

# LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

## Municipality of Hearst, Ontario



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	EMERGENCY CONTACT SHEET FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF HEARST.....	2
2.	RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIFFERENT PARTIES INVOLVED.....	3
2.1	First responders : OPP, EMS, Fire .....	3
2.2	Local farmers .....	3
2.3	Trucking Company .....	3
2.4	Veterinarian.....	4
2.5	Deadstock Removal .....	4
2.6	Tow Truck Driver .....	4
3.	DEALING WITH LIVESTOCK .....	4
3.1	General Animal Behaviour.....	4
3.2	Flight Zone .....	5
3.3	Point of Balance.....	6
3.4	Blind Spot.....	7
3.5	Extricating Animals From Rolled Over Truck.....	7
3.6	Making a Decision on the Status of an Injured Animal.....	9
3.7	Re-Loading Injured or Compromised Animals.....	9
3.8	Safe and Humane Euthanasia Methods.....	9

# 1. EMERGENCY CONTACT SHEET FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF HEARST

LOCAL POLICE DISPATCH/TOWN	<b>Ontario Provincial Police</b> <b>1-888-310-1122</b> James Bay (Hearst) Detachment 1211 Front St., Hearst (705) 362-4245		
FIRE SERVICES	<b>Emergency First Response</b> Jean-Marc St-Amour, Fire Chief (705)372-2822 Jean-Michel Chabot, Fire Prevention Officer (705) 372-2822		
LIVESTOCK TEMPORARY FENCING and HOLDING FACILITY	Carl Dodds, local farmer Cochrane, Ontario 705-272-6609		
VETERINARIAN	Hearst Veterinary Services (705) 362-7244 **open on Tuesdays only	Circle Veterinary Clinic Dr. Jennifer Lebel 705-335-5222	Dr. Ramkumar Kapuskasing, Ontario 705-335-8446
TOW TRUCK OPERATOR	Macameau Towing (705) 362-7119		
LOCAL FARMER	Gerry Dinissen (705) 367-0095	Sylvain Gagnon Fauquier (705) 335-0028	
LIVESTOCK TRANSPORTATION	JF Laberge Hearst (705) 960-1391		
DEADSTOCK REMOVAL	See OMAFRA's website at <a href="http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/deadstock/index.html">http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/deadstock/index.html</a>		
CFIA Livestock Transport Emergency Line	1-877-814-2342		
OCEAN Ontario Cattle Emergency Network	Andy Livingston Shabaqua, Ontario 807-933-4737		
OSPCA	1-888-668-7722		
Rest and Feed Stations (Northern Ontario)	Feed and Water Cow Mootel Jim and Selina 12 Ballantyne Rd (south on Bonnieview), Kapuskasing 705-335-4530	M+M Cattle Feed and Rest Station Andy Livingston Shabaqua, Ontario (68 km West of Thunder Bay, follow Hwy 17) 807-933-4737	
	Cattle Lodge Hallebourg (12 km East of Hearst) Marie-Estella Richard 705-362-2435	Central Canada Feeding Station Ltd. Oliver Paipoonge, Ontario (Hwy 11 - 16 km West of Thunder Bay) 807-939-1231	

## 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIFFERENT PARTIES INVOLVED

### 2.1 First responders : OPP, EMS, Fire

- Take charge of the accident scene and coordinate rescue efforts. Human life is the priority.
- Perform crowd control, traffic direction, maintain a clear path for and assist emergency vehicles.
- Release official statements to media as required.
- Ensure everyone understands the priority response sequence – human safety is first priority followed by the welfare of the animals and then the removal of truck/trailer etc.
- Euthanasia by police (if animals are in immediate distress and/or posing threat to humans.)
- Take photos of scene so that other responders know the scene to prepare proper supplies.
- Call on local contacts to assist i.e., veterinarian, local farmer, temporary holding facility, temporary fencing.

### 2.2 Local farmers

- Provide animal herding and handling assistance
- Provide temporary fencing and/or transport to holding facility
- Provide specialized tools and equipment

### 2.3 Trucking Company

- Contact owner of livestock
- Provide shipping manifest identifying types and numbers of animals carried, destination, etc.
- Call insurance company.
- Provide owner's permission in written form should animals need to be euthanized on site
- Provide rescue truck (if possible).
- Other roles depending on the trucking company.

## 2.4 Veterinarian

- Assess state of livestock and recommend appropriate action.
- Provide euthanasia once permission has been granted by the owner.

## 2.5 Deadstock Removal

See OMAFRA's policies at

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/deadstock/index.html>

## 2.6 Tow Truck Driver

- Righting and removal of truck
- Clean up the scene
- Call and coordinate safe disposal and removal of deadstock

# 3. DEALING WITH LIVESTOCK

## 3.1 General Animal Behaviour

- All animals are unpredictable.
- Never assume an animal is going to be nice, no matter how calm they seem. Animals experience feelings such as fear, aggression, pain, and nervousness.
- Horned animals may use their horns in an aggressive manner.
- Livestock have a wide angle of vision and are easily frightened by shadows. They will often balk and refuse to walk over a hose, puddle, shadow, or change of surface. They will also shy away from bright sunlight if they are not used to being outdoors.
- Livestock have a strong herding instinct. Isolation is one of the strongest stressors of animals and should be avoided. They will calm more quickly if left in a group and may "follow the leader" when together. If possible, use a wall or fence line as a guide.
- Injured or frightened animals may bite, particularly pigs and horses. All animals may kick or strike when frightened.

- Livestock tend to move from dimly lit area to a brighter area, provided the light is not glaring into their eyes.
- Loud noises, moving or flapping objects will spook, startle, or slow an animal.
- Frightened animals are unpredictable and will react instinctively by running or flighting.
- Allow animals to calm before attempting to handle them.
- If an animal is spooked, it may take approximately 30 minutes to calm them down.
- Animals have sharp senses of smell, sight and hearing.

### 3.2 Flight Zone

- Most animals, like humans, have a sense of "personal space" - a minimum acceptable distance between the animal and any perceived threat. This is the comfort or flight zone. These zones will vary from animal to animal and can be anywhere from five to 25 feet. Entering into the flight zone may cause panic and confusion in the animal.
- Handlers can effectively move cattle and other animals by understanding and remaining at the edge of the flight zone.
- Sight is the main sensory factor used by the animal in this zone. Approach the animal calmly and slowly while continuously announcing your presence. Entering the flight zone too quickly will make the animal bolt or move in an unpredictable way. If too much pressure is applied, the animal will turn on you. Back off when the animal is not responding the way you would like him to.

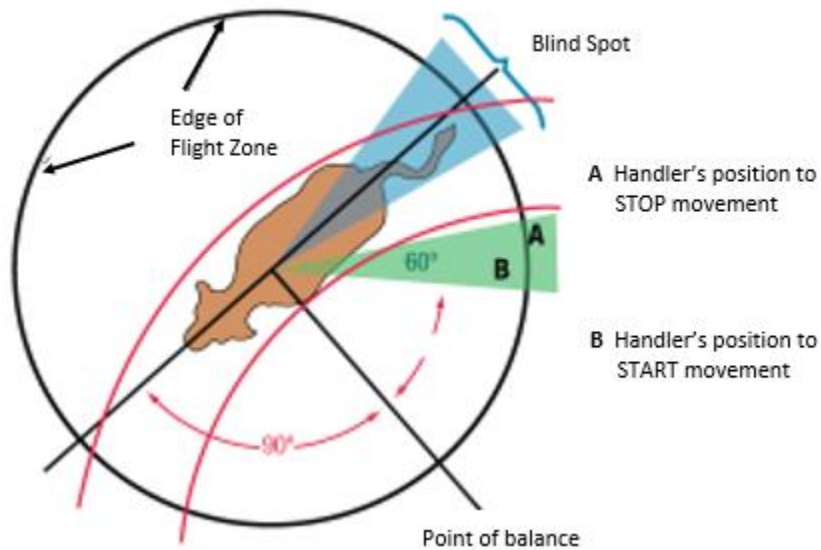
Here's what can happen while entering an animal's flight zone :

- The animal will be happy to see you.
- It will move away.

- It will run away and pressure the facilities, damaging or possibly destroying them.
- It will remove you from its flight zone.

(See Diagram A)

Diagram A



### 3.3 Point of Balance

The animal's wide-angle vision determines the point of balance. It is usually at the shoulder but may move forward when the handler is further away. It is important to understand and be aware of the point of balance. If the handler stands behind the point of balance, the animal will move forward. The animal will move backward if the handler stands in front of the point of balance.

(See Diagram A)

### 3.4 Blind Spot

Animals are unable to see directly behind themselves. This is their blind spot. An animal may kick or run (fight or flight) when they sense something is in their blind spot.

(See Diagram A)

### 3.5 Extricating Animals from Rolled Over Truck

A temporary containment facility should be located or created before animals are released from a trailer or barn. A nearby field may be used.

If the trailer is on fire, do not release animals from the trailer until a plan for containment is established since loose animals pose a serious threat to passing vehicles.

Live animals should be removed from the trailer before it is righted. The ideal way to remove an animal from a trailer is through the existing doors.

\*It is recommended that first responders avoid entering truck trailers whenever possible.

To decide the optimum method of extrication, evaluate the trailer and the animal's conditions :

- Position of trailer – on side, roof upright, on right or left side.
- Position of animals – lying down, pinned or trapped, tied or loose.
- If the animals are uninjured and standing calmly in the trailer, leave them alone until it is necessary to move them.
- No person should enter a trailer to check or treat animals until a rescue plan is established and the trailer is stabilized.
- With a trailer on its side, the preferred extrication point is through the back where the door is located.
- If the door is not at ground level or is not wide or high enough for animals to exit, then consider cutting a hole in the roof. The



structural integrity of the trailer must not be jeopardized or the trailer may collapse on the animals and/or rescue personnel. Ensure the hole is cut in the location that permits easy transfer of animals onto the rescue vehicles.

- Ascertain the design of the trailer (i.e. Angle haul, multi deck, dividers, etc.).
- Determine what material the trailer is made of – most of the new trailers are made of a combination of fiberglass and/or aluminium with steel supports. Older trailers are usually all steel.
- Ensure that the trailer is, or has been, stabilized before proceeding with any rescue attempt.
- Before entering the trailer, ensure the decks and gates are, or have been, stabilized as well. Determine which way the gates will swing open.
- Animals may be held in place by a closed gate. To avoid injury, use caution when opening.
- Check to be sure that the animals do not have any trapped limbs. The animals may need sedation before dismantling. A licensed veterinarian must do this.
- Ensure that animals inside will not be injured while cutting into the trailer.
- Do not cut the hole out completely as you may wish to use the attached metal as a wall or a door.
- Cut the hole only as wide as the doorway of the rescue truck.
- Bend the cut edges out to prevent the animals getting cut while exiting the trailer.
- When entering the trailer always approach a downed animal from the spine side. Never approach via the belly, back or front legs. You will get hurt.

Animals prefer to walk down hill. Therefore, it is recommended that the hole be cut in the lowest part of the trailer and/or park the rescue truck at a lower location.

### 3.6 Making a Decision on the Status of Injured Animal

Evaluate and assess the situation by determining if immediate treatment is required, if animal can be treated where it is, if animal has to be moved to another location, or if it should be humanely destroyed.

### 3.7 Re-Loading Injured or Compromised Animals

Any animal that is unable to stand up on all of its legs by itself is not fit for transport and should be humanely destroyed.

In the case of slaughter animals, it is doubtful if such an animal will pass for human consumption. Therefore, there is nothing to be gained by reloading and transporting such an animal.

If transportation to the nearest place where additional care can be provided will not cause further undue pain, injury or suffering; loading and transportation may be considered.

Notes: At all times the comfort and safety of the animal must be considered. At the same time, do not disregard your own safety or the safety of other personnel at the scene!

### 3.8 Safe and Humane Euthanasia Methods

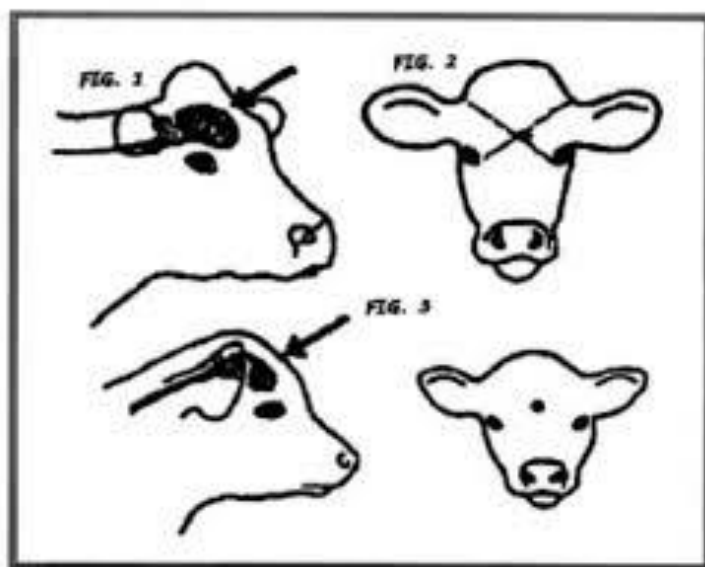
It is important to remember that animals are property, and therefore owned. If an animal needs to be destroyed, this can only happen in one of three ways: with the consent of the animal owner or designate, by way of a certificate issued by a veterinarian pursuant to the authority contained in the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act or by police officers using the authority contained in the Police Services Act.

Proper Euthanasia Procedure :

Allow animal to calm down if necessary.

A 22-caliber firearm is sufficient for most cattle, pigs and horses. The muzzle should be held approximately 2 inches from the point of entry, not flush with the skull. Shot guns should be held 10 to 12 inches away.

Always make sure the animal is dead before walking away from it. Check for vital signs such as pulse, breathing, etc. An animal will wiggle for up to 2 – 3 minutes following death.



Mature Cattle

Calves