

Appendix HP.1

LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY PROCEDURES

This appendix outlines the scheme requirements when undertaking certain husbandry procedures (also known as common veterinary operations). Consideration should be given to whether the procedure is necessary – and procedures must only be carried out by competent persons. Consideration must also be given to the application of dressing/antibiotic sprays to wounds.

Where husbandry procedures are carried out on-farm, it is a requirement that you document this in your health plan - and a recommendation that the need of husbandry procedures is reviewed with a vet.

A competent stock person is trained and/or experienced stockman who understands the welfare implications of the procedure they are undertaking, the methods they are using and the conditions for use.

CATTLE

PROCEDURE/ METHOD		CONDITIONS OF USE			
		Animal age	Operator	Anaesthetic	Analgesic
Castration	Elastration/Rubber ring	1st week of life only	Competent stock person		
	Clamp/bloodless	Up to 2 months	Competent stock person		With
	Other method	Up to 2 months	Competent stock person	With	With
	When animal is over 2 months of age	Over 2 months	Vet Only	With	With
Disbudding	Chemical cauterisation	1st week of life only	Competent stock person		Recommended with
	Other method than above e.g. hot iron	Up to 2 months	Competent stock person	With	With
Dehorning	Cutting/sawing horn (must not be used routinely)	Up to 5 months	Competent stock person	With	With
		Over 5 months	Vet Only	With	With
Removal of Supernumerary Teats	Using clean, sharp scissors	Up to 3 months	Competent stock person	With	With
		Over 3 months	Vet Only	With	With

Routine tail docking of cattle is not permitted.

SHEEP

PROCEDURE/ METHOD		CONDITIONS OF USE			
		Animal age	Operator	Anaesthetic	Analgesic
Castration	Elastration/ Rubber ring	1st week of life only	Competent stock person		
	Clamp/ bloodless	Up to 3 months	Competent stock person		
	When the animal is over 3 months of age or where any methods other than above are used		Vet Only	With	With
Tail Docking*	Rubber Ring	1st week of life	Competent stock person		
	Hot iron/clamp	Up to 2 months	Competent stock person	With	
	Surgical/other	Any age	Vet Only	With	With
Dehorning and disbudding**	Trimming of insensitive tip of an in-growing horn	Any age	Competent stock person		
	All other cases	Any age	Vet Only	With	With

* There must be sufficient tail to cover the vulva or the anus. Any shorter must only be in the case of emergency, disease or injury following consultation with a vet (and administration of anaesthetic).

** Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (as amended), only a veterinary surgeon may de-horn or disbud a sheep, apart from trimming the insensitive tip of an ingrowing horn, which if left untreated could cause pain or distress.