

Working Together to Ensure Market-Ready Livestock

Guidance to our Livestock Producers

The DoA welcomes enhanced collaboration between farmers and the veterinary team to ensure public health, food safety, and animal welfare prior and during the mandatory antemortem (pre-slaughter) inspection at the DoA.

Animals displaying clinical signs of disease, severe injury, or systemic distress will not be accepted for slaughter. To avoid transport stress, economic loss, and rejection at the facility, farmers are encouraged to screen their animals before leaving the farm.

Clinical Signs That May Result in Animal Rejection

During the antemortem assessment, Veterinary Officers observe livestock for a variety of clinical abnormalities. Your animal may be rejected if it exhibits any of the following:

-  **Mobility & Posture Issues:** Downer animals, inability to stand or walk (recumbent/immobile), an arched back, an extended neck, or enlarged joints.
-  **Abnormal Behavior & Neurological Signs:** Lethargy, severe depression, unprovoked aggression, or neurological indicators such as head pressing, star-gazing, ataxia (uncoordinated movement), and walking in circles.
-  **Respiratory Illness:** Abnormalities in breathing patterns, including labored or rapid breathing; nasal discharge or coughing.
-  **Visible Swellings & Growths:** Fluid retention (edema), abscesses, tumors, or umbilical swellings.
-  **Gastrointestinal & Internal Distress:** Visible bloating or severe diarrhea.
-  **Anatomical & Structural Issues:** Vaginal or anal prolapses, or abnormal/diseased udders.
-  **Abnormal Discharges & Discolorations:** Any unusual discharge from body orifices, or distinct discolorations (black, red, blue, or yellow/jaundice) of the eyes, nose, or vulva.

What can Farmers do?

-  **1. Pre-Screen Your Stock:** Examine all animals thoroughly for the signs listed above prior to loading.
-  **2. Do Not Transport Compromised Animals:** Animals that are severely injured, highly distressed, or showing signs of systemic illness must not be brought to the Abattoir.
-  **3. Adhere to Receiving Hours:** Ensure animals are dropped off during designated receiving hours to minimize environmental stress and facilitate TImely inspections.



Together, we can better protect Cayman's food safety, food security, and animal welfare. Working hand in hand for a more food-secure tomorrow.

The DoA remains committed to supporting our local agricultural community while upholding strict public health and animal welfare standards. If you are unsure about the health status of an animal intended for slaughter, please contact the Veterinary Services Section for guidance before arranging transport.

