

Comments from staff of NSW DPI on the Standards and Guidelines for livestock transport attached.

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NSW DEPARTMENT OF  
**PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

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OUT08/6045

Mr Ralph Hood  
Chief Executive Officer  
Animal Health Australia  
Suite 15, 26-28 Napier Close  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mr Hood

Please find attached comments made by staff of the NSW Department of Industries on the draft Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals Land Transport of Livestock.

Yours sincerely

**ROSS BURTON**  
**DIRECTOR, ANIMAL WELFARE**

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**COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES  
FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS LAND TRANSPORT OF LIVESTOCK**

- GA5.8 It is common practice to twist a beast's tail to move it forward in a race. Does this constitute pulling by tail? Should it be specifically mentioned?
- GA5.9 Poly pipe is a very common 'handling aid'. It is not mentioned in either the standard (SA5.6) or the guideline. Perhaps it should be specifically ruled out by the standard or in by the guideline.
- GB6.27 There should be mention of the vulnerability of the neck and wings of ratites, especially emus. Experienced handlers can use the wings of an emu (one hand on the rump, one person each side) to guide the animals, however the wing is easily damaged if pulled away from the body with any force.

**Water deprivation times**

Frequently, cattle and sheep may be transported to a saleyard or other holding yard, held for a period of time, then transported further, either to an abattoir or another destination which may be a farm or another saleyard. It is suggested that any animals held for over 24 hours in yards (whether saleyards or other holding yards) should be provided with both feed and water.

**Bobby calves**

David Adams OCVO at the Calgary Livestock Transport Conference stated that the maximum travelling time for all unaccompanied calves under 1 month of age should be 10 hours.

One factor that hasn't been taken into account is temperature. Young calves cannot regulate their body temperature and will use up their body fat in cold weather, which means they are less likely to survive if the temperature insult lasts for a long period. This means that long times such as 18 hours may not be detrimental to welfare in temperate weather, providing the calf has had a feed about 1 hour before travel (which probably won't be happening on farms or in the saleyard) but will be at risk in hot weather (dehydration in young calves) or in cold weather (shivering and rapid loss of body heat).

The period of travel would also depend on the stocking rate on the transporter - calves survive better if they are permitted to lie down. This isn't mentioned anywhere in the standards.

SB4.7 Dogs and **cattle prods** should not be used to move bobby calves.