

Colorado Cattlemen's Association's
ANIMAL WELFARE CODE OF ETHICS

Passed by CCA's membership in 1990, CCA's Animal Welfare Code of Ethics communicates the need for proper care for food animals and demonstrates cattle producers' commitment to proper and humane animal care. CCA's actions have been met with praise by national and international mainstream animal care organizations. It recognizes and reaffirms that it is a livestock producer's duty to oppose inhumane treatment of livestock at any stage of the animal's life, and proclaims that Colorado's cattle producers will provide assistance to officials investigating and prosecuting those who abuse livestock.

1. Statement of Position

The multi-billion dollar livestock industry in Colorado is dependent upon the welfare of the animals under its stewardship. It is the policy of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association to promote among its members good stewardship toward animals under their care. It is further the policy of the CCA to cooperate with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies and other organizations, agencies and individuals that share legitimate concerns about the humane treatment of animals.

2. General Considerations in Livestock Raising

- A. Livestock should be raised in conditions that meet their basic physical and behavioral needs. These include access to fresh water and quality feed, and a humane death.
- B. Handling facilities. Properly designed, well-kept facilities allow humane, efficient cattle movement. Facilities should be constantly evaluated to see if they can be modified to allow better and more humane cattle handling.
- C. People with a good knowledge of working cattle and cattle behavior allow the best use of these facilities. Staff should be monitored to make sure they understand the best way to work cattle. Training should be available for those who need additional instruction in handling livestock. This applies especially to those who have not previously handled livestock.
- D. Inducements. Inducements of any sort (hot shot, whips, etc...) Should be used as little as possible and should be used only to the extent that is necessary to facilitate animal movement. They should never be used in a punitive or angry manner.
- E. Livestock should have access to professional veterinary care as required both to prevent and treat injuries and disease. Use of pharmaceuticals should be used based on an evaluation of the animal's need, not simply out of "habit".

3. Transport of Animals

Density of the loading of livestock should be based upon careful consideration of the class of livestock and the planned duration of the trip. Under no circumstances should the animals be crowded to the point of causing undue stress during the transport. Length of time in the vehicle should be based upon the class and condition of the livestock. In no case should the animals be in the vehicle long enough to cause them inordinate amounts of stress.

4. Livestock Auctions

- A. Terminally sick or injured animals should be destroyed on the ranch and not be subjected to the additional stress of being shipped to auction.
- B. It is essential that auction management continually monitor their facilities and staff to make certain conditions that may foster animal abuse do not exist.

5. Statement of Duty

It is a livestock producer's duty to oppose inhumane treatment of livestock at any stage of the animal's life. Persons who willfully mistreat animals will not be tolerated in our business. We will provide any assistance necessary to proper officials during the investigation and prosecution of individuals who abuse livestock under their care.