
Overview

This standard covers the handling and restraint of cattle in order to carry out foot trimming.

You will need to assess the risks involved in handling and restraining the animal and use restraining equipment safely and humanely. You will also need to observe the animal's response to restraint and take appropriate action.

You will need to be aware of your own limitations and ensure that you meet the relevant legal responsibilities for duty of care under animal health and welfare legislation.

This standard is suitable for appropriately trained and qualified cattle foot trimmers.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. maintain a high standard of professional and ethical conduct and work within the limits of your own authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
2. ensure that your work is carried out in accordance with current animal health and welfare legislation, relevant farm animal regulations and codes of practice at all times
3. carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
4. carry out a risk assessment and take appropriate actions to ensure that the risks to cattle, yourself and any other people or animals are minimised
5. prepare the work area prior to commencing work
6. establish and maintain appropriate measures for hygiene and bio-security
7. prepare and check the condition of **equipment** required for foot trimming, including personal protective equipment (PPE)
8. approach and handle cattle in a manner that is likely to promote their co-operation and minimise distress
9. restrain the animal safely and humanely, making sure the crush is used correctly and the animal is secure and not distressed
10. monitor the animal's behaviour and adapt the handling and restraint in response to its reactions
11. ensure that the animal's health and welfare is maintained throughout
12. recognise when behaviour may indicate that you should not continue with the activity
13. recognise when to seek assistance with the handling and restraint of the animal
14. set up records in preparation for recording findings, actions taken and recommendations
15. maintain professional competence through Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. your professional and ethical responsibilities and the limits of your authority, expertise, training, competence and experience
2. your responsibilities under current animal health and welfare legislation, other relevant farm animal regulations and codes of practice, and the legal limitations of the Veterinary Surgeons Act (1966) with regard to diagnosis and treatment of disease or injury
3. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation and codes of practice
4. how to carry out a risk assessment and the measures that can be put into place to reduce risks
5. the importance and correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
6. the importance of hygiene and bio-security to reduce risks of spreading **disease** or contracting a **zoonotic disease** and the **measures** that can be taken
7. the equipment required for cattle foot trimming and the **preparation and maintenance** required
8. the different types of crush used to restrain cattle and how to use them safely and correctly
9. possible risks and hazards involved with the handling and restraint of cattle and how to minimise these
10. how cattle should be approached, handled and restrained in order to promote animal welfare and maintain health and safety
11. how to recognise the signs of distress in the animals being handled and restrained and the action required
12. how to identify situations where it is not suitable or appropriate for a person to approach, handle or restrain an animal without assistance and the consequences of attempting to do so
13. the relevant legal and other requirements for maintaining **records** and the information they should contain
14. the importance of appropriate insurance cover
15. the importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to maintain professional competence and the role of professional organisations

Scope/range

Diseases that can potentially be passed on by the trimmer:

- salmonella
- foot and mouth disease
- ringworm
- foul of the foot
- Johnes disease
- BVD (Bovine Viral Diarrhoea)
- IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis)
- digital dermatitis

Recognised **zoonotic diseases**:

- leptospirosis
- brucellosis
- ringworm
- tuberculosis
- salmonella
- e.coli
- cryptosporidia

Measures to reduce risks of disease or zoonoses:

- personal hygiene
- appropriate first aid treatment and protection of open wounds
- no eating, drinking or smoking while working
- washing and disinfecting crush and equipment thoroughly between farms
- keeping area around the crush scraped free of faeces during trimming
- use of suitable disinfectant

Equipment required for cattle foot trimming:

- apron
- wellington boots
- overalls
- wrist guards
- gloves
- disinfectant
- knives
- clippers
- rasp
- electric rotary rasp (if used)
- safety glasses
- electric cables (if used)

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- hoof blocks (claw blocks)
 - crush
 - recording system
 - first aid kit
 - other relevant equipment

Glossary

Zoonoses:

Diseases of animals transmissible to humans

Preparation and maintenance of equipment could include ensuring that:

- it is safe and in good working order
- it is clean
- it is sharp
- the blade/bow is at the correct angle
- appropriate disinfection and bio-security (hygiene, cleanliness) measures are carried out
- the electrical supply has been tested
- there is safe routing of cables

Records could be used by the farmer:

- to satisfy farm assurance recording requirements
- to assess the main causes of lameness on farms
- to inform the farm vet of cows trimmed and findings
- to identify problem animals
- to identify animals for further treatment

LANCFT1

Handle and restrain cattle for foot trimming



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