



Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Food Animals

SALESBARN INSPECTION CHECK LIST

[Listing of Livestock Auctions in Canada](#)

SALESBARN INFO

Name of Salesbarn _____
Location (Town, Province) _____
Date (Month, Day, Year) _____
Temperature Outside _____
Temperature Inside Auction _____

ANIMALS

of animals present _____
Species and # of each _____

WATER

Are water troughs available? (Check applicable box)
In all pens
In post-sale pens only
In 'sick' pen
None available

HAY

Is hay available? (Check applicable box)
In all pens
In post-sale pens only
In 'sick' pen
None available

BEDDING/STRAW

Is bedding available? (Check applicable box)
In all pens
In post-sale pens only
In 'sick' pen
None available

FLOORING (in pens, ring, aisles)

Kind of flooring where animals are moved through?
Non-slip (concrete with grooves)
Slightly slippery (some animals slipping)
Very slippery (more than 1 animal slipping)
If slippery – are animals given extra time? Y/N

INSTRUMENTS USED TO MOVE ANIMALS

No instruments used
Shakers (not for hitting)
Pole with flag
Plastic board
Plastic canes
Plastic slappers
Whips
Electric Prods
Other _____

HANDLING (check all applicable boxes)

Workers are patient and allow animals time to move
Workers will tap slow animals
Workers hit slow animals
Workers beat slow animals (hitting multiple times)
Workers beat animals on face
Workers beat animals on genitals
Workers overuse or use electric prods illegally (on face or genitals)
Other _____

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email: care@cetfa.com website: www.cetfa.com

INJURIES (see Signs of Distress and Injuries to Record)

PIGS

- Downer (Potential reason: _____)
- Dog-sitting
- Laming/Arthritis (one limb affected ; two limbs affected ; complete fusion of rear legs)
- Skin ulcerations (hip ; shoulder ; open ; closed)
- Hernia (small ; medium; large)
- Lacerations (minor , extensive ; bleeding)
- Dehydrated
- Other _____

BEEF CATTLE

- Muscle rupture
- Heat-exhaustion
- Pink eye (level of blindness _____; one eye affected ; both eyes affected)
- Broken horn
- Broken penis
- Other _____

DAIRY COWS (check all that apply)

- Downer
- Mastitis (# of infected teats _____; teats cut off _____; udder dropped Y/N)
- Leaking milk
- Laming
- Emaciated
- Broken hoof
- Hoof Rot
- Twisted Stomach
- Other _____

HORSES (check all that apply)

- Overgrown hooves
- Lameness (number of limbs affected _____)
- Lacerations (minor ; open and bleeding ; large and too swollen for stitches)
- Emaciation
- Dehydration
- Blind (one eye ; both eyes)
- Too young (approximate age ___weeks)
- Strangles infection (wound closed ; wound open and weeping ; wound appears natural ; wound appears to have been caused by a sharp knife)
- Founder (sawhorse stance ; hooves hot)
- Colic (circling ; shaking head ; difficulty defecating ; pawing ground ; biting/kicking at flanks ; sweating ; rolling)
- Choke (head outstretched ; coughing up bile and saliva)

POULTRY

- Urine scald
- Loss of feathers
- Lameness (able to stand somewhat ; unable to stand ; prone (laying on back))
- Missing toes (how many? _____)
- Debeaked
- End of toes cut-off
- Potential fracture(s) (of what? _____)
- Blood present (from where/what injury? _____)
- Dead (approximate # dead _____)

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DEAD PILE

ALWAYS LOOK FOR THE “DEAD PILE” OUTSIDE THE FACILITY. ENSURE NO LIVE ANIMALS ARE LEFT ON IT. INSPECT THE CONDITION OF THOSE IN IT.

1. Do they have a captive bolt pistol or gunshot hole in their head? (If yes, this is an indicator that the auction is appropriately dealing with suffering animals.)
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2. If pigs are present, are any bleeding from the nose and mouth? If so, are they boars/ intact males? (This may indicate that boar bashing and tooth breaking is occurring at the facility.)
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3. Note anything unusual about the bodies

(ligature wounds, bruising, scavenger activity (scavengers generally eat the abdomen and anus areas first), broken teeth, eyes pushed out, neonates or infants etc.)

IF YOU SEE A STILL-LIVE ANIMAL ON A DEADPILE, RECORD AND DOCUMENT IT SO WE MAY FILE A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE AUCTION OR HAULING COMPANY.

THEN, SEEK HELP IMMEDIATELY. IF THE ANIMAL IS SMALL ENOUGH, REMOVE IT AND TAKE IT TO THE NEAREST SYMPATHETIC VET. IF THE ANIMAL IS TOO LARGE TO MOVE, TRY TO HAVE 1 PERSON STAY WITH THE ANIMAL (TO PREVENT THE AUCTION FROM ILLEGALLY MOVING THE ANIMAL OUT OF VIEW). ASK IF THE AUCTION HAS A VET OR STAFF MEMBER WHO CAN EUTHANIZE THE ANIMAL. ACCEPTED METHODS OF EUTHANASIA ARE: CAPTIVE BOLT PISTOL, LETHAL INJECTION (IF PRECEDED BY ANESTHETIC INJECTION) OR GUN.

DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES

DOWNERS

“Downers” are animals that are unable to rise. Under no circumstance should a downer animal ever be moved. Auctions are legally required to euthanize* a downer animal where it is laying. Accepted methods of euthanasia are: captive bolt pistol, lethal injection or gun. All lethal injections must be preceded by an anesthetic injection. Boars and horses are best killed with a rifle or the new model Schermer captive bolt pistol (25 caliber heavy-duty). For all others, 2 hits with a smaller caliber captive bolt pistol should suffice.

*Lethal injection is not appropriate for use on sows or boars as veins are difficult to find in their fatty necks and an injection directly into the heart is excruciatingly painful. Entering a cow’s uterus through her vagina to cut open her uterus to bleed internally is not acceptable practice.

LAMING TO THE POINT OF NON-WEIGHT BEARING

If an animal is unable to bear weight on a limb (generally due to a leg or hip fracture) it is illegal to sell and load that animal for transport. Speak with management or the facility veterinarian (if available) about these animals. Remind them that what they are doing is illegal and will be reported should they chose not to euthanize the animal on the spot.

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All other cases of lameness are negotiable. Federal regulations dictate that animals cannot be loaded if it will cause unnecessary suffering. Because of the vagueness of the law, the CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) published a Compromised Animals Policy in 2004. While it is not yet legally binding, it is a policy and thus can be used to argue for euthanasia of an animal you feel will suffer if transported.

COMPROMISED ANIMALS

According to the policy, a compromised animal is “An animal with reduced capacity to withstand the stress of transportation, due to injury, fatigue, infirmity, poor health, distress, very young or old age, impending birth, or any other cause”; namely:

Emaciation	Dehydration	Penis injuries
Lameness	Shock, dying	Overgrown hooves
Cancer eye	Fever	Broken toes/hooves
Blind	Weakness	Open wound with bleeding or exposed bone
Uterine prolapse	Exhaustion	Hernia that impedes movement

IF YOU SEE AN ILLEGAL MOVEMENT OF AN ANIMAL, INTERFERE AND ACT ON THE ANIMAL’S BEHALF.

IF THIS FAILS, RECORD AND DOCUMENT THE INCIDENT SO WE MAY FILE A COMPLAINT AGAINST THE AUCTION OR HAULING COMPANY.

SIGNS OF DISTRESS AND INJURIES TO RECORD

PIGS

1. Dog-sitting position/Coughing/Sneezing/Open-mouthed breathing – indicates severe respiratory distress. Often due to existing pneumonia (85% of sows have pneumonia due to breathing in high ammonia levels in farrowing barns). This is one of the final stages before a pig becomes a “downer”. If she is not left alone and allowed to rest, she will collapse, vomit and die.
2. Laming, especially in hind end – often indicates arthritis (develops routinely in sows in response to lack of movement in gestation crates). The rear leg joints may fuse into one making walking intensely painful and difficult. These pigs are in great risk of poor handling because they are slower.
3. Ulcerated hips or shoulders – open pressure wounds from lying on concrete.
4. Gestation crate pressure wounds – most frequently seen at the point of the shoulders and hips; appears as vertical line bruising.



Dog-sitting position



Stance of pig with arthritis

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CATTLE

1. Muscle Rupture due to slipping - the animal will have difficulty keeping her hind legs close enough together to remain standing. She may recover but time and bundling of rear limbs is necessary.
2. Heat exhaustion/Open-mouthed breathing - try to offer the animal water (but not hay).
3. Pink Eye – eye appears completely white with raised pink center (treatable with antibiotics)
4. Broken horns
5. Broken penis - often due to steer or bull attempting to mount pen-mates. Request that the injured animal be penned separately.
6. Fibrosarcoma – tumour of the face
7. Infection of the frontal sinuses due to dehorning – pus, maggots and an odor may be present.
8. Lumpy Jaw – A bacterial infection of the jaw/cheek. Discharge may be present.

DAIRY COWS

1. Mastitis/Dropped udder – painful bacterial infection of one or more teats. An udder close to the ground may indicate rupture of suspensory ligaments. Note if any teats have been cut off.
2. Leaking milk – indicates that the cow was not allowed to ‘dry’ before taken to auction/still actively lactating. This is very bad practice and is extremely uncomfortable for the cow.
3. Laming
4. Emaciated
5. Broken toes/hooves – often visible as the cow stands with her front legs crossed.
6. Hoof rot on rear legs
7. Twisted Stomach – cow stands with her back arched, difficulty urinating, no defecation

HORSES

1. Strangles Infection – swollen lymph nodes particularly in the throat area
2. Lameness
3. Overgrown hooves/laminitis
4. Lacerations
5. Founder – characteristic sawhorse stance (like rocking horse); hooves hot
6. Colic – horse appears very uncomfortable: pawing at ground, biting/kicking at flanks, sweating, rolling, circling or shaking head

POULTRY

1. Urine scald – hind area will be bald, red and inflamed
2. Loss of feathers
3. Lameness/crippling leg disorders

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