

Decision Support in the Management of a Down Cattle

1 A down cow is found

DO A QUICK SUMMARY EXAM:



WHAT IS THE ANIMAL'S GENERAL CONDITION?

- ⚠ **Place the hobbles**
- ✓ Open wound(s) or fracture(s)?
- ✓ Udder: colour, swelling, discharge, wound(s)?
- ✓ Temperature? Cold ears? Lethargic?



CALL THE VETERINARIAN

- ✓ Visit?
- ✓ Treatments?
- ✓ Immediate care?

2 Assess the animal

Animal is alert
PROVIDE BASIC CARE:

- ✓ Water at muzzle level
- ✓ Dry hay

Animal is not alert

- ✓ Follow the recommendations of your veterinarian
- ✓ Provide basic care

Major injury(ies)

3 Assess the environment and the need to move the animal

Environment is appropriate*
NO NEED TO MOVE THE ANIMAL

Environment is inappropriate
MUST BE MOVED*

- ✓ Prepare the location where the animal will be moved to
- ✓ Gather the people (3 and more) and equipment required*
- ✓ Move the animal with great care

Impossible to move the animal
WITHOUT AGGRAVATING ITS CONDITION

4 Assess the animal's condition

Animal is alert, drinks and eats

Condition is improving

Animal is not alert, condition is deteriorating

NO IMPROVEMENT AFTER 48 H
CANNOT STAND UP ON ITS OWN AFTER 48 H



* See the complementary factsheet "Down Cattle Care"

EUTHANASIA