

# Cattle tick – visual inspection of cattle tick carriers

April 2020, Primefact 1543, Second edition

Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, NSW DPI

This primefact must be followed when visually inspecting cattle tick carriers for adult cattle tick.

## Inspection Percentage

The table below is a minimum number of cattle tick carriers that must be visually inspected in each consignment.

Number of cattle tick carriers in consignment	Percentage of consignment to be inspected
Up to 300	100%
301-1000	First 100 and 66% of remaining
More than 1001	First 100 and 33% of remaining

## Restraint for inspection

- The cattle tick carrier must be safely observed from a distance of not more than 2 metres.
- **Unled cattle tick carriers** must be observed in a yard, crush or race.

## Inspection procedure

1. Glasses must be worn by the person conducting the inspection if they normally wear glasses for reading.
2. Inspect the animal in a yard **from a distance of no more than 2 metres**, looking for signs of adult cattle tick.
3. Pay close attention to the following sites: tail butt, escutcheon, dewlap, ear, upper neck and flank. Look for adult ticks or lumps on the carrier. If lumps are found, these should be investigated to determine whether they are adult ticks.

## Cattle tick – visual inspection of cattle tick carriers

Figure 1 – All sites

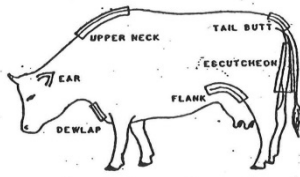


Figure 2 - dewlap

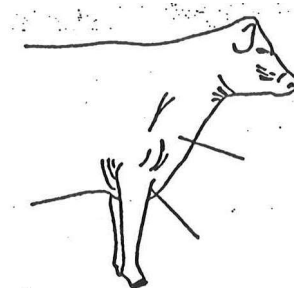


Figure 3 – escutcheon

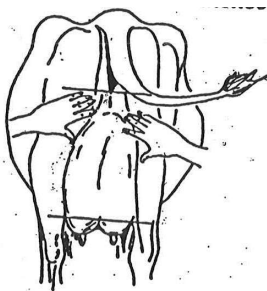


Figure 4 – flank

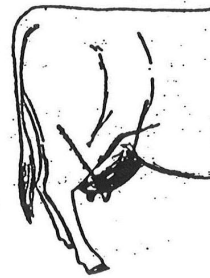
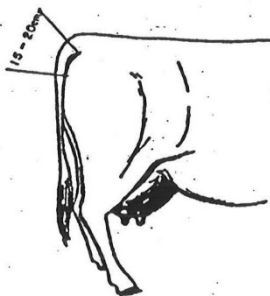


Figure 5 – tail butt



4. Inspect the animals:
  - I. prior to application of a chemical treatment in the crush, or
  - II. in the draining pens after plunge dipping (if the animals are treated by dipping)
5. Remove any ticks using fingernails, place in the palm of the hand for closer inspection.
6. Assess visually to identify if it is an adult cattle tick using the [Primefact 1544 Cattle tick identifying the life cycle stage of a cattle tick](#).
7. If an adult cattle tick is identified, determine whether the tick is alive. A live tick is one that shows obvious signs of movement or from which body fluids can be expressed.
8. Where the person conducting the inspection is not the owner or a person in charge of the carrier, show the owner or the person in charge of the carrier the tick.

9. Place the cattle tick in a specimen jar and retain for positive laboratory identification if required.

## If a cattle tick is found

If an adult cattle tick is found on an animal, all animals in that consignment fail the inspection and must not be moved to NSW.

The Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has a publication called [Procedure for the use of chemical treatment on cattle tick carriers](#) which describes the treatment and re- inspection procedure that may be undertaken after an initial failed inspection.

## Re-inspection interval

Cattle tick carriers requiring a visual inspection and supervised chemical treatment may be presented for re-inspection once every 24 hours following treatment, up to a maximum period of:

- 4 days (96 hours) if treated with an acaricide; or
- 6 days (144 hours) if treated with an endectocide.

This must be continued until the animal is found to be visually free of adult ticks (following the usual procedure for a visual inspection).

## Time limits on moving following a supervised chemical treatment

Cattle tick carriers that require a supervised chemical treatment must be moved to NSW within:

- 96 hours of the risk minimisation requirements being met if the animal has been treated with an acaricide; or
- 144 hours of the risk minimisation requirements being met if the animal has been treated with an endectocide.

## More information

For more information on cattle tick see: <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/beef-cattle/health-and-disease/parasitic-and-protozoal-diseases/ticks>

General Biosecurity enquiries phone 1800 680 244 or email [animal.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:animal.biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

## Acknowledgments

The material in this factsheet was developed by the Qld Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and is used with their permission.

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