



3 February 2011

Dr Kevin de Witte
Manager Livestock Welfare & Special Projects
Animal Health Australia
Suite 15, 26 & 28 Napier Close
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Re: Bobby calf time off feed Public Consultation

Dear Kevin,

The proposed amendment to SB4.5 has been distributed to Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) members and most particularly to the cattle special interest group (SIG) for comment.

Our members' responses indicate that calves should be fed every 24 hours, which is contained in our policy 8.12 Off-cow rearing of calves, however our cattle vets SIG is willing to accept that there may be rare occasions where this is not possible due to distances travelled, timing of slaughter and also unforeseen equipment failure.

The AVA accepts the scientific data presented by Dr Andrew Fisher that came to the conclusion that; 30 hours, with good practice in other aspects of calf management and transport was suitable as a maximum time off feed limit for bobby calves.

We support the call for further work to be done to collect scientific data on this issue while in the interim supporting the 30 hours time off feed. It is essential that all other standards of animal welfare are adhered to and that approaching the 30 hour limit is considered to be a rare event rather than the norm.

The AVA encourages industry representatives to re-examine the way that calves are selected for loading and also promote rigorous planning of the time involved in collecting calves from various properties to make up a transport load so as the first loaded do not continually exceed the 24 hours time off feed.

In summary, the AVA supports current scientific evidence presented for the 30 hour time off feed and supports the Cattle Vets submission.

Bruce Twentyman
Deputy Veterinary Director
The Australian Veterinary Association