



OIE Regional seminar on animal welfare during long distance transport

(Chapter 7.3 of the OIE terrestrial Animal Health Code)

13 - 15 March 2018, Chisinau, Moldova

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3. HANDLING OF ANIMALS

HANDLING OF ANIMALS

Article 7.3.2.

- The behaviour of individual animals or groups of animals will vary depending on their breed, sex, temperament and age and the way in which they have been reared and handled.
- Despite these differences, the following behaviour patterns, which are always present to some degree in domestic animals, should be taken into consideration in handling and moving the animals.

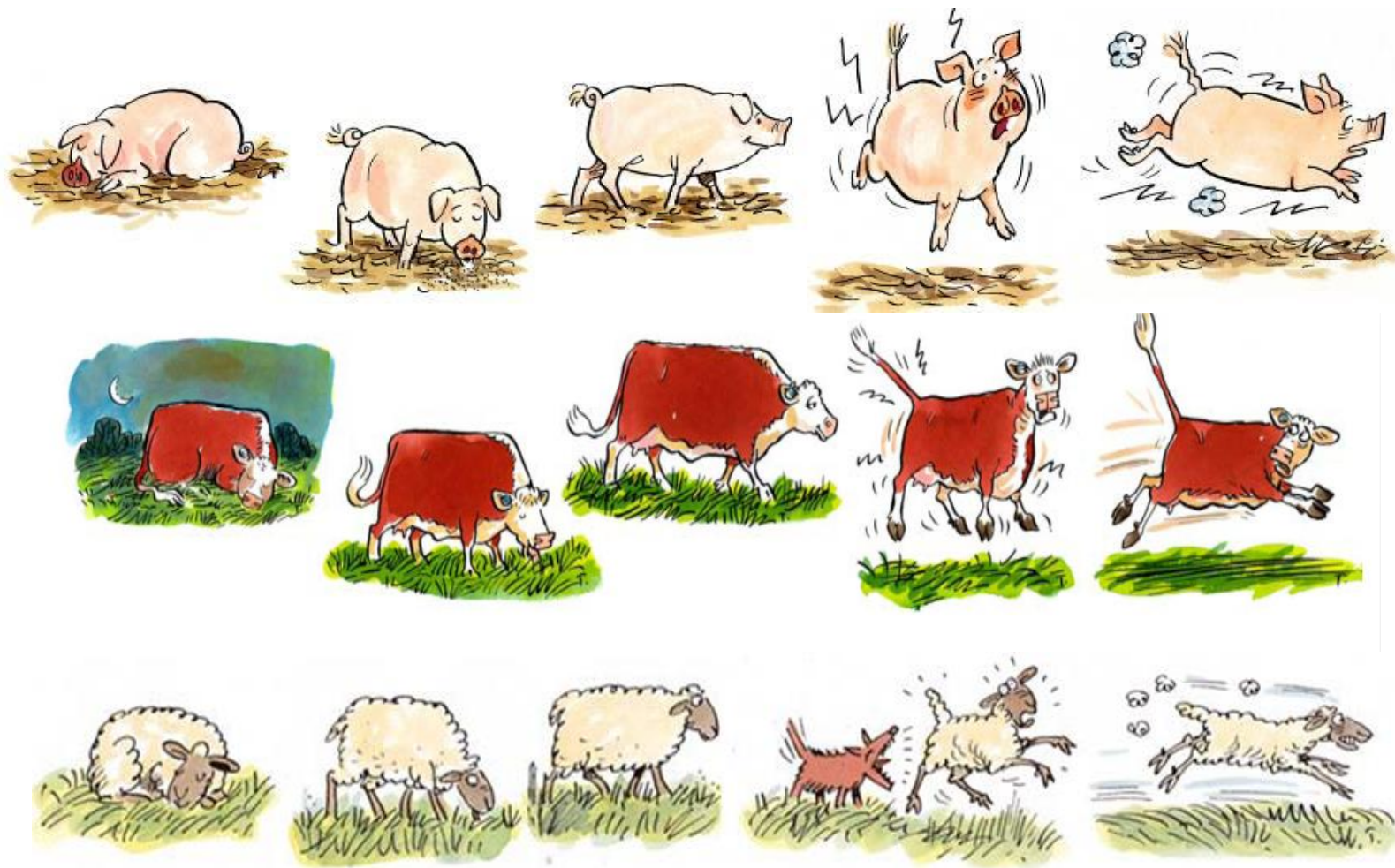
HANDLING PRINCIPLES

1. Position of human from animal perspective
=
position of possible threat

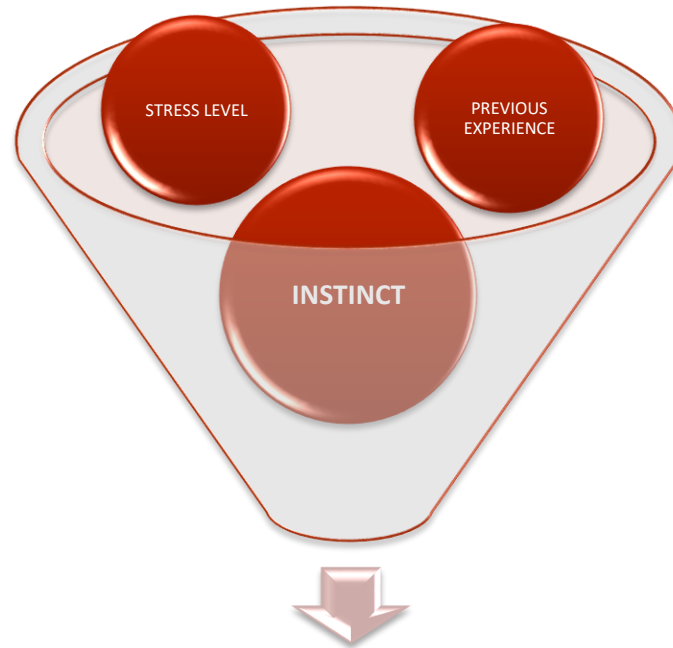
2. Avoid being seen as an active threat!

“The predator avoidance behavior patterns – instincts are hard wired into the brain and they function like bits of computer software”. (*T. Grandin*)

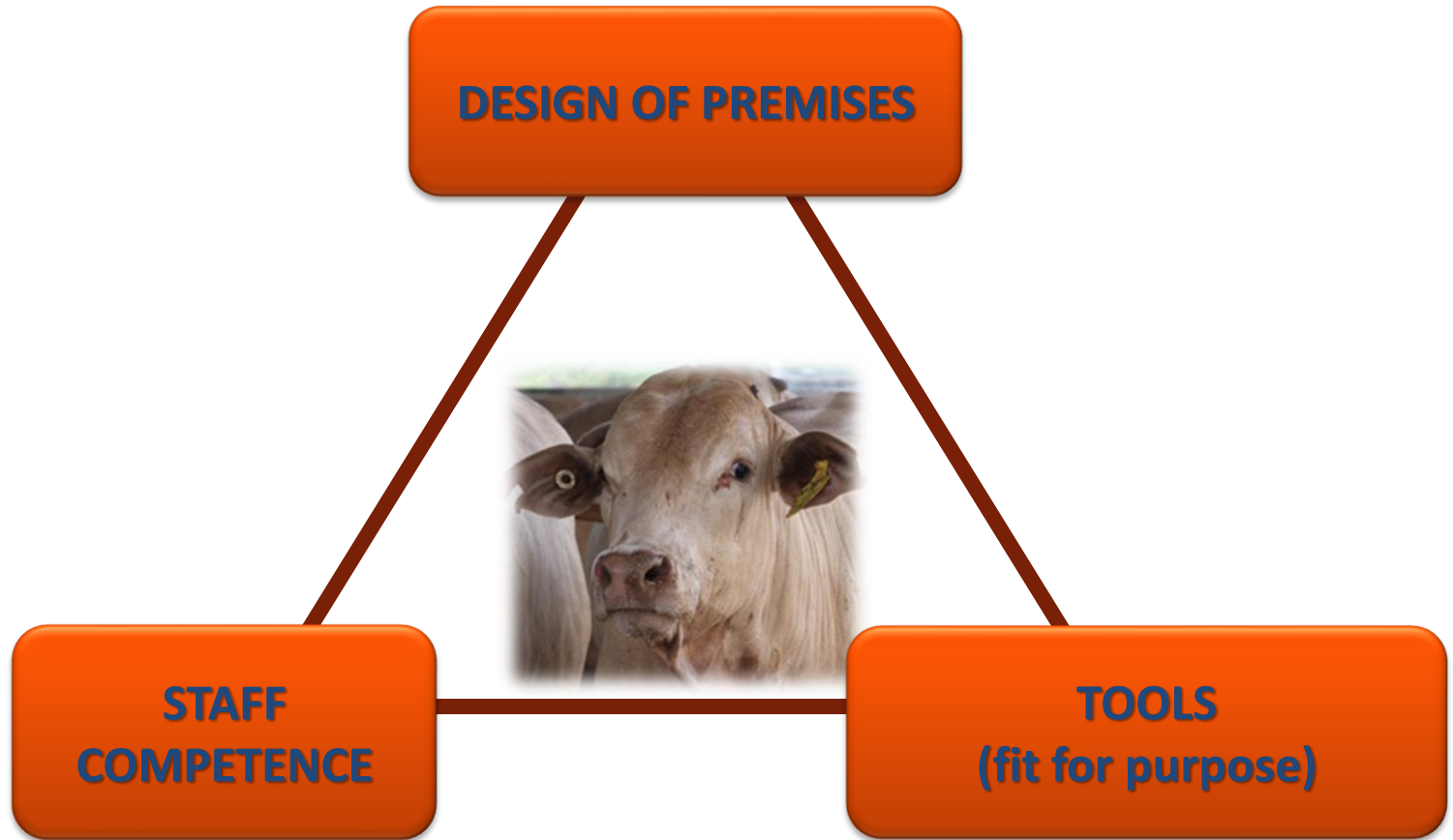
STRESS LEVELS AND ANIMAL'S REACTIONS



ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR



KEY COMPONENTS OF ANIMAL HANDLING



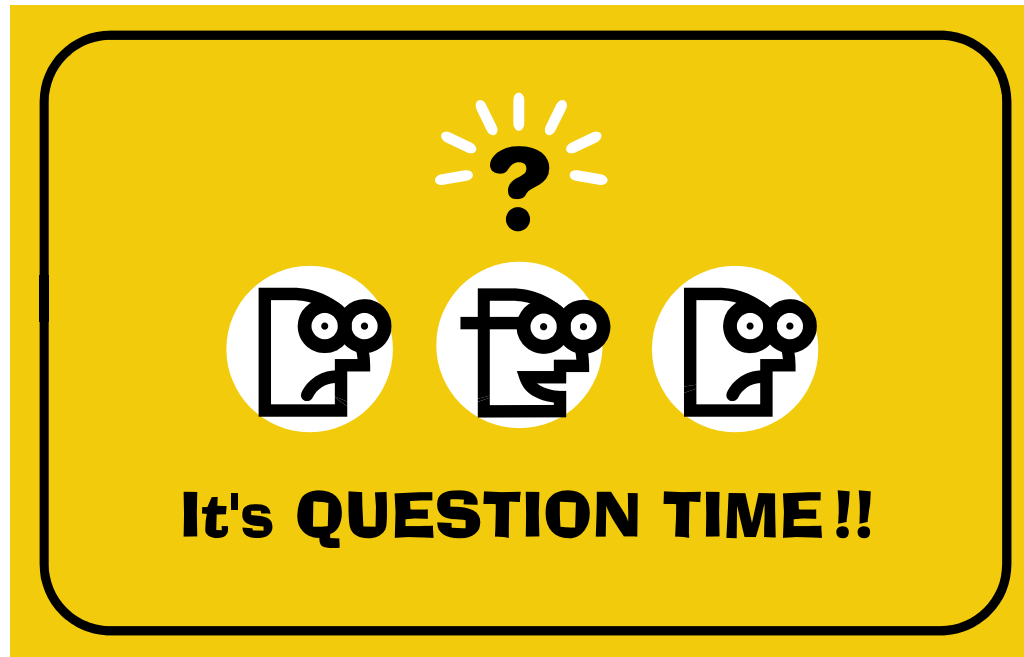
HANDLER'S SELF AWARENESS

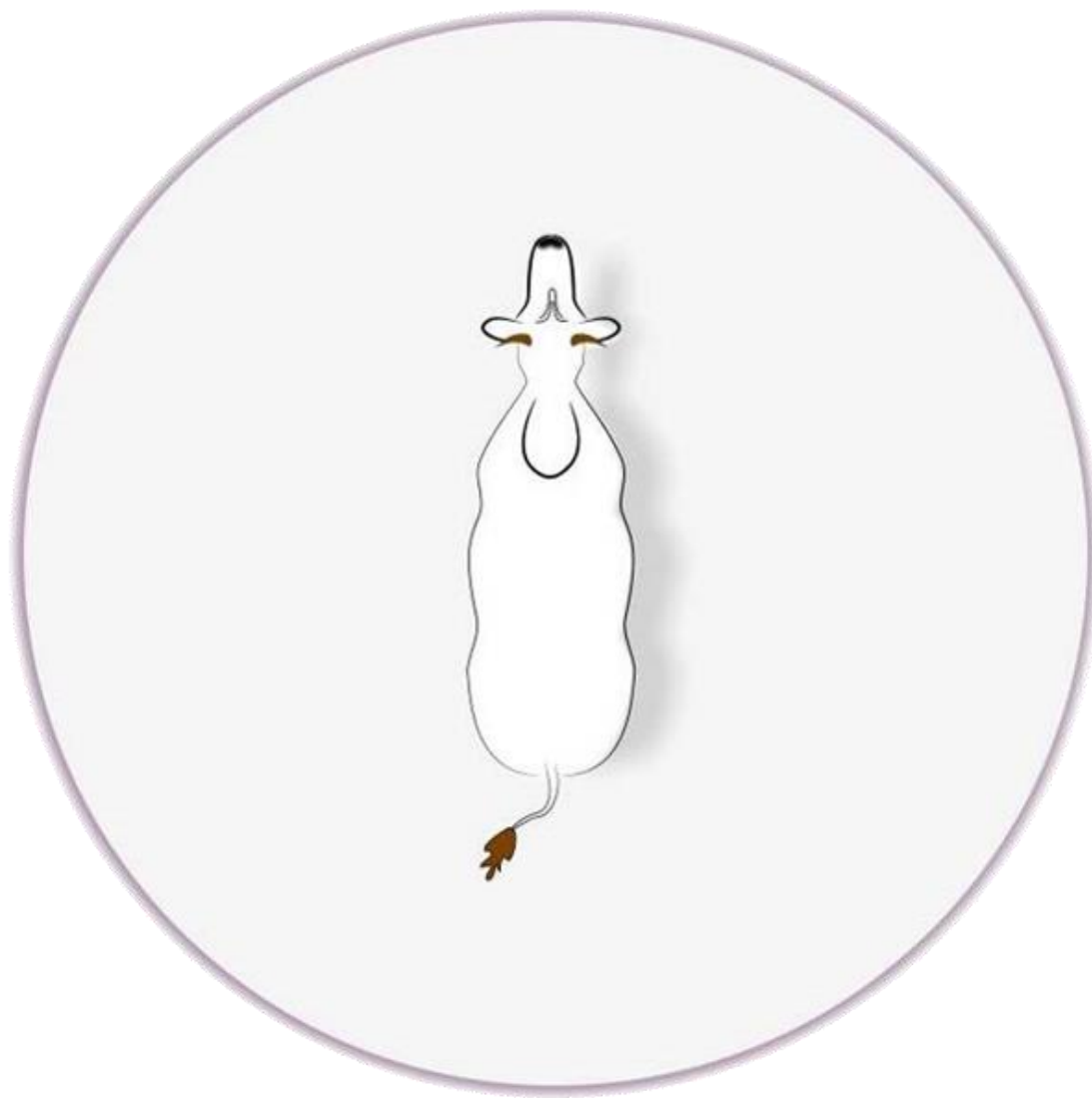
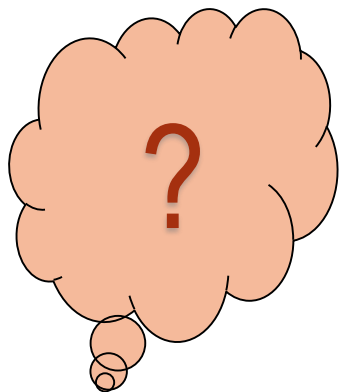
Good animal handling (keeps stress levels low) relies upon people having a good basic knowledge of the animals they handle and animal behaviour,

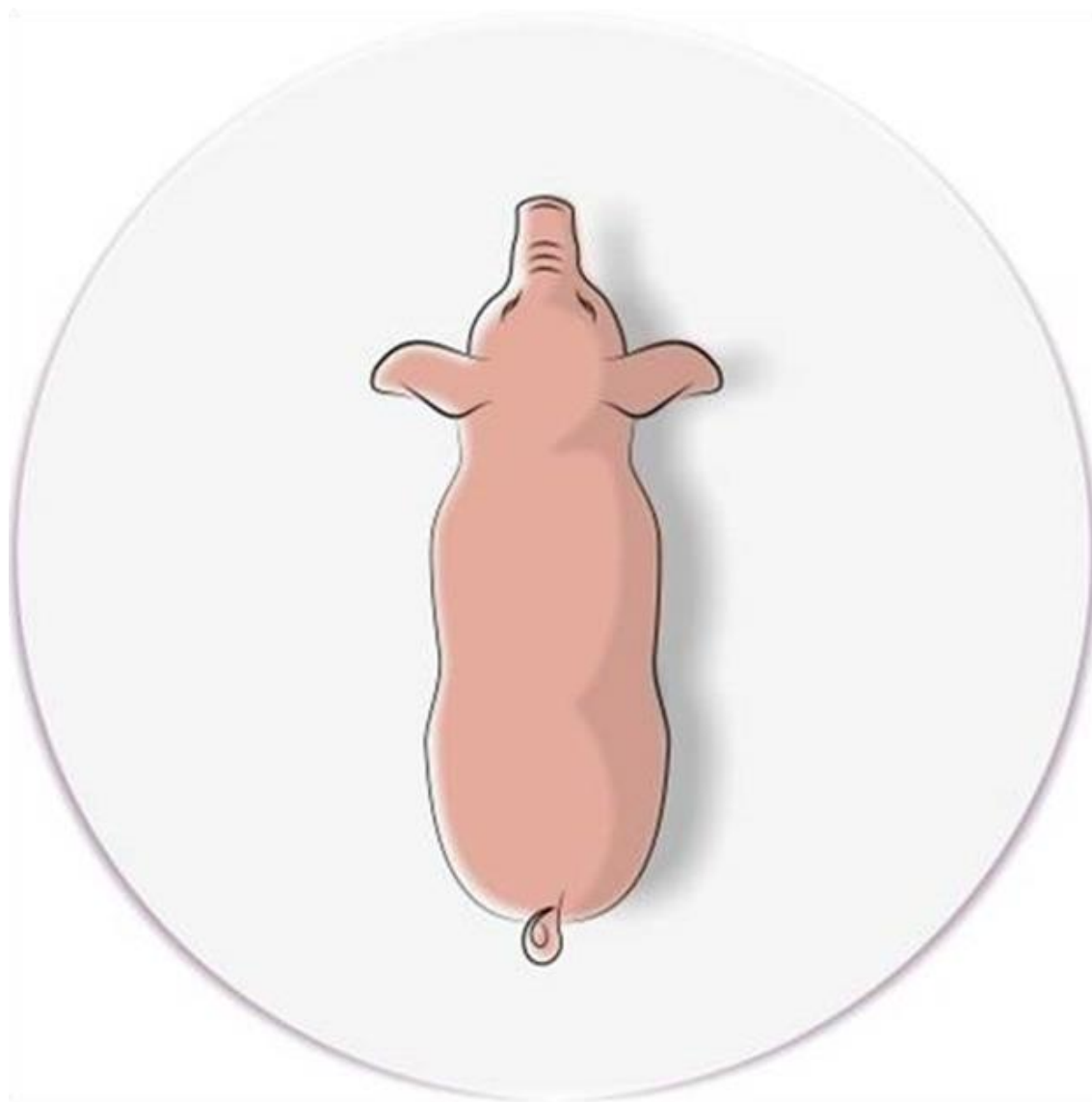
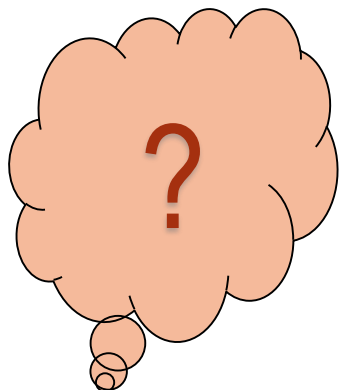
but more importantly an understanding of how their own behaviour can influence the effectiveness of the handling process.

GROUP WORK

....WHERE TO POSITION YOURSELF...



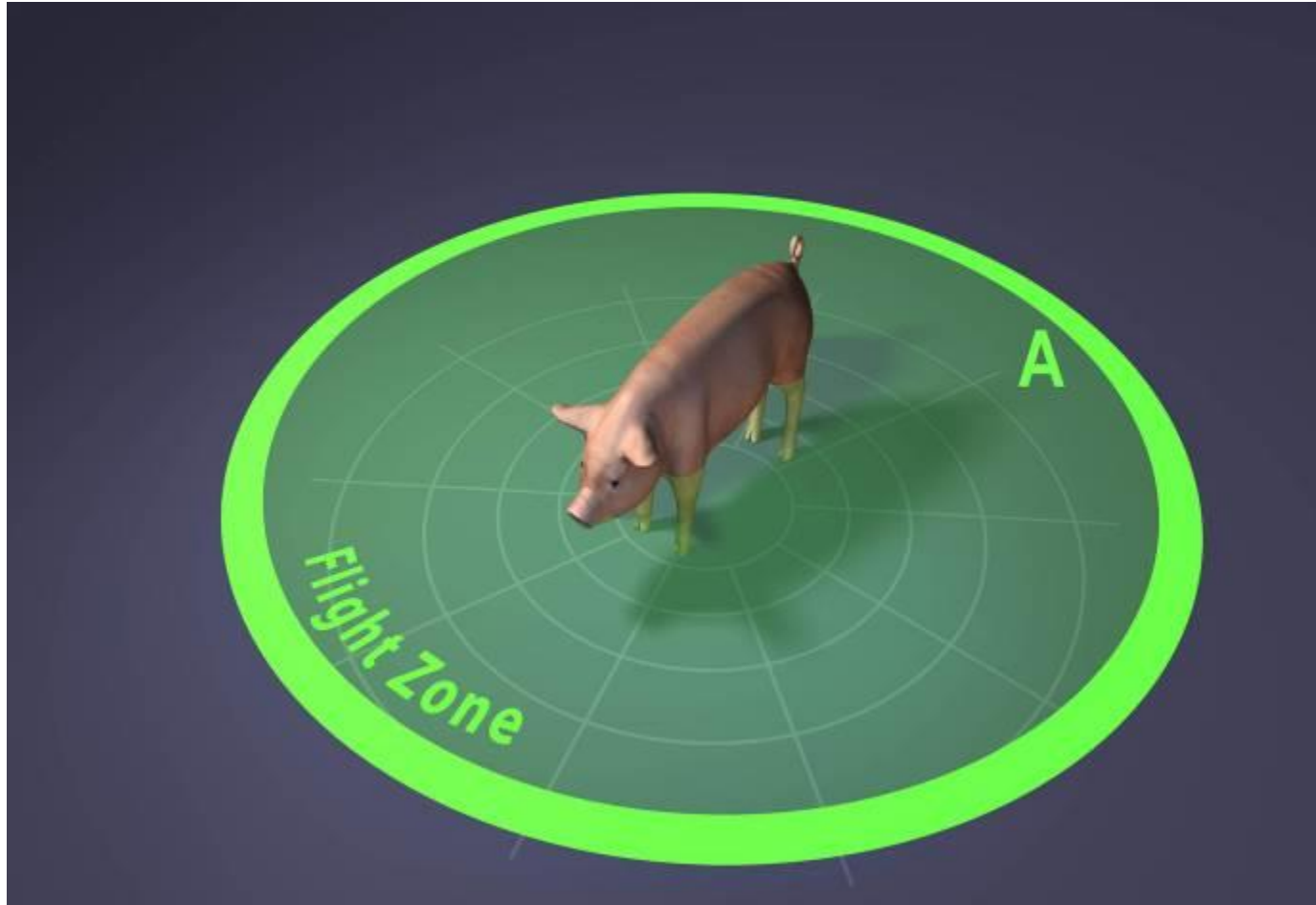




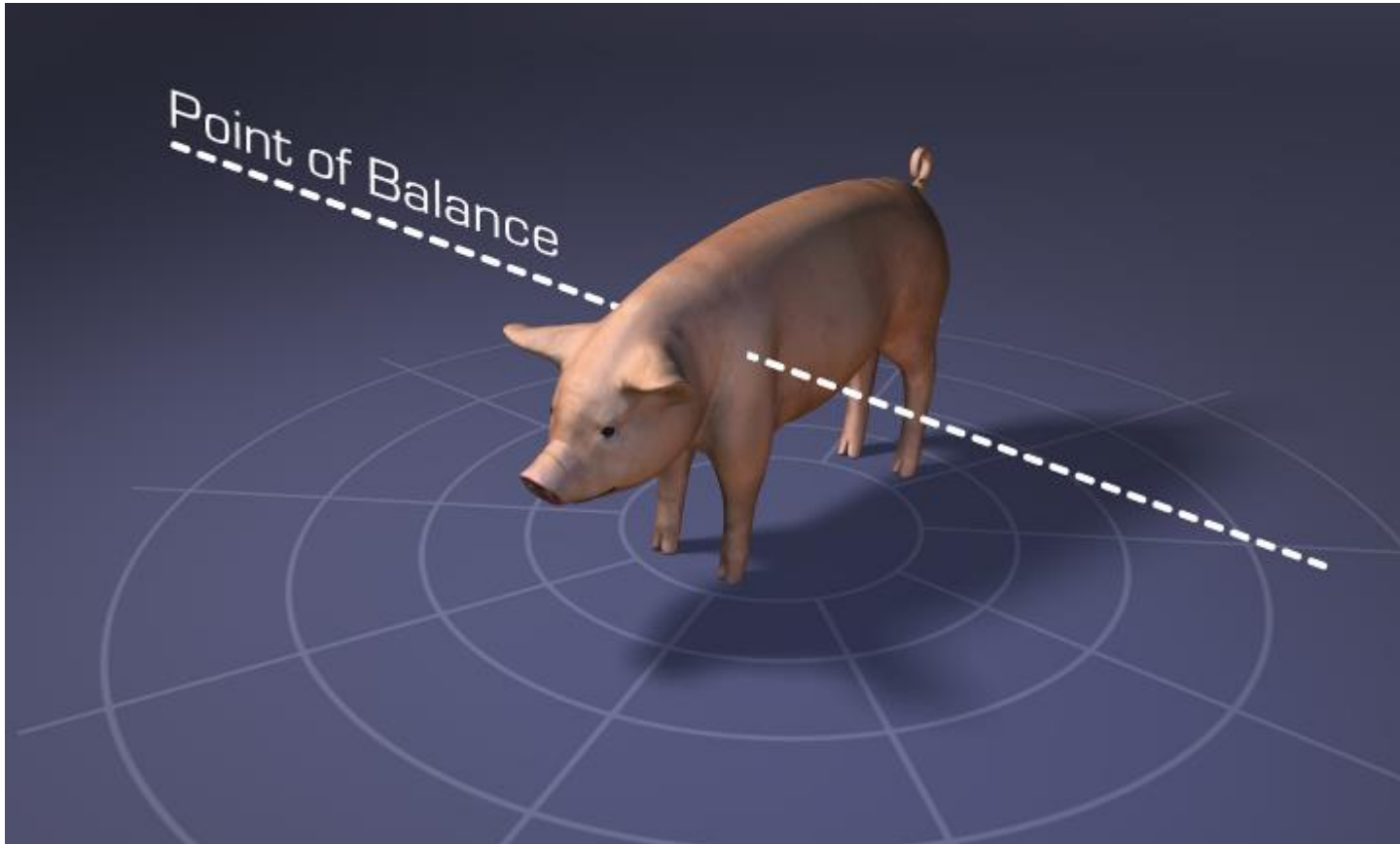
FLIGHT ZONE

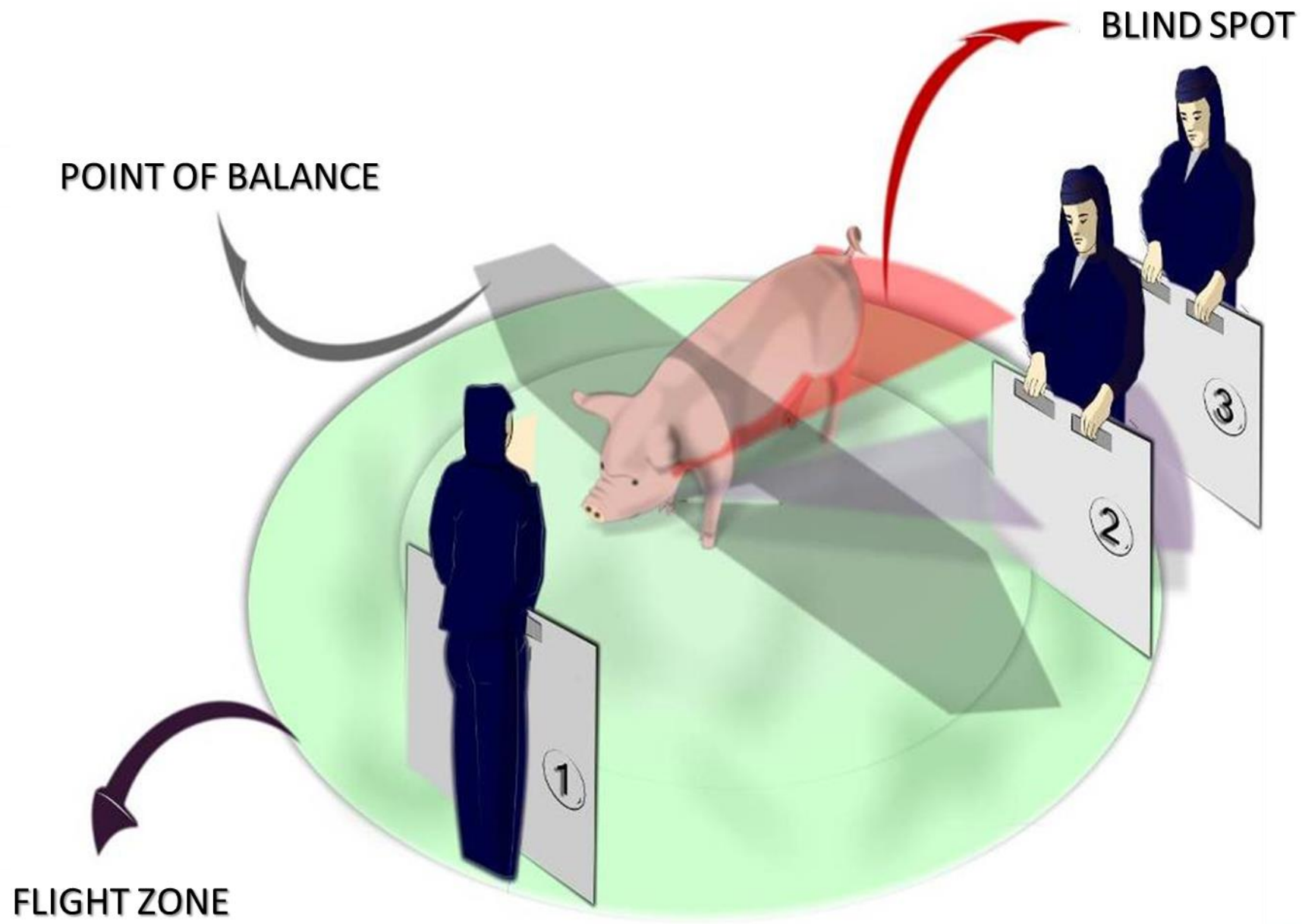


FLIGHT ZONE

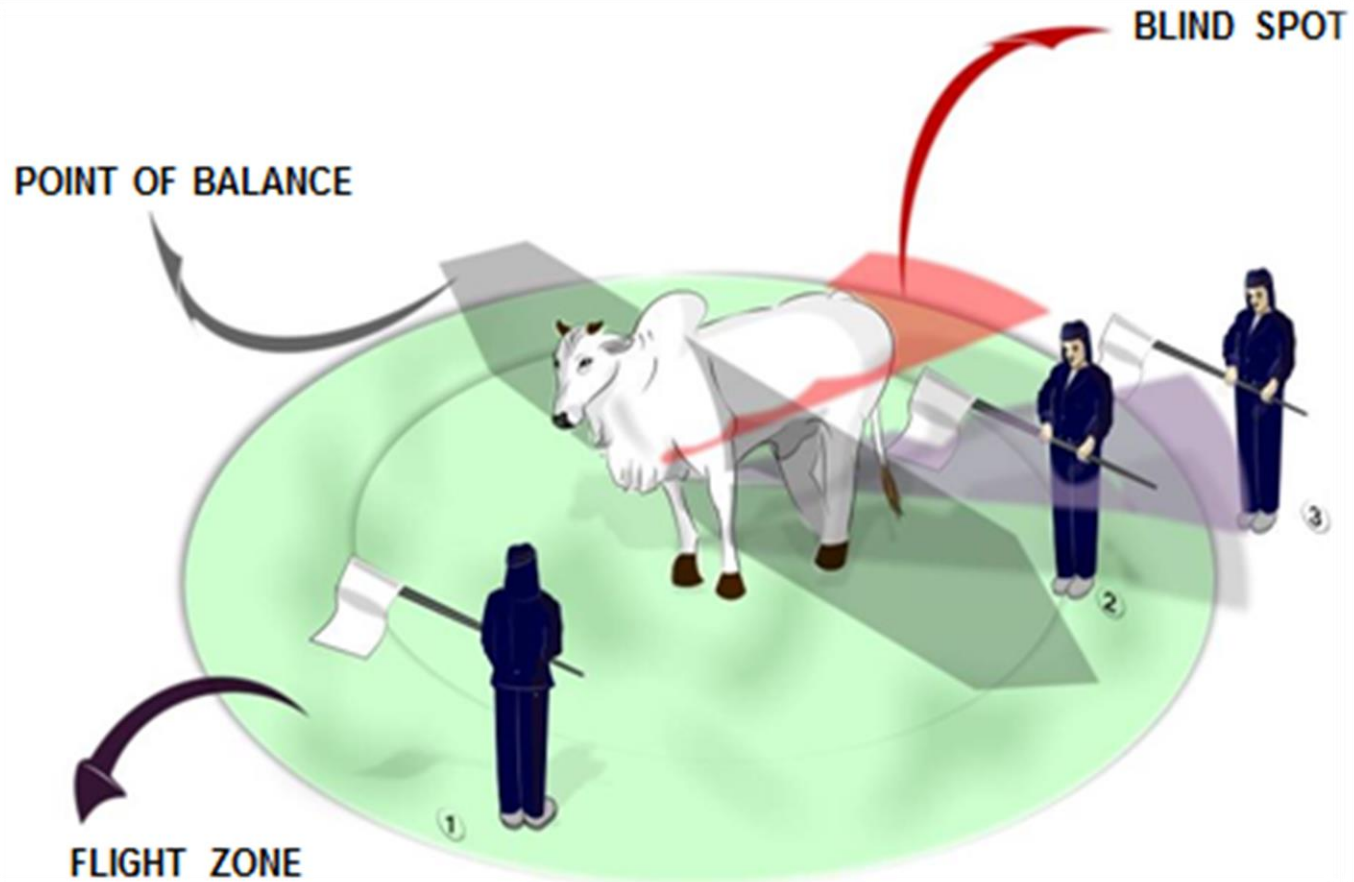


POINT OF BALANCE

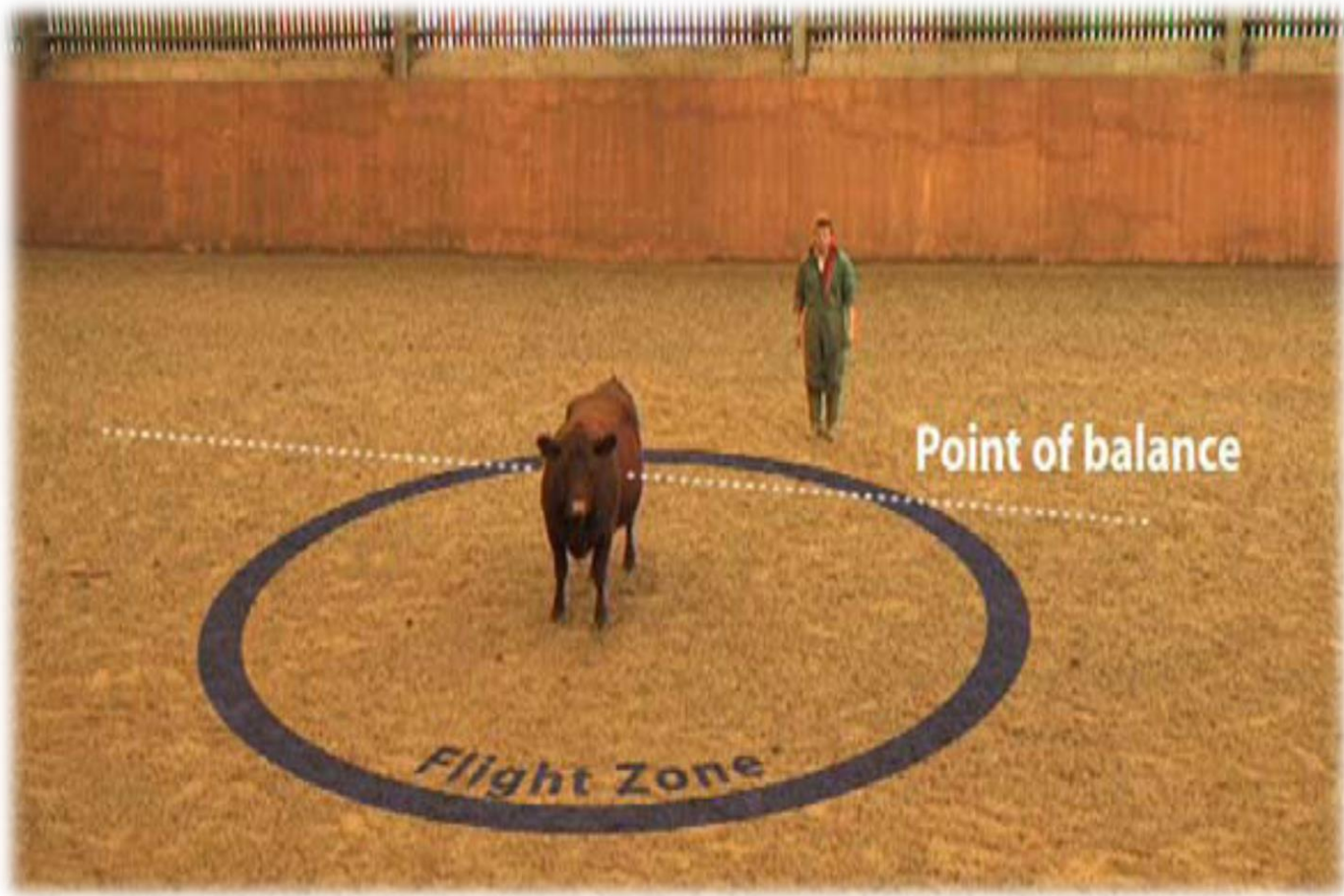




FLIGHT ZONE AND POINT OF BALANCE CATTLE



FLIGHT ZONE AND POINT OF BALANCE CATTLE



FLIGHT ZONE - VIDEO

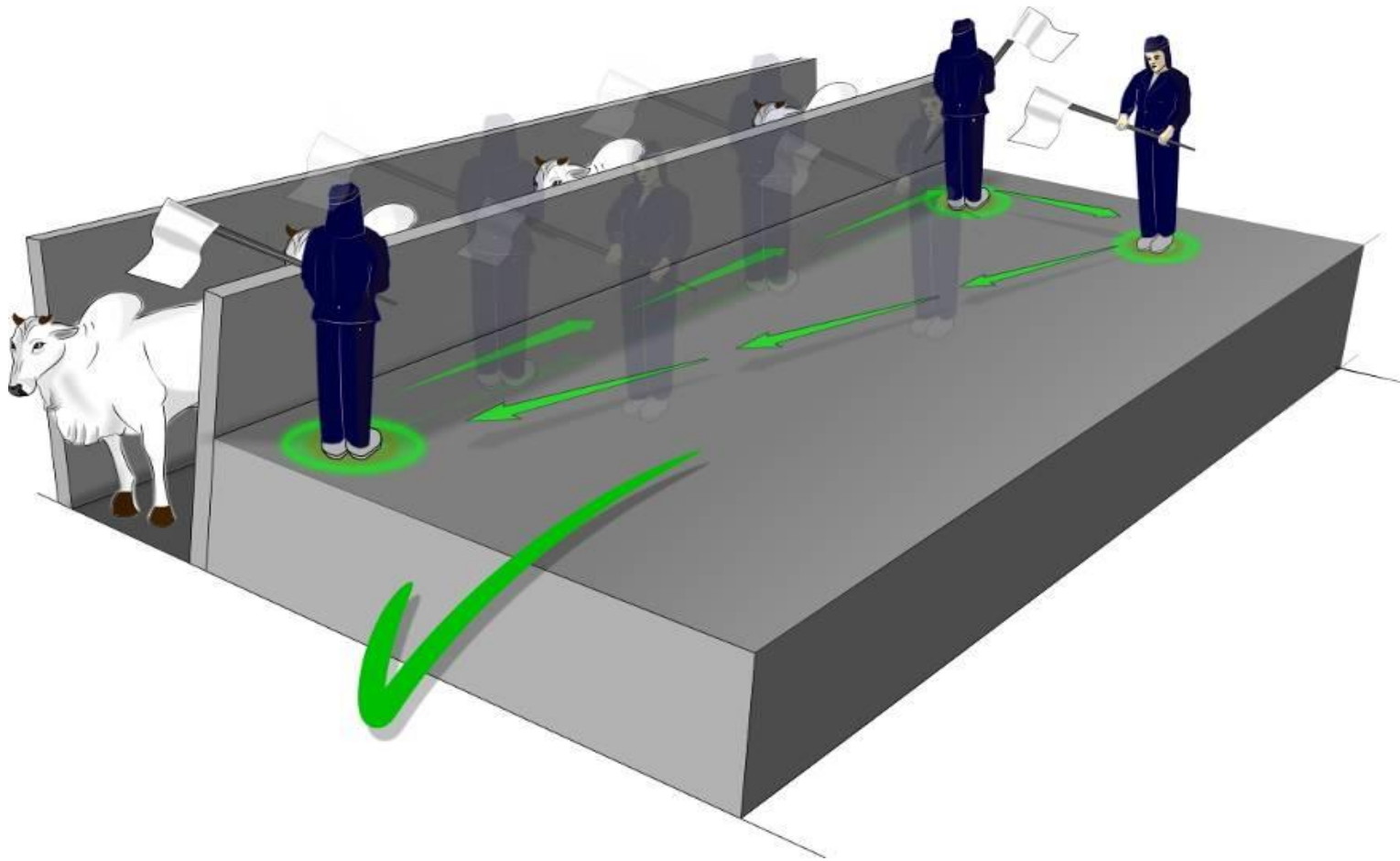


VIDEO – POINT OF BALANCE



USE POINT OF BALANCE IN A RACEWAY

Handling while within the flight zone



Source WSPA Steps

VIDEO – USE OF POINT OF BALANCE PRINCIPLE



HANDLING GROUP OF ANIMALS



HANDLING GROUP OF ANIMALS



RACEWAYS AND GROUP SIZE



URNS (VIDEO)



HANDLING TOOLS - PIGS



HANDLING TOOLS - PIGS



CATTLE TALKERS – FLAGS

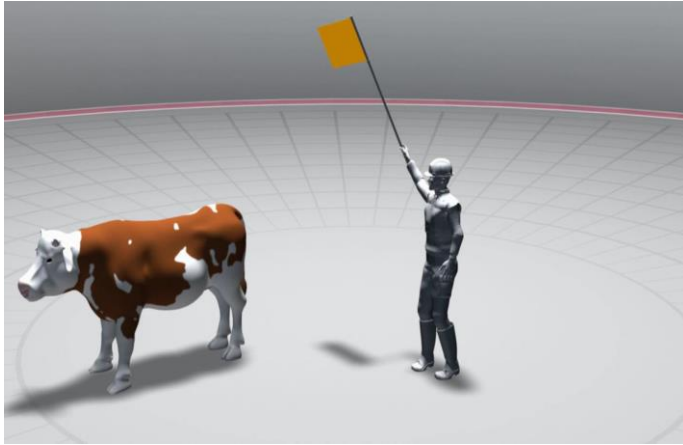


VIDEO – USE OF A FLAG IN THE FEEDLOTS

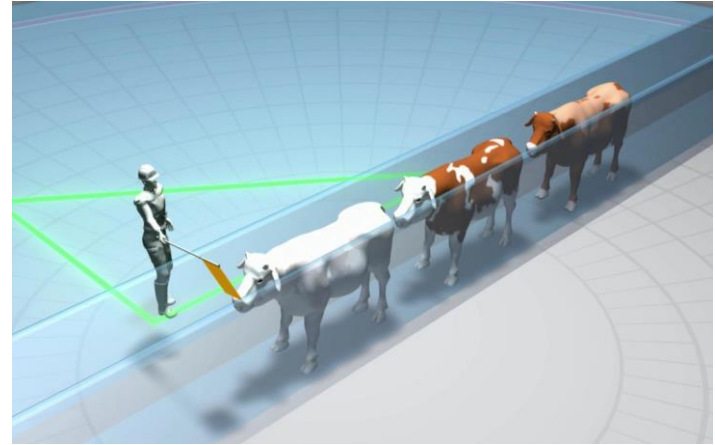


USE OF A FLAG

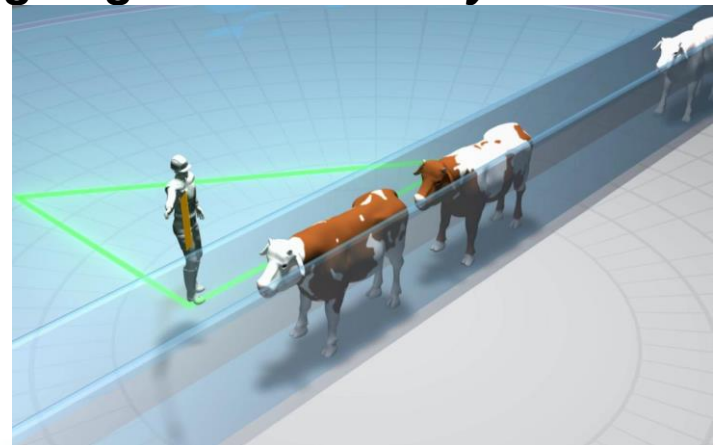
High moving flag increases the threat Flag blocks vision to reverse animal



Flag to slow movement



Flag to guide in raceway



SHEEP HANDLING - VIDEO



HANDLING AN INDIVIDUAL SHEEP

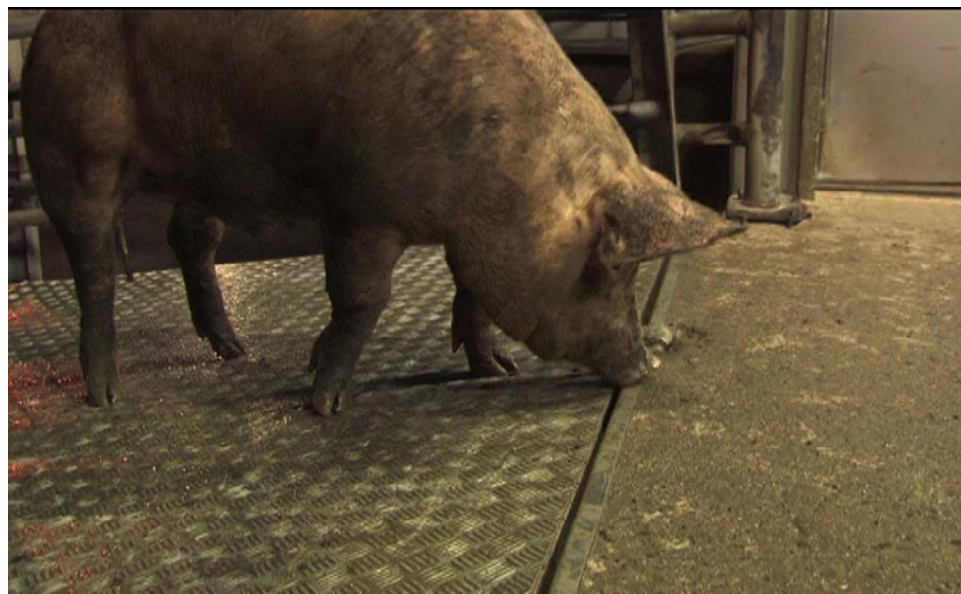


DISTRACTIONS



Source WSPA Steps

DISTRACTIONS



REDUCING DISTRACTIONS



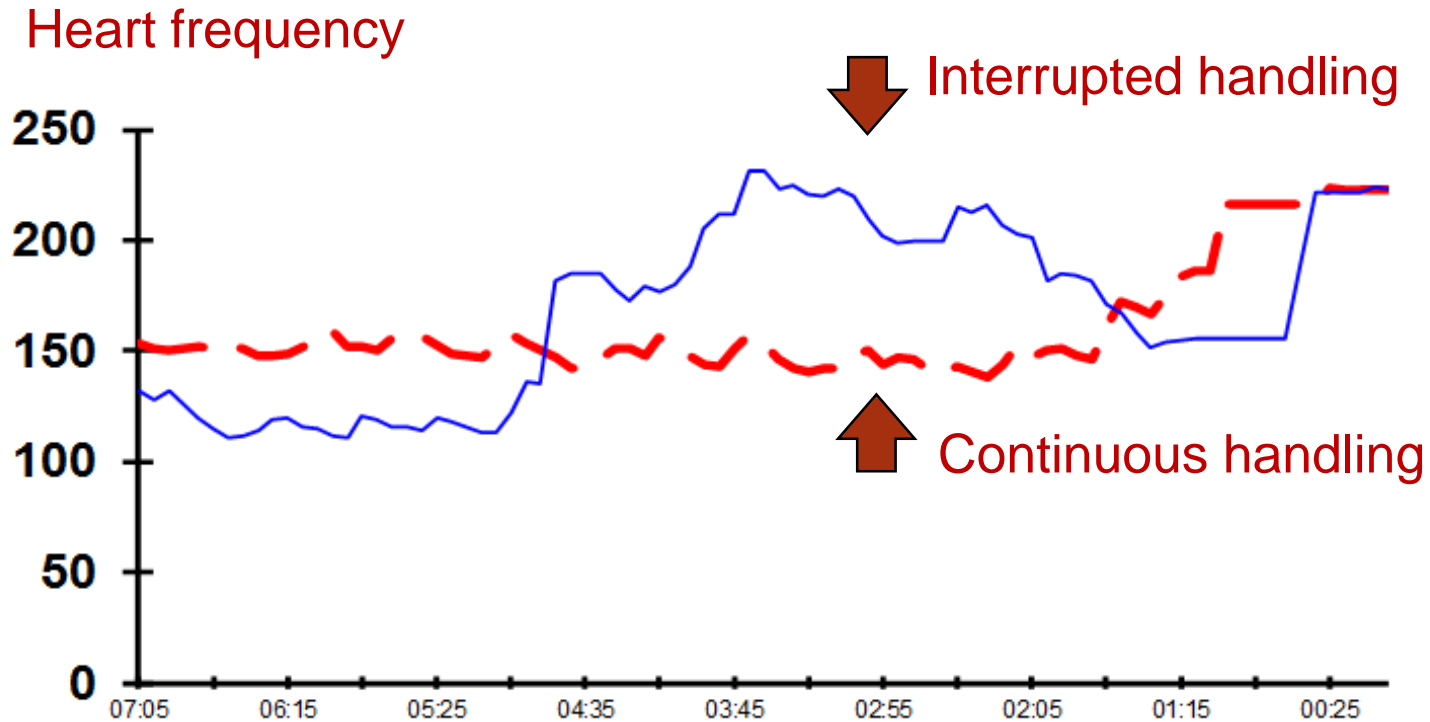
REDUCING DISTRACTIONS



NOISE

- Cattle, sheep and pigs are able to hear sounds that humans can not.
- They are sensitive to certain high-pitched noise from machinery and equipment.
- Loud, intermittent noises close to handling areas can also produce a startle or panic response and should be eliminated.

INTERRUPTED HANDLING



ELECTRIC GOADS AND PRODS

Article 7.3.8.

- should not be used on a routine basis to move animals
- should only be used in extreme cases
- only when animal has room ahead to move
- not be used repeatedly if the animal fails to respond or move
- only the hindquarters of pigs and large ruminants
- should not be used on horses, sheep and goats of any age, or on calves or piglets
- never on sensitive areas such as the eyes, mouth, ears, anogenital region or belly
- only to battery-powered goads

ELECTRIC GOADS AND PRODS

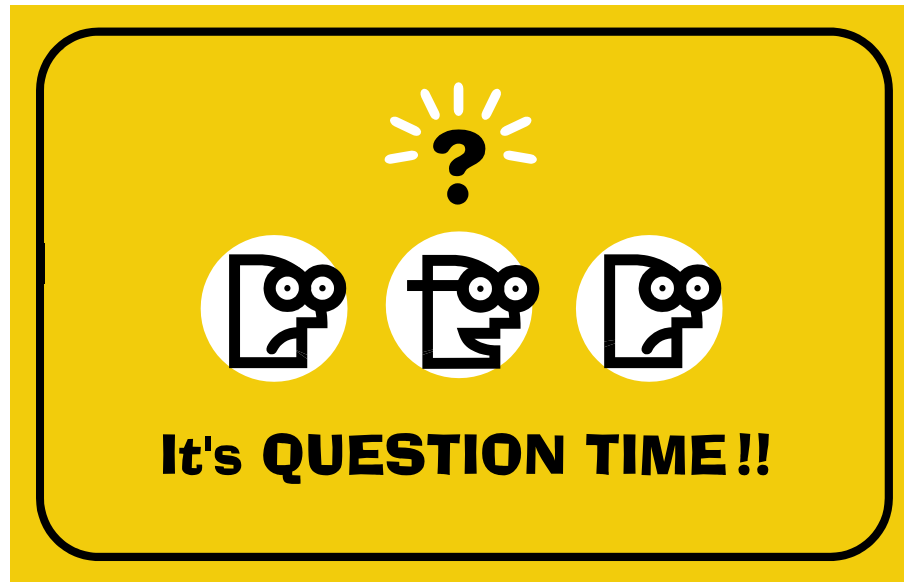
Article 7.3.8.

if electric goads are used at one particular location repeatedly,

it is highly recommended to **investigate** whether some physical or other impediment is preventing animals from moving and **fix** the problem

GROUP WORK..

BASED ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF FARM ANIMALS
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING PRINCIPLES
SUM UP THE MAIN GOOD HANDLING PRINCIPLES.

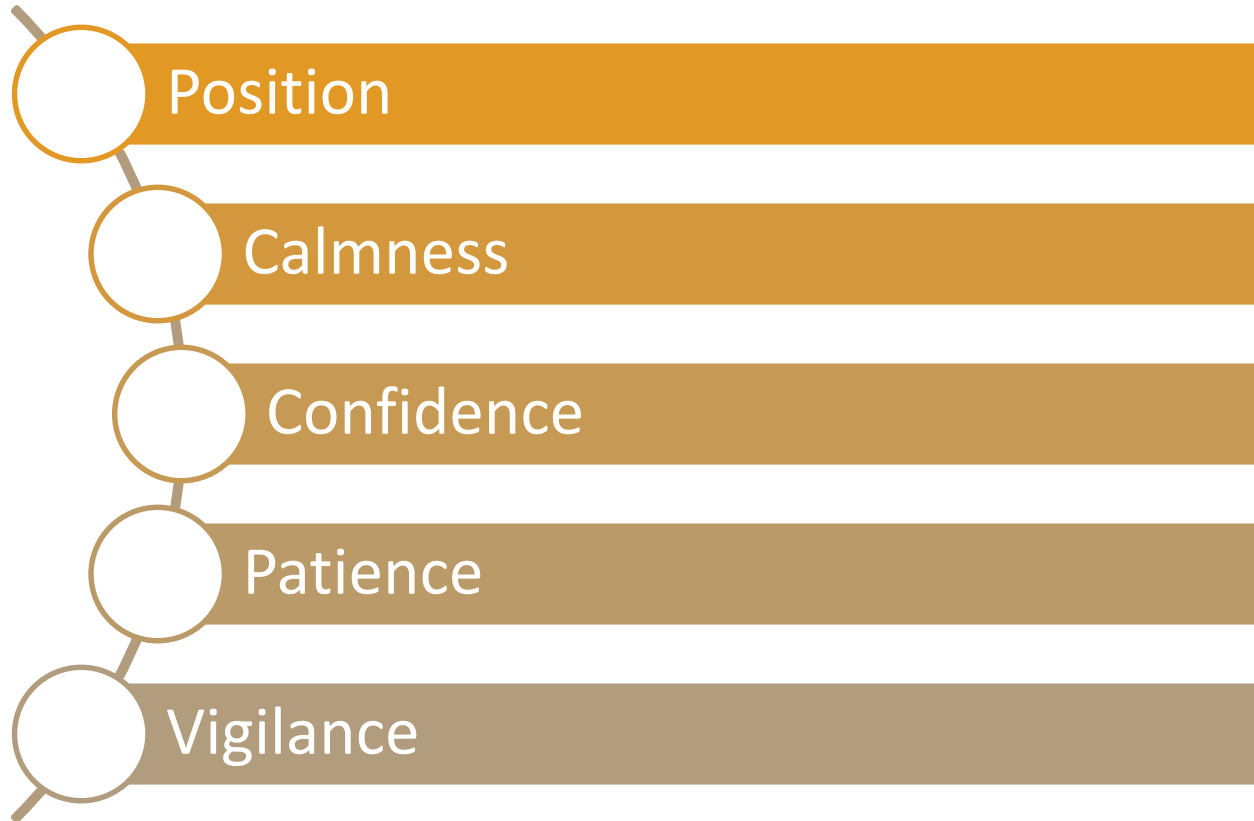


HANDLING PRINCIPLES

- Assess the animals behaviour prior handling
- Observe animal's reaction while approaching
- Handle cattle, sheep and pigs in groups
- When handling sheep use a leader animal
- Use flight zone and point of balance principles
- Keep animals calm and quiet
- Leave animals to have enough time to observe environment and move in their own space
- Use humane handling tools (boards and rattles when handling pigs; flags and talkers when handling cattle)
- Move from darker to lighter area
- Remove any distractions
- Do not force animals that move slowly to move faster
- If animals are difficult to handle reduce the size of group

LOW STRESS ANIMAL HANDLING

KEY ELEMENTS



SAFETY



SAFETY



HANDLING UNKNOWN ANIMALS

- Observe cattle - their behaviour
- Choose slow calm approach
- At the moment when first animal notices handler (you) by moving head up and looking at him, he already reached edge of the flight zone
- When handling cattle move slowly ahead entering the flight zone while observing reactions of animals.
- Adjust your pace to cattle's reactions

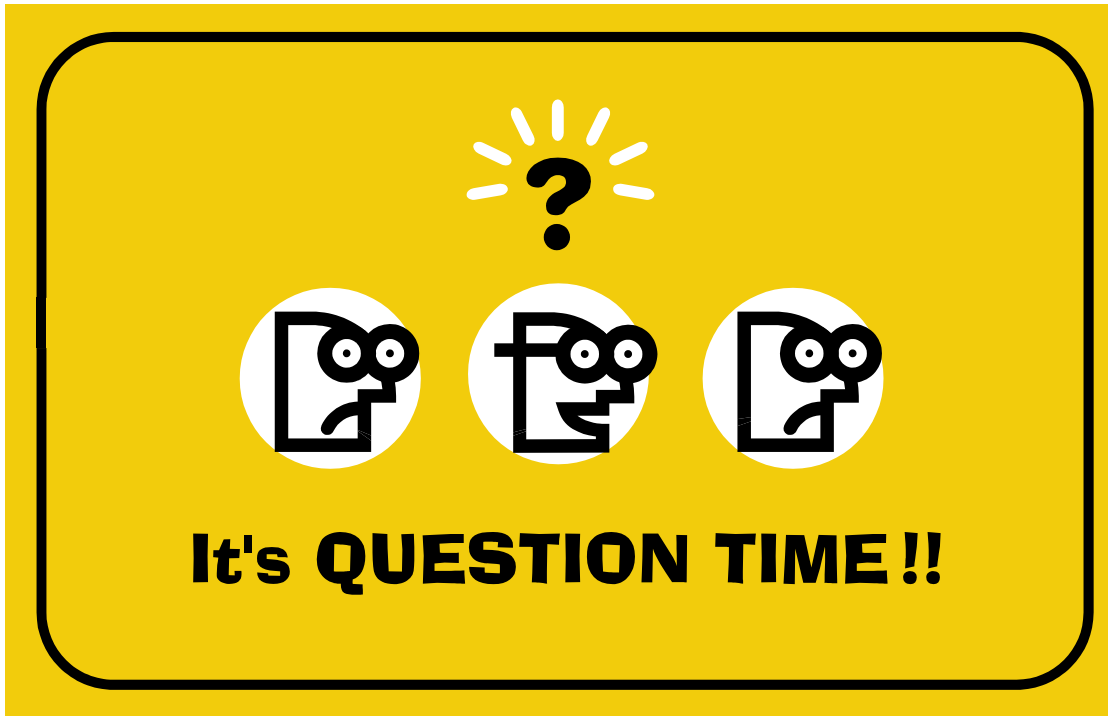
HIGHER RISKS IN HANDLING CATTLE

- cattle that are not handled frequently
- cattle with bad past experiences
- cattle that are handled by unfamiliar persons
- handler lacks the necessary experience, agility or ability to assess the possible risks
- cattle in unfamiliar surroundings
- bulls
- cows with newborn calves
- bad tempered or fractious cattle
- alone, isolated cattle and away from their herdmates

WATCH FOR

- Head and tail positions
- Vocalisation
- All bulls
- All highly aroused or aggressive cattle
- Restless and nervous animals
- Horned cattle

GROUP WORK.. WHAT THE ANIMAL POSTURE IS SAYING TO YOU...



IDENTIFY TWO HEAD AND TWO TAIL POSTURES SUGGESTING DANGER

A



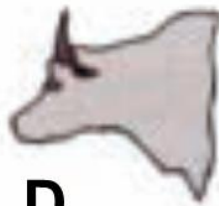
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C



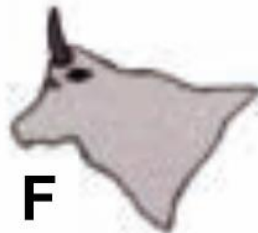
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G



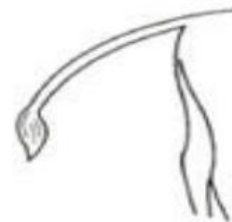
K



H



J



I



CATTLE BODY LANGUAGE

neutral



slightly antagonistic



highly antagonistic



confident



submissive

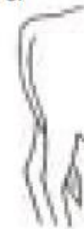


alert before flight



Grazing or walking

Cold, ill or
frightened



Threatening,
curiosity or
sexual excitement



Galloping



Kicking or playing



SAFETY WHEN HANDLING BULLS VIDEO



Source Health and Safety Authority Ireland

OTHER METHODS OF HANDLING REQUIRED OCCASIONALLY

- Animals with very small or no flight zone i.e draught animals (i.e. buffaloes) requiring an individual attention
- Problematic areas – loading, unloading, moving to restraining box, emergencies
- Techniques otherwise used in handling horses
 - Leading using halter or rope
 - Blindfolding and leading
 - Blindfolding and pushing backward (animal's reaction will be to move forward)
 - Blindfolding and turning around its axis 3-4 times and then lead in a desired direction.

REMEMBER

- Good handler is a good observer
- Flight zone and point of balance
- Use of handling tools (reasons)
- Design principles
- Electric goads
- Safety

Thank you for your attention



WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Protecting animals, preserving our future