TRANSPORTING CALVES IN CRATES OR TRAILERS

Whether moving calves on farm, or between properties and/or sale yards, transport facilities, such as crates, trailers or floats, should meet the following criteria for the health and welfare of calves:

1. Enough space for all calves to lie down on their chest and stand up easily
2. Protection from wind and cold: the front of the trailer must be closed in, and it is best if the sides and roof are also covered
3. Airflow to stop it becoming stuffy
4. Flooring that stops slips, falls or injuries – e.g. rubber matting, wood shavings, rice hulls, carpet or artificial turf
5. Easy and regular cleaning, disinfection and drying

- **Remember when transporting bobby calves between 5 and 30 days old off farm, they must be:**
  - bright and alert
  - fed milk within 6 hours of departure
  - have firm, worn hooves and a dry navel
  - NLIS tagged

- **Remember when transporting calves on farm:**
  - take care to avoid injury:
    - don’t place yourself between the cow and the calf
    - avoid turning your back on the cow
    - lift with your knees and place calves in the trailer carefully
  - drive slowly and carefully to avoid bumping calves around.

- **Sharp edges, protrusions or other things that can cause injury**
- **Crate position that causes calves to be affected by vehicle exhaust gases**
- **Overcrowded, dirty or not protected from the weather**

**FURTHER INFORMATION**
See Dairy Australia’s *Bobby calf fit for transport* fact sheet for more information.
Handling calves is covered by the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for Land Transport of Livestock. More information on transporting calves can be found at [Dairy Australia](https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au).