



DVM1 Safe cattle handling: live animal practical classes

Learning Objectives

These prac classes are all about being safe around cattle before you go out on EMS; and to introduce you to the humane handling of cattle.

We will approach cattle in a yard, move them between yards, and approach them from all angles in a crush, and maybe perform some general husbandry activities to provide context for this handling.

By the end of these classes you should be able to:

1. Assess potential risks to safety of handlers or animals in situations requiring movement or restraint of cattle, including:
 - a. Assess the safety of the facility
 - b. Assess signalment and behaviour of the cattle
2. Safely move a small group of cattle from one yard to another or into a race, including:
 - a. Prepare gates and laneways so that cattle can enter the designated yard or race and not access any other areas or escape
 - b. Demonstrate the use of flight zones and points of balance
 - c. Enter a yard of cattle in a safe, calm manner
 - d. Close gates to secure Cattle in the designated yard or race.
3. Demonstrate the safe operation of a cattle crush (with or without a cow in it)
4. Safely approach the rear end of a cow in a crush and take their temperature

5. Safely approach the side of a cow in a crush and identify (by placing a hand on) the paralumbar fossa, the ribs and the location where the heart might be auscultated
6. Safely apply a halter to a cow in a crush

General information

Time: Please attend only at your scheduled times – we cannot accommodate extra students in classes for animal ethics and safety reasons. **You may be asked to leave if you attend at the wrong time.**

Location: Building 552 at the Dookie campus (further info at Campus induction/in Dookie module on Canvas).

Clothing: Please wear overalls, washable boots (either gumboots or work boots) and your name tag. Overalls and boots are required for your own safety and for biosecurity reasons and **you may be asked to leave if you are not dressed appropriately.** Boots with laces are NOT preferred as laces are very difficult to clean well.

Part of this practical session will be held outside in an area with no cover so please check the weather forecast and bring warm clothing, rain jacket and caps/beanies in case of cold, wind or rain; and a cap/hat and sunscreen in case of warm, sunny weather.