

Horns are a pain

Glen Sibson, Senior Principal Biosecurity Inspector in Biosecurity Queensland discussing 'fit to load' and the roles and responsibilities of consignors and transporters of livestock.

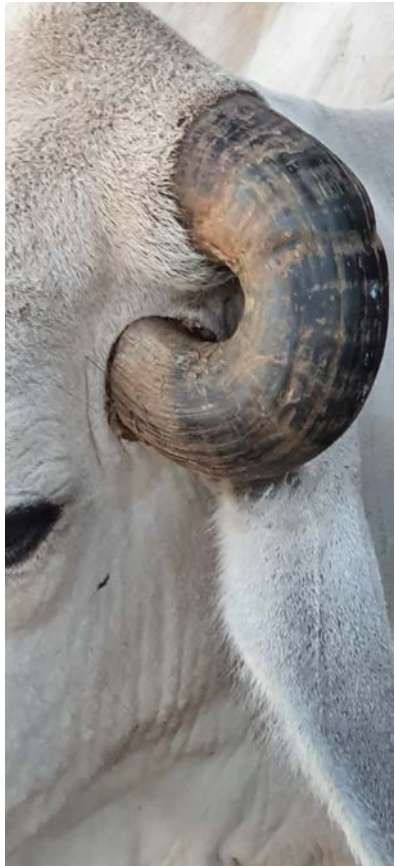
Fit to Load topics

- Animal Biosecurity and Welfare's role
- Ingrown horns
- Where incidences are detected
- Implications
- Remedy
- Other 'fit to load' issues

ABW Role

- Lead agency in animal welfare
- Share operational functions
- Main animal focus of each agency
- Animal Welfare case statistics – 979 cases
 - 41.2% - dog and cat
 - 21% - cattle
 - 19.5% horses
 - 2% pigs, <1% poultry
- The 'fit to load' concept

Ingrown horns



How are incidents brought to ABW attention?

Critical control points:

- Abattoirs
- Saleyards
- Spelling centres

Transporters and drivers

Abattoirs

- Processors QA program – part of export licencing
- Plant vet report
- 107 cases referred this year

Saleyards and Spelling Centres



- Agents, stock contractors responsible
- No emergency slaughter available
- Public spectacle

Transporters & Drivers

- Road
- Rail



Culpable for loading, travel and unloading

Why the fuss?

- **State law**

- ❖ Animal Care and Protection Act 2001
- ❖ Code of Practice for transport of livestock
 - ✓ Penalty up to \$40,035
- ❖ Cruelty offence
 - ✓ Penalty up to \$266,900 and 3 years imprisonment

- **Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)**

- ❖ Loss of accreditation and NVD access



The cause of ingrown horns

- Some breeds are prone to it
- Mainly poor dehorning technique
- Take 1 cm of skin around the horn
- Debud before 2 months of age
- Use a device suitable to horn size



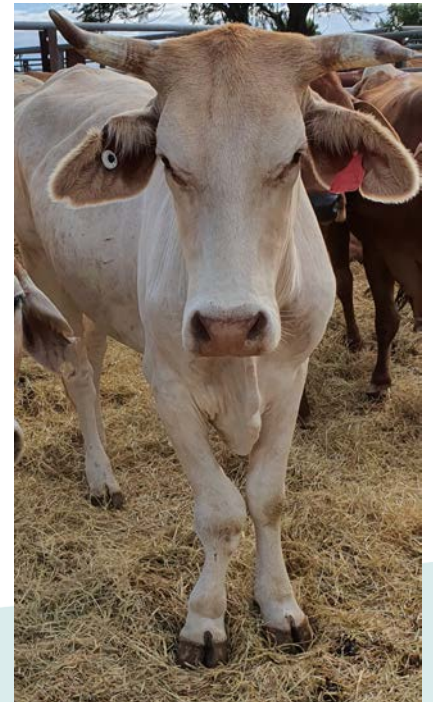
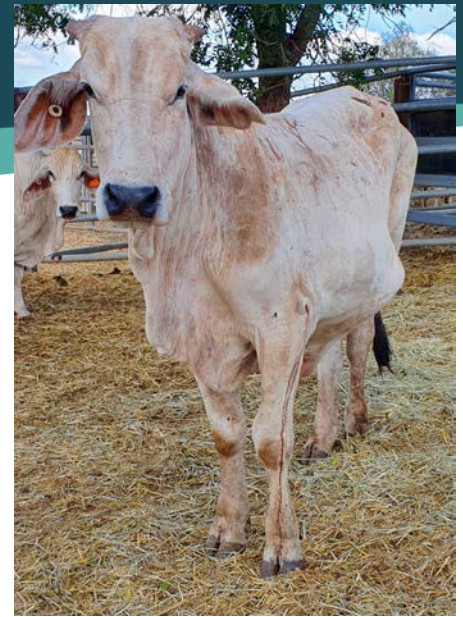
What you need to do

- Be vigilant
- Tip and treat early
- Allow for future growth
- Consider the end of the journey
- Don't compromise on animal welfare for commercial gain

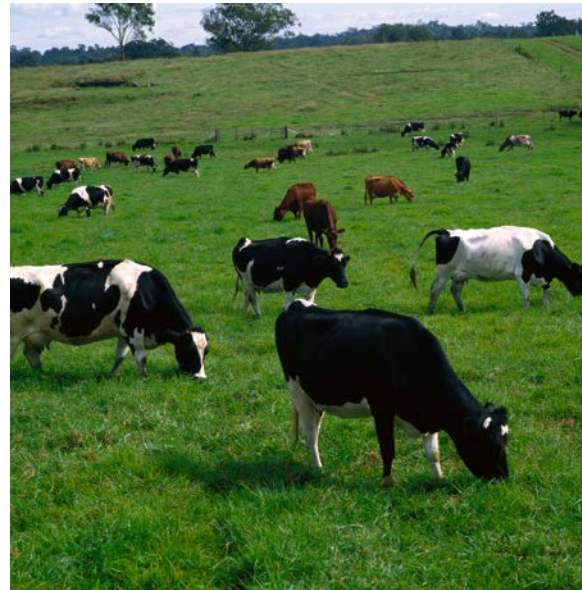
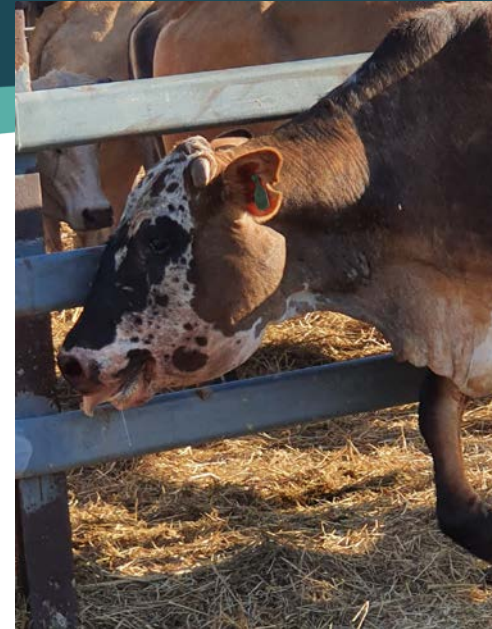


Other fit to load issues

- Lameness (leg breaks and deformities)
- Foreign body penetrations & wounds



- Lumpy jaws
- Cancers



Pizzle infections



- Blindness
- Weakness
- Advanced pregnancy



Final comments

- Ingrown horns are any easy fix – it just takes planning
- Other injuries need veterinarian attention
- Cattle sales are public spectacles of the industry
- Animal welfare will not go away
- Like everything from the past, it never stops changing

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