

# PREVENTING AND MANAGING **INGROWN HORNS** FOR LIVESTOCK WELFARE



## **Ingrown horns are a serious animal welfare issue**

A horn is ingrown if it pierces, aggravates or causes abrasion to an animal's head. Horns can grow into the face or eyes. Wounds can become infected and be very painful.

## **What to look out for**



These horns have not yet penetrated the skin or eyes, but will cause injury if left to grow. They are highly likely to cause injury during transport and should be tipped to prevent them from becoming ingrown.



This horn is penetrating the animal's face and is causing significant pain for the animal.

**Veterinary care should be sought urgently.**

Horn management is a part of routine husbandry practice and part of your duty of care to livestock under your management. Severe penalties may apply if ingrown horns are not managed or treated appropriately.

# Do not transport animals with ingrown horns



An animal with ingrown horns is not fit for the intended journey. Transport will make the problem worse and cause unnecessary pain. Treat ingrown horns and wait for any wounds to heal before transport.

**Trimmed horns can prevent injury during handling and transport.**

## Prevent horns from becoming ingrown

- Regularly monitor horn growth.
- Perform husbandry procedures, such as tipping or trimming, well in advance of any journey.
- Complete disbudding or dehorning procedures on animals when they are young.
- Consider the use of polled (hornless) breeds.
- Seek veterinary advice.

Always perform husbandry procedures in line with Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for sheep (1) or cattle (2). Use appropriate tools, pain relief and hygiene measures.



## More information and advice

### NSW DPI Animal Welfare:

Phone: (02) 6360 5344

Email: [animal.welfare@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:animal.welfare@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Web: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/beef-cattle/husbandry/general-management/dehorning-cattle](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/beef-cattle/husbandry/general-management/dehorning-cattle)

### NSW Local Land Services (LLS):

Phone: 1300 795 299

Web: [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/i-want-to/contact-my-local-office](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/i-want-to/contact-my-local-office)

## Know your obligations

Under the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, anyone who owns, manages or handles livestock has a legal duty of care and is responsible for ensuring acceptable welfare standards for animals in their charge. This includes preventing and treating injury caused by ingrown horns.

(1) Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep: <https://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/files/2011/01/Sheep-Standards-and-Guidelines-for-Endorsed-Jan-2016-061017.pdf>

(2) Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle: <https://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/files/2011/01/Cattle-Standards-and-Guidelines-Endorsed-Jan-2016-061017.pdf>