Minimum Standards for Outdoor Rearing of Calves and Outdoor Tethering of Young-stock and Adult Cattle

Contents

Preamble

Domestication (and captivity) brings with it compromises but minimum standards of husbandry are necessary to ensure animal welfare (a life worth living) as outlined in the **'Five Freedoms'**:

> **1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

2. Freedom from Discomfort - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.

4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.

5. Freedom from Fear and Distress - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

(Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC), 5th December 1979)

The FAWC also recognises the importance of stockmanship with regard to the provision of the five freedoms in the **'Three Essentials of Stockmanship'**:

1. Knowledge of animal husbandry - Sound knowledge of the biology and husbandry of farm animals, including how their needs may be best provided for in all circumstances.

2. Skills in animal husbandry - Demonstrable skills in observation, handling, care and treatment of animals, and problem detection and resolution.

3. Personal qualities - Affinity and empathy with animals, dedication and patience.

(FAWC, June 2007)

Introduction

This document relates to the husbandry practice of outdoor rearing of calves and the outdoor tethering of young-stock and adult cattle.

Guidance for the Welfare of Calves

The Guidance for the Welfare of Calves document is made under section 13(6) of the Animal Welfare (Guernsey) Ordinance, 2012 says that Calves under the age of 6 months must not be tethered.

However calves may be tethered other than for activities such as -

- feeding milk,
- veterinary inspection, or
- the administration of veterinary medicines,

and they may be restrained using a head collar and lead rope or yoke, and only for as long as it is necessary to undertake such activities.

The practice of restraining cattle using a head collar and lead rope of up to one hour before, during or after procedures such as veterinary examination, artificial insemination, treatment or administration of medication is acceptable.

When cattle are tethered to ensure the animals welfare:

- specific husbandry practices must be undertaken, and;
- keepers must be competent stockman, and;
- site location must meet specified criteria.

These practices, competences and criteria are the minimum standards that must be achieved by a keeper to issue them with an annual licence to tether cattle under the Animal Welfare (Guernsey) Ordinance 2012.

Outdoor Calves

Calves must not be tethered other than in those situations described in the Guidance for the Welfare of Calves for periods of less than one hour. Calf rearing outside is commonly practiced by individuals who practice outdoor tethering of adult cattle.

Site

1. (1) Provision must be made on the site for the calves to be protected from adverse weather and they must have an opportunity to lie on a well-drained area. Calves must have access to a shelter, typically a calf hut/hutch and an attached fenced pen. Hutches must be positioned where flooding is least likely to occur.

(2) Hutches must be arranged so that the entrance does not face the prevailing wind. Drafts can further be reduced by creating wind breaks around the entrance, with bales of hay or straw.

(3) On sloping land it is necessary to try to create a level floor within the hutch. This reduces the risk of bedding accumulation on the downward slope.

(4) Hutches must be anchored to prevent them from being blown over in the wind.

Accommodation

2. (1) No calf may be confined in an individual hutch and/or pen after the age of eight weeks unless a veterinary surgeon certifies that its health or behaviour requires it to be isolated or it needs to be isolated in order to receive treatment.

(2) The width of any individual hutch for a calf must be at least equal to the height of the calf at the withers, measured in the standing position, and the length must be at least equal to the body length of the calf, measured from the tip of the nose to the caudal edge of the *tuber ischii* (pin bones), multiplied by 1.1.

(3) Isolation hutches or pens must have minimum dimensions of 1m by 1.8m providing 1.8m^2 minimum floor space.

(4) Individual pens for calves (except for those isolating sick animals) must have gaps which allow calves to have direct visual and tactile contact with each other.

(5) For calves kept in groups, the unobstructed space allowance available to each calf must be:
(a) at least 1.5 m² for each calf with a live weight of less than 150 kg; and
(b) at least 2 m² for each calf with a live weight of 150 kg or more but less than 200 kg; and
(c) at least 3 m² for each calf with a live weight of 200 kg or more.

(6) Each calf must be able to stand up, lie down, turn around, rest and groom itself without hindrance.

(7) Each calf that is kept on a holding on which two or more calves are kept, must be able to have visual and tactile contact with the dam or at least one other calf even in the first 8 weeks of life.

(8) Sub-paragraph (7) does not apply to any calf that is kept in isolation on a holding on veterinary advice or in accordance with sub-paragraph (1).

(9) For the purpose of calculating the number of calves kept on a holding in order to determine whether sub-paragraph (7) applies, no account may be taken of any calf that is being kept in isolation on veterinary advice or in accordance with sub-paragraph (1).

(10) Ventilation within the hutch must be sufficient to remove excess humidity and therefore prevent the accumulation of condensation within the hutch.

Inspection

3. Calves which are kept outside must be inspected by the owner or other person responsible for the calves at least twice a day to check that they are in a state of well-being.

Tethering

4. No person responsible for a calf may tether it or cause it to be tethered other than in those situations described in the **Guidance for the Welfare of Calves** for periods of less than one hour .

Cleaning and disinfection

5. (1) Hutches and/or pens, equipment and utensils used for calves must be properly cleaned and disinfected as often as necessary to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease carrying

organisms.

(2) The accumulation of faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt food must be managed by either removing it as often as necessary to minimise smell and to avoid attracting flies or rodents, or by moving the calf and hutch to a new clean area at appropriate intervals .

Bedding and lying area

6. (1) All calves must be provided with appropriate bedding. During extended periods of dry weather and when on well grown grass it is acceptable to use the pasture as the soul source of bedding.

(2) All calves must at all times have access to a lying area which is clean, comfortable and adequately drained.

Bovine colostrum

7. Each calf must receive bovine colostrum within six hours of birth and must continue to receive colostrum for at least the first 48hr after birth.

Additional dietary requirements

8. (1) All calves must be provided with food which contains sufficient iron to ensure a blood haemoglobin level of at least 4.5 mmol/litre.

(2) A minimum daily ration of fibrous food must be provided for each calf over 2 weeks old, the quantity being raised in line with the growth of the calf from a minimum of 100g at 2 weeks old, to a minimum of 250g at 20 weeks old. If clean, well grown grass is available this may constitute a source of fibrous food. If in any doubt then supplement available pasture with a suitable fibrous food.

Muzzling

9. Calves must not be muzzled.

Feeding

10. (1) Calves must be fed a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age and which is fed to them in sufficient quantity to maintain them in good health and satisfy their nutritional needs. No calf shall be provided with food or liquid in a manner, nor shall such food or liquid contain any substance, which may cause unnecessary suffering or injury.

(2) All calves must be fed at least twice a day in their first month of life. (Guda van der Burgt and Sophia Hepple *Veterinary Record* 2013;**172**:135 doi:10.1136/vr.f623)

(3) Where calves are housed in a group and do not have continuous access to food, or are not fed by an automatic feeding system, each calf must have access to food at the same time as the others in the feeding group.

Drinking water

11. (1) All calves must be provided with a sufficient quantity of fresh drinking water each day at least twice daily.

(2) Calves must be provided with fresh and palatable drinking water at all times:

(a) in hot weather conditions when the air temperature in the shade is greater than 20°C; or

(b) when they are ill.

Cold weather

12. (1) Proactive tactical management action must be taken promptly if the environmental temperature falls below 15°C in the case of calves between birth and 2 weeks of age. Actions must be taken if the environmental temperature falls below 10°C in the case of calves between 2 weeks of age and 1 month old. (Table 1.)

(2) Proactive tactical management action to protect calves in cold weather include:

(a) Calf coats/rugs. These must only be used once the calf has been 'cleaned' by its mother.

(b) Provide extra bedding.

(c) Build a temporary shelter to provide protection from the weather.

(d) Move the calf (and its mother if it has not yet had sufficient colostrum) inside a building.

(e) If the calf is moved inside a building a suspended heat lamp could be used to provide additional heat.

(3) Average air temperatures in Guernsey indicate that tactical management actions are likely to be required for a period for calves reared outside depending on when they are born.

(a) Calves born from October through to June that are reared outside will require calf coats/rugs for the first two weeks of their lives. (Table 3.)

(b) Calves that are between 2 weeks and 1 month of age that are reared outside will require calf coats/rugs from December through to March. (Table 3.)

(4) When the weather is cold calves must be provided with extra rations of food. The normal ration must be increased in quantity by at least 20% during periods of cold described in 12. (1).

Hot weather

13.

(1) Proactive tactical management action must be taken promptly if the environmental temperature rises above 25°C in the case of calves between birth and 1 month of age. Actions must be taken if the environmental temperature rises above 20°C in the case of calves between 1 month of age and 6 months of age. (Table 1.)

(2) Proactive tactical management action to protect calves in hot weather include:

(a) provision of fresh drinking water at all times, and;

(b) provision of screening from the sun, natural, artificial or within a building, that is sufficient to create a shadow/shade large enough to cover the calf between 10am and 5pm (BST), and;
(c) provision of sufficient natural or mechanical ventilation to ensure that the air temperature in the created shade is lower than that without shade, and;
(d) if necessary wet the calf's body with cool water from a watering can or mist spray every few hours to encourage heat loss through evaporation.

(3) Average air temperatures in Guernsey indicate that tactical management actions may be required for short periods for calves reared outside from May to September. (Table 3.)

Severe weather planning

14. (1) It is necessary to plan for heat waves and cold waves. Persons responsible for the care of calves and cattle reared outside must make provision to accommodate them within suitable buildings.

(2) Persons responsible for the care of cattle and calves reared outside must provide written evidence of a plan that enables all of their cattle and calves to be accommodated in a suitable building(s) upon the threat of an extreme weather event. The buildings do not have to be owned by the person responsible for the animals but where they are owned by another party evidence of an agreement to provide accommodation for animals must be available for inspection. The period of the agreement must be at least a year. In addition an officer must be able to inspect the buildings should they want to assess if they are fit for purpose, see 24.

(3) Persons responsible for the care of calves and cattle must take notice of 'red' (take action) severe weather warnings issued by Metrological (Met) Office of Jersey for snow and/or ice and put their extreme weather plan in to action once a warning is issued.

(4) If a responsible person requires assistance before the arrival of a forecast extreme weather event or during an extreme weather event they must contact the States Veterinary Officer (234567), Civil Protection Volunteers (Graham Williams 07781 129502 / 717337) or the Police (725111).

Young-stock (bullocks and heifers) and adult cattle (bulls and cows)

Only young-stock with a 'heart girth' of more than 100cm can be considered for tethering. Tethering of adult cattle can be considered.

Site

15. (1) It must be possible to provide all of the cattle tethered at a particular site with natural or artificial protection from adverse weather in the form of wind breaks and shade. Tethered cattle must have an opportunity to lie on a well-drained area.

(2) Cattle must not be tethered close to objects, fixed or mobile, in which they could become entangled. This includes other tethered animals.

(3) Cattle must be tethered sufficient safe distance from hazards such as poisonous plants, douits, ditches, cliff edges, roads, drop-offs, or landscape features such as a 'ha-ha'.

(4) The tethering of cattle on sites which are heavily utilised by the public should be avoided because there are increased risks that cattle will be fed titbits, worried by dogs or un-tethered by concerned people.

(5) Public can be disconcerted to see tethered cattle so farmers are advised to inform local animal welfare organisations of their intention to tether cattle and the site(s) before doing so.

(6) Consideration must be given to the compatibility of animals tethered at the same site. It is not acceptable to tether a heifer or cow which is 'in-season' near bullocks or bulls.

Tethering equipment

16.

(1) Outdoor tethering equipment is divided into three elements:

(a) the tether – is a rope or chain (with a swivel), at one end it attaches to an anchor and the other it attaches to the harnessary on the animal.

(b) the anchor – is a fixed central point for the tether, usually a metal stake called a 'peg' that is hammered into the ground. Pegs used for bulls are generally 18" (45cm) long and pegs used for cows are generally 12" (30cm) long. An alternative to a central anchor is a line (a rope) running between two pegs known as a running tether.

(c) the harnessary – is the point of attachment on the animal and may be a halter, neck collar or head chain or rope which passes beneath and around both of the animal's horns.

(2) Halters, collars or head chains must fit and be comfortable and adequately strong to restrain the animal. Care must be taken to protect animals from distress or injury caused by halters, collars or head chains as a consequence of:

(a) reaching beyond the end of their tether,

(b) their growth,

(c) testing their restraint as they become accustom to being tethered.

Halters, collars or head chains must be checked in detail regularly, at least every fortnight, particularly when cattle are unaccustomed to tethering and in the case of young-stock which are growing.

(3) Halters must be constructed from wide straps, bands or strips of material which lay flat against the skin and join together, possibly utilising buckles. Halters must be adjustable to enable a comfortable fit and to accommodate growth in growing animals. The width/web of the straps must be at least ¾ of an inch (19mm) for young-stock and at least 1 inch (25mm) for adult cattle.

(4) Collars must be constricted from a wide strap, band or strip of material which lays flat against the skin and is joined together, possibly utilising a buckle. Collars must be adjustable to enable a comfortable fit and to accommodate growth in growing animals. The width/web of the straps must be at least 1 inch (25mm) for young-stock and at least 1 and 3/5 of an inch (40mm) for adult cattle.

(5) Head rope which passes beneath and around both of the animal's horns must be of a material that will not shrink/contract when wet and must be at least ½ an inch (13mm) in diameter. In growing animals it must be checked and adjusted once a fortnight to ensure that the rope can move freely under the base of each horn.

(6) Tethers must be of sufficient tensile and dynamic loading strength to restrain the animal in question. The tether must be inspected at least once a fortnight to ensure that it is not becoming worn and weak. The tether must also be non-abrasive where it comes into contact with the animal. If necessary in the case of chains they can be sheathed in flexible plastic or silicon pipe to avoid injury the animals back legs particularly.

(7) Consideration must be given to the prevailing conditions and the animal that is tethered to avoid an anchor failure. Pegs must have a rotating collar at ground level to which the tether attaches.

(8) Each tether must have in its length at least one free running swivel.

(9) The tether must be of sufficient length to allow the animal to stand up, lie down, rest, groom, and walk three steps unhindered. This is achieved if tethers are least 3 metres or 3 times the length of the animal as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail which ever length is the greatest.

Feeding

17. (1) If the grazing provided by tethering cannot satisfy the nutritional needs of cattle to promote a positive state of well-being then it must be supplemented. Supplementary feeding must provide a wholesome diet which is appropriate to their age, production status or physiological requirements in sufficient quantity to maintain cattle in good health.

(2) Supplementary feeding must be provided at intervals appropriate to their physiological needs (and, in any case, at least once a day), except where a veterinary surgeon acting in the exercise of his profession otherwise directs.

(3) In windy weather supplementary fodder, (hay, straw, silage, haylage) could be blown out of reach of tethered animals and such feed must be provided in a form that will not blow away or in heavy containers.

(4) Cattle must not be tethered where they could have access to plants which are poisonous to them.

(5) Supplementary feeding must occur when grazing is covered by snow.

Drinking Water

18. (1) All young-stock and adult cattle must be provided with a sufficient quantity of fresh drinking water each day at least twice daily and an opportunity to drink until they are satisfied. Water ingested from grazing pasture is insufficient as the sole source of water. When provided water ad-lib, dairy cows usually drink water during daylight hours, up to ten times daily. On average cattle drink 10% of their body weight in water daily or if lactating 4 to 5 times the volume milk produced . An average adult cow will require 50lt. daily and in hot weather this will increase up to 250lt. daily. These volumes are too high for adult cattle to achieve their required intake of water by having the opportunity to drink just twice daily. Growing cattle (180kg to 360kg) drink between 23 and 36 lt. daily during winter, whilst those under 6 months of age may drink up to 26 litres per day

(2) Young-stock and adult cattle must be provided with fresh drinking water at all times:
(a) in hot weather conditions when the air temperature is greater than 20°C; or
(b) when they are ill.

(3) When water must be provided at all times water containers must be:
(a) of appropriate volume for the age, production status or physiological requirements to maintain cattle in good health, and;
(b) accessible to tethered animals and must not present a risk of entanglement, and;
(c) must be tip resistant to avoid the animal knocking the container over. (In the case of buckets these could be placed inside tyres.)

(4) Douits and ponds are not a suitable source of fresh water for tethered cattle because of the risk associated with slipping and/or falling.

Cold Weather

19. (1) Proactive tactical management action must be taken if the environmental temperature falls below 0°C. (Table 2.)

(2) Proactive tactical management action to protect young-stock and adult cattle in cold weather include:
(a) Coats /rugs.
(b) Moving them inside a building.
(c) Ice covering water provided in containers must be broken twice daily.

(3) Average air temperatures in Guernsey indicate that tactical management actions will be required rarely for young-stock and adult cattle outside. (Table 3.)

(4) When the weather is cold young-stock and adult cattle must be provided with extra rations of food. The normal ration must be increased in quantity by at least 20% during periods of cold described in 19. (1).

Hot Weather

20. (1) Proactive tactical management action for young-stock and adult cattle must be taken if the environmental temperature rises above 20°C. (Table 3)

(2) Proactive tactical management action to protect young-stock and adult cattle in hot weather include:

(a) provision of fresh drinking water **at all times**, (up to 250lt/animal/day) and;
(b) provision of screening, natural, artificial or within a building, from the sun that is sufficient to create a shadow/shade large enough to cover the animal between 11am and 3pm (BST), and;
(c) provision of sufficient natural or mechanical ventilation to ensure that the air temperature in the created shade is lower than that without shade, and;
(d) if necessary wet the body of the animals with cool water from a watering can or mist spray every few hours to encourage heat loss through evaporation.

(3) Average air temperatures in Guernsey indicate that tactical management actions may be required for short periods for young-stock and adult cattle outside from May to September. (Table 3.)

Extreme weather planning

21. As 14. above.

Number of tethered young-stock and adult cattle

22. (1) Each animal that is kept on a holding on which two or more animals are kept, must be able to see at least one other animal.

(2) Outdoor tethering of cattle requires a high degree of supervision. The maximum number of cattle that a responsible person can manage is 30.

Accommodation of sick or injured cattle

23. Where necessary, sick or injured animals must be isolated in suitable accommodation with, where appropriate, dry comfortable bedding. The buildings do not have to be owned by the person responsible for the animals but where they are owned by another party evidence of an agreement to provide accommodation for animals must be available for inspection. The period of the agreement must be at least a year. In addition an officer must be able to inspect the buildings should they want to assess if they are fit for purpose, see 24. Buildings used to accommodate sick or injured animals may be the same as those used for extreme weather planning. However if this is the case they must provide facilities to isolate the sick or injured animal from other animals should they be housed because of an extreme weather event.

Buildings and accommodation

24. (1) Materials used for the construction of accommodation, and in particular for the construction of pens, stalls and equipment with which cattle may come into contact, must not be harmful to them and must be capable of being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

(2) Accommodation and fittings for securing cattle must be constructed and maintained so that there are no sharp edges or protrusions likely to cause injury to them.

(3) Air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentrations must be kept within limits which are not harmful to calves, young-stock or adult cattle.

(4) Cattle kept in buildings must not be kept in permanent darkness.

(5) Where the natural light available in a building is insufficient to meet the physiological or ethological needs of any cattle being kept in it, appropriate artificial lighting must be provided.

(6) Animals kept in buildings must not be kept without an appropriate period of rest from artificial lighting.

Licensing

Tethering licenses

25. (1) The tethering of calves is not permitted. The tethering of young-stock with a 'heart girth' of more than 100cm and adult cattle is permitted by responsible persons who are licensed to do so.

(2) Responsible persons may apply for a tethering license by completing an application form which is accessed via the States of Guernsey website.

(3) The license is valid for 12 months and is non-transferable between individuals. Annual licenses are charged at £ XXX. Licences must be available for inspection upon request by an officer of the Commerce & Employment Department.

(4) The practices of the license holder will be checked throughout the year without warning. Failure to meet the minimum standards may result in:

(a) serving of an improvement notice
(b) removal of the license
(c) investigation and potential prosecution under the Animal Welfare (Guernsey) Ordinance 2012 or whatever regulation is appropriate.

(5) Assessment of environmental air temperatures in the shade will be based on those taken at the Guernsey Airport Metrological Office. 'Red' (take action) severe weather warnings are deemed as those issued by Metrological (Met) Office of the United Kingdom.

Definitions

26.

Adult cattle	Bovine animals over 2 years of age.
Calf	A bovine animal up to six months old.
Conservation grazing	Grazing in the summer months on costal grasslands, common land and headlands to maintain the Islands characteristic appearance and biodiversity, promoting indigenous plants which benefit insects and birds.
Electric Livestock Fencing	Electrically conductive wire or tape suspended from insulated posts that carries intermittent aversive electrical stimulation.
Environmental Temperature	The environmental temperature is the air temperature in the shade as determined by the Guernsey Metrological Office at the Airport.
Harnessary	The point of attachment on the animal and may be a halter, neck collar or head chain or rope which passes beneath and around both of the animal's horns.
Heart Girth	Is the circumference of the chest measured in the vicinity of the heart when an animal is standing on all four feet.
Outdoors tethering	Restricting cattle to a desired area using a chain or rope which at one end is attached to a secure point or anchorage and at the other end is attached to the animal by a halter, neck collar or head chain or rope (which passes beneath and around both of the animal's horns).
Peg	A central 'peg' or stake that is hammered into the ground to which a tether is attached. Pegs used for bulls are generally 18" (45cm) long and pegs used for cows are generally 12" (30cm) long.
Running tether	A tight line (a rope) running between two pegs or stakes. The tether is attached to the line and can move up and down it between the pegs at each end.
Severe weather	Severe weather warnings for the Bailiwick of Guernsey are broadcast by Jersey Metrological Office. Persons responsible for the care of calves and cattle must take notice of 'red' (take action) severe weather warnings for ice and/or snow.
Tether	A rope or chain (with a swivel), at one end it attaches to an anchor and the other it attaches to the harnessary on the animal.
Young-stock	Bovine animals between 6 months and 2 years of age.

Tables

27.

Critical temperatures	Proactive tactical management action triggers	Calves age range		
		Birth to 2 week	2 weeks to 1 month	1 month to 6 months
	Cold weather	15°C	10°C	0°C
	Hot weather	25°C	20°C	20°C

Table 1. Environmental temperature trigger points for proactive tactical management action for calves.

Critical temperatures	Proactive tactical management action triggers	Young-stock and adult cattle
	Cold weather	0°C
	Hot weather	20°C

Table 2. Environmental temperature trigger points for proactive tactical management action for young-stock and adult cattle.

Month	GUERNSEY AVERAGE AIR TEMPERATURE °C 1981 to 2010		
	Min	Average	Max
Jan	5.0	6.9	8.7
Feb	4.6	6.5	8.4
Mar	5.6	7.8	10.0
Apr	6.6	9.2	11.8
May	9.2	12.1	14.9
Jun	11.5	14.5	17.5
Jul	13.6	16.6	19.5
Aug	14.1	17.0	19.8
Sep	12.9	15.5	18.0
Oct	10.8	13.0	15.1
Nov	8.1	10.0	11.8
Dec	6.0	7.8	9.5

Table3. Mean monthly air temperatures for Island of Guernsey 1981 to 2010
(Source: Meteorological Observatory of Guernsey Airport)