



DVM1 Safe cattle handling: live animal practical classes

## Session 1 - Dookie

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## Outline

*Remember at all times:*

- Work quietly and calmly around the animals
- Always touch the cow lightly and talk to it from a distance to let her know you are there before moving your body within striking distance.
- Be aware of your own safety, the safety of your colleagues and the wellbeing of the cattle

In this session you will first be introduced to the cattle handling facility at Dookie and discuss risk assessment of the facility and the animals you are handling with the demonstrators. The teaching staff will then demonstrate the activities below, after which you will have the chance to practice them:

- Use of the crush (without a cow in it initially)
- Approaching the cow in the crush:
  - From the side to palpate the paralumbar fossa and over the ribs where you might hear the heart with a stethoscope
  - From behind (+/- take their temperature)
- Putting a halter on a cow in a crush and removing it safely
- Moving a small group cows from one yard to another

### **Preparation:**

You should recognise the first two points below from the cattle and sheep handling CLA you have done but its given again here in case you need a refresher!

1. Review material about interacting with cattle safely and danger signs to watch for in their behaviour in sections 2.1 and 2.2 of this resource: <https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/agriculture/working-with-animals/working-with-cattle/safe-cattle-handling-guide/#lf-doc-17048>
2. And about crushes: <https://mycattlevet.com.au/cattle-crushes/> including: <https://mycattlevet.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Crush-Design-and-Safety-WEBSITE-FINAL.pdf>.
3. Watch these videos:
  - Use of a crush (please note that not all crushes are the same and the ones you use at Dookie might be a little different – you will be shown these differences in your classes): <https://echo360.org.au/media/a0f7ad19-df8c-44c0-8394-68f111048845/public>
  - Approaching a cow from behind: <https://echo360.net.au/media/e13f66a0-36c7-4457-8eff-743790afd69a/public>

- Approaching a cow from the side: <https://echo360.net.au/media/06eac4ae-d429-4d01-898f-bfc5d09d64d8/public>
- Putting a halter on a cow: <https://echo360.net.au/media/3354bf3f-fabb-4b3a-b32a-33d8928b7618/public>