other animals in neighbouring pens or stalls, unless they have been isolated for veterinary reasons. Solid-floored calf pens should have a slope of about 1:20 to provide adequate drainage.

10. A dry lying area should be available to all housed cattle including youngstock. Straw or other suitable bedding is strongly recommended. The pens should provide a minimum floor area of one square metre for each 100 kilograms of bodyweight of an individual or group of animals and take account of their maximum growth whilst occupying the pen.

11. Fittings and internal surfaces of buildings, cubicles, pens, kennels, milking parlours, stalls and passages accessible to cattle should not have sharp edges or projections. Fittings should be arranged and maintained to avoid injury to cattle.

12. Mature cows housed in cubicles, kennels or stalls, should be provided with at least one per cow to enable all animals in the group to lie down at any one time. The minimum floor area of cubicles, kennels or stalls housing mature cows should not be less than 2m<sup>2</sup>. The design should provide for the cows' comfort and allow them easy entry and exit

13. When cattle are housed in cubicles and kennels they should have access to an additional loafing area (including passages and feeding areas) of at least 2.5m<sup>2</sup> per cow for exercise and natural social behaviour.

14. Where tethers or ties are used, they should not cause injury or distress to the cattle or calves. Cattle should be untied and allowed to exercise at least once daily, with access to feed and water if the exercise period is prolonged. Consideration should be given to the adoption of a suitable loose-housing system.

15. All cattle, whether tethered or in pens, should at all times have sufficient freedom of sideways movement to be able to groom themselves without difficulty and sufficient room to lie down, freely stretch their limbs and be able to rise. The width of the pen for a single-penned animal should be not less than the height of the animal at the withers.

16. Where mature cows are housed in yards a minimum dry bedded and loafing area of 5m<sup>2</sup> per cow should be provided.

17. All floors, particularly slatted ones, should be designed, constructed and maintained to avoid discomfort, distress or injury to the cattle. Remedial action should be taken if any of these occurs.

18. Cows should not be kept in a totally slatted area. A solid floored area incorporating straw or a suitable bed should be provided to ensure comfort and reduce risk of injury to the udder, to which dairy cows are particularly vulnerable.

19. In accommodation for cows, it is essential to provide separate solid floored bedded pens for use at calving time. The minimum floor area of a pen used for individually housing a cow due to calve should be no less than 9 square metres. There should be at least one dedicated calving pen provided on each dairy farm with a minimum area of 0.25m<sup>2</sup> of bedded solid floor pens or yards dedicated to calving for each cow in the herd.

20. Bull pens should be sited to allow the bull sight and sound of farm activity. Mature bulls should be provided with an individual pen with a minimum floor area of 15 square metres incorporating a dry bedded lying space plus an exercise and feeding area.

21. Paints and wood preservatives which may be toxic to cattle should not be used on surfaces accessible to them. Particular care is necessary to guard against the risk of lead poisoning from old paintwork in any part of the building or when second-hand building materials are used.

22. When cattle are fed in groups there should be sufficient trough space or feeding points to avoid undue competition for food, especially if cattle are not fed to appetite.

23. Provision should be made for the segregation and comfort of sick or injured animals.

24. A cattle crush and race or other adequate facilities with quick-release devices are essential for the proper treatment of animals under examination, treatment or test.

### **Ventilation and temperature**

25. Effective ventilation of buildings and the avoidance of draughts are essential. Properly designed natural ventilation reduces the risk of breakdown. There should be an alarm system independent of the mains electricity supply to warn the stockkeeper

of failure of any automatic equipment. Expert advice may be necessary to ensure correct temperature, air flow and humidity for the type of stock housed.

26. When cattle are kept in unroofed units it is important to provide effective shelter from wind and a dry comfortable lying area. Unroofed units are not suitable in very wet exposed areas, especially for young calves without their dams.

27. Although healthy young calves can tolerate low air temperatures well, newborn animals, calves that have been transported or deprived of food, or sick calves, are particularly susceptible to chilling. Chilling can usually be avoided in a well-ventilated, unheated building by the use of thick, dry bedding and the avoidance of draughts. Sick individuals may benefit from artificial heat provided with suitable precautions to prevent fire.

28. When removing slurry from under slats, special care is essential to avoid fouling the air with dangerous gases which may be fatal to man and animals. It is important that the building should be thoroughly ventilated during this operation.

### **Lighting**

29. Throughout the hours of daylight the level of indoor lighting, natural or artificial, should be such that all housed cattle can be seen clearly. In addition, adequate lighting for satisfactory inspection and to allow any necessary action to rectify problems should be available at all times. Cattle and calves must not be kept in permanent darkness.

### **Mechanical equipment and services**

30. All equipment and services, including feed hoppers, drinkers, milking machines, ventilating fans, heating and lighting units, fire extinguishers and alarm systems, should be cleaned and inspected regularly and kept in good working order. They should be regularly tested. To guard against the possibility of a breakdown, alternative ways of feeding, of operating machinery used for milking and of maintaining a satisfactory environment should be available.

31. All automatic equipment should be inspected by a stockkeeper, or other competent person, not less than once each day to check that there are no defects. Where a defect is found it must be rectified as soon as possible. Action must be taken to safeguard the welfare of animals until the fault is rectified and the equipment is back in full working order.

32. All electrical installations at mains voltage should be inaccessible to cattle and properly earthed.

### **MANAGEMENT**

33. A live calf should not be removed from the farm of birth for at least three days unless for suckling by another newly-calved cow. A calf showing any signs of ill-health should not be moved other than for treatment.

34. Housed calves should be closely inspected frequently, and at least twice daily. It is desirable that all cattle should be inspected at least daily, for signs of injury, illness or distress.

35. Any injured or ailing animal should receive appropriate treatment and veterinary advice, if necessary, should be sought without delay. Sick and injured animals should

be placed, where possible, in suitable isolated accommodation with dry, comfortable bedding.

36. Regular attention should be paid to the feet of all classes of cattle.

37. When loose-housed, growing cattle should be grouped according to age, sex, size, behavioural needs and the presence or absence of horns should be taken into account. Appropriate advice may be necessary.

38. Fractious or horned cattle should not be loose-housed where there is danger of injury or bullying. Consideration should be given to the disbudding of calves.

39. Male calves reared for slaughter at below 10 months of age should not be castrated and kept in small groups preferably of not more than 10 animals.

40. Bulls should be reared, housed and grazed separately from each other, mixing of mature bulls should be avoided at all times. It is essential that suitable handling facilities are provided for bulls. It may be necessary to give special attention to the strengthening of housing and fencing and the provision of suitable handling facilities and equipment.

41. Electric fences should be so designed, installed and maintained that contact with them does not cause unnecessary pain or distress to the cattle.

42. The marking of cattle for identification should be done with care by competent operators to avoid unnecessary pain or distress to the animals at the time of marking or subsequently. All cattle in Jersey now have to be double ear tagged with officially approved tags.

43. If aerosols or paints are used for temporary marking, only non-toxic materials should be used.

44. Neck bands or chains, tail bands or leg bands, used for management purposes, should be fitted with care and adjusted as required to avoid any unnecessary pain or distress to the animals.

45. The tail-docking of cattle is prohibited unless performed for clinical reasons by a veterinary surgeon.

46. Castration, disbudding and dehorning must be undertaken in accordance with the law. The operation must be carried out by veterinary surgeon or by a competent trained operator where a layman is permitted to undertake the operation (see notes in the section below on Legislation).

47. Cattle should be handled quietly but firmly at all times and with care to avoid unnecessary pain or distress. This applies particularly to cows during milking, and care should be taken that they are not over-milked. Milking machines should be constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with current ISO standards

48. Appropriate methods should be used to prevent parasitic infestations or to treat them if they occur.

49. When breeding, especially from maiden heifers, sires should be carefully selected, taking into account size, age and previous record, to reduce injury and the likelihood of calving difficulties. Cows and heifers should be managed to be in suitable bodily condition at the time of calving. Stockkeepers should be experienced and competent in the techniques of calving and pay particular attention to hygiene, especially at assisted calvings. Mechanical calving aids should only be used by a

competent person who has received proper instruction in their use. Veterinary advice should be sought at an early stage if difficulties are suspected.

50. In exposed grazing areas where natural shelter or shade is not available, consideration should be given to the provision of artificial protection from the weather. Out-wintered cattle should have access to a well-drained lying area and, if necessary, to adequate supplementary nutrition.

## **FEED AND WATER**

51. Whatever feeding system is adopted, all cattle should receive a daily diet which is adequate to maintain full health and vigour.

52. It is vital that every calf receives colostrum from its dam, or from another newly-calved cow, as soon as possible after it is born and certainly within the first six hours of its life; it should continue to do so for the first three days. Thereafter, the calf should receive suitable food at frequent intervals.

53. All calves should be checked daily by a competent person with regard for their general health, paying particular attention to breathing and the condition of nose, eyes, navel, anus, feet and legs. The calves' immediate requirements should also be assessed taking into account the time since they were last fed.

54. All calves should receive liquid food at least once a day during the first four weeks of life and until they are eating adequate quantities of suitable solid food. For normal development unweaned calves should have access to palatable unmilled roughage and fresh clean water. If the calf is more than 14 days old, it should have access to dried feed or forage material containing sufficient digestible fibre to enable development of the rumen. Where calves are housed as a group and do not have continuous access to feed, or are not fed by an automatic feeding system, each calf should have access to the food at the same time as others in the group.

55. Where calves are being raised for veal production, particular care should be taken to ensure that they obtain sufficient available iron to maintain them in good health.

56. To facilitate adequate feeding and to limit the spread of disease or 'vice', housed calves should be kept either singly or in small groups until they are weaned off liquid food. When calves are fed by natural suckling or by mechanical means, other penning arrangements may be satisfactory.

57. Whilst calves are being bucket fed each calf should have its own bucket. Utensils used for feeding liquids should be thoroughly cleansed immediately after each use and disinfected daily by heat or with a suitable chemical sterilising agent. Troughs should be kept clean and any stale food removed. Automatic feeding equipment should be cleaned at regular and frequent intervals.

58. Cattle should have access to sufficient fresh clean water at least twice daily and preferably all the time.

59. Water troughs and buckets, especially those in calf houses, loose-housing and cubicle units, should be constructed and sited so as to protect them from fouling and to minimise the risk of water freezing in cold weather. Water troughs, bowls and nipples should be kept thoroughly clean and should be checked at least once daily to ensure they are dispensing water.

## **TETHERING OF CATTLE**

60. Where tethers are used for calves they must not cause injury and must be inspected regularly and adjusted, if necessary, to ensure a comfortable fit. Each tether must be of sufficient length to allow the calf to stand up, lie down, rest and groom itself without hindrance. The design must avoid any risk of strangulation or injury. Consideration should be given, by those farms using calf tethering, to changing to a loose housing system.

61. Outdoor tethering of cattle requires a high degree of supervision with the animals being inspected and moved at least twice per day. Cattle should not be tethered where there are obstacles and a risk of the chain becoming entangled; or close to a highway where they may be a danger to pedestrians, cyclists or motor vehicles, or could be injured by a passing vehicle.

62. Calves under the age of 9 months must not be tethered outside in the winter months beginning 1 November and ending on the 30 April in the following year.

63. Special care should be taken to ensure that neck chains, halters or ropes form a comfortable fit and do not cause distress or injury

64. Chains or ropes used as tethers must not cause distress or injury to the animals and must be inspected regularly and adjusted as necessary to ensure a comfortable fit. Each tether must be of sufficient length to allow the animal to stand up, lie down, rest, exercise and groom itself without hindrance. Each tether must have a least one free running swivel in its length to reduce the risk of strangulation.

65. If animals over the age of 9 months have to be tethered outside during the winter months, they should be confined to land where shelter from the direct effects of cold winds and driving rain is afforded by a hedge, tree belt or other structure. Cattle should not be tethered outside at all in **VERY BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS**. Consideration should be given to alternative methods of managing cattle on those farms where tethering is used.

66. When cattle are tethered, whether in summer or winter, it is imperative that they are provided with adequate quantities of food and water. Water should be offered to the animals at least twice daily with adequate supplementary feed being provided when the quantity and quality of forage is limited. It is particularly important to ensure that animals do not go short of water in hot weather conditions.

## **CARE OF UNWANTED INFANT CALVES**

67. Despite some new born (infant) calves being financially worthless, their welfare is of the utmost importance and they must be properly cared for. All owners, managers and stockkeepers must be aware that they have legal and ethical responsibilities for the welfare of these animals.

68. The following points should be taken into consideration when caring for live unwanted calves on-farm whilst awaiting slaughter and disposal:-

- they should be bedded in clean dry areas
- they should be protected from wind and rain
- they should not be subject to extremes of heat or cold
- they should have sufficient room to lie down, turn around and stand

- they should not have legs tied together or be placed in a sack
- they must not be carried by their legs, thrown, dragged or pulled along by the head, tail or ears
- they must be provided with sufficient liquid food to maintain full health

### **STAFF TRAINING**

69. The Code identifies good stockmanship as a key factor in farm animal welfare and this code is an essential tool for every stockkeeper. All persons involved with cattle should read it carefully and bear its recommendations in mind at all times.

70. Stockmanship is a key factor because, no matter how acceptable a system may be in principle, without competent, diligent stockmanship, the welfare of the cattle cannot be adequately catered for. The Code recommendations are designed to help all stockkeepers and particularly those who are young or inexperienced, to attain the required standards. Staff training must be carried out to ensure stockkeepers are competent in handling and routine procedures which they carry out together with recognising signs of ill health and action to take.

### **EMERGENCIES/FIRE PREVENTION**

71. Farmers should make advance plans for dealing with emergencies such as fire, flood or disruption of supplies, and should ensure that all staff are familiar with the appropriate emergency action.

72. Fire precautions should be a major priority for every stockkeeper. Expert advice should be sought from the Fire Safety Officer.

73. In the design of new buildings, or the alteration of existing buildings, there should be provision, for livestock to be released and evacuated quickly in cases of emergency. Materials used in construction should have sufficient fire resistance to enable emergency procedures to be followed.

74. All electrical, gas and oil services should be planned and fitted so that if there is overheating, or flame is generated, the risk of flame spreading to equipment, bedding or the fabric of the building is minimal. It is advisable to site power supply controls outside buildings. Consideration should be given to installing fire alarm systems which can be heard and acted upon at any time of the day or night.

75. In case a 999 call has to be made, notices should be prominently displayed in all livestock buildings stating where the nearest telephone is located. Each telephone should have fixed by it a notice giving instructions on the best route to the farm and a description of the location of the telephone on the farm.

76. There is usually some warning of interruptions in the supply of feedingstuffs and, so far as possible, arrangements should be made to lay in adequate stocks to offset the effects of such a contingency.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Many of the recommendations are legal requirements. The Diseases of Animals (Welfare in Transit) (Jersey) Order 2001 refers to:**

77. Cattle should not be handled or transported in a way which causes or is likely to cause injury or suffering to that animal.

78. No cattle should be transported unless fit for the intended journey and suitable provision has been made for its care both during the journey and on arrival at the place of destination.

79. An animal shall not be considered fit to travel if it is ill, injured, infirm, fatigued, is likely to give birth on the journey or is a new born calf in which the navel has not completely healed.

80. The means of transport, or the receptacle in which the animal is placed, shall be constructed, maintained and operated so as to avoid injury and unnecessary suffering and to ensure the safety of the animals during transport, loading and unloading, it should also be escape proof.

81. Any floor on which the animals stand or walk during loading, unloading or transport shall be sufficiently strong to bear their weight and constructed, maintained and operated to prevent slipping and injury.

82. Means of transport and other receptacles used to contain cattle should be free from any sharp edges and projections likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering.

83. Means of transport or receptacles used to contain cattle shall have sufficient lighting to enable the proper care and inspection of any animal being carried.

84. Means of transport and receptacles shall be constructed, maintained and operated so as to allow appropriate cleaning and disinfection.

85. The accommodation for the carriage of cattle shall be such that the animals are provided with adequate space to stand in their natural position. The following floor areas are indicated for guidance:-

Small calves	< 50Kg	0.3 to 0.4	square metres
Large calves	50-110Kg	0.4 to 0.7	square metres
Small cattle	120-200Kg	0.7 to 0.95	square metres
Medium cattle	210-325Kg	0.95 to 1.30	square metres
Large cattle	330-550Kg	1.30 to 1.60	square metres
Very large cattle	560 - 700 >	1.60 >	square metres

86. Means of transport and receptacles used to contain cattle must provide appropriate ventilation and sufficient air space above the animal to allow air to circulate properly.

87. Partitions shall be used, if necessary, to provide adequate support for animals and/or to prevent animals being thrown about during transport. Partitions should be of rigid construction strong enough to withstand the weight of any animal thrown against it and positioned so that they do not interfere with ventilation.

88. Every ramp which is carried or forms part of a vehicle used to transport cattle shall be non-slip. It is recommended that the slope should not be more than 25 degrees. Any steps or gaps should be designed to avoid injury and suffering to the animal being moved.

89. When animals are tied in transit the ropes or other attachments used, should be designed in such a way as to eliminate any danger of strangulation or injury and allow quick release of the animal in an emergency. Animals should not be tied by the horns or nose rings.

90. No excessive force should be used to load, unload or transport any cattle. The use of any stick, goad or other instrument or thing to hit or prod any cattle under 6 months is prohibited and their use should be avoided, if possible, when handling older cattle.

91. The following animals should not be carried in an undivided vehicle, pen or receptacle with other animals: a cow accompanied by a calf it is suckling or a bull over 10 months of age (unless it has been raised in a compatible group).

92. Cattle should be segregated from other species, unless separation from their companion animal would cause either of the animals distress. Horned cattle should be segregated from non-horned cattle unless they are all secured. A carcass of a dead animal should not be transported with live cattle. Animals that die in transit must be removed as soon as possible.

93. Cattle should be segregated whilst in transit with due regard to their differences in age, size and temperament, with partitions used if necessary, to avoid injury and unnecessary suffering that could be caused to one or all of the animals.

94. All animals in transit should be in the charge of a person who has been suitable trained to provide the necessary care and attention to safeguard their welfare.

### **LEGISLATION**

95. The following legislation is of relevance:

- Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004
- Diseases of Animals (Jersey) Law 1958
- Veterinary Surgeons (Jersey) Law 1999
- Community Provisions (Welfare of Animals during Transport) (Jersey) Regulations 2013
- European Communities Legislation (Implementation) (Cattle Identification) (Jersey) Regulation 2002

96. \* **Notes:**

1. The following operations may be performed without an anaesthetic by a veterinary surgeon or other suitably trained person:

- The castration of a bull using Burdizzo pliers before the animal reaches two months of age.
- The castration of a bull using a rubber ring if applied within the first week of the animal's life.

- The disbudding of calves by chemical cauterisation as long as it is performed within the first week of the animals life.
  - The removal of supernumerary teats provided this is done before the animal reaches three months of age.
2. The removal of horn buds from calves using a hot disbudding iron may also be performed by a non-veterinarian provided it is done with the correct use of an anaesthetic.

**07-03 AWC (24/05/07)) (paragraph 70 amended)**