



**Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians /
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CVMA Animal Welfare Committee's Large Animal Subcommittee
c/o Dr. Warren Skippon
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Dear CVMA Animal Welfare Large Animal Subcommittee:

Re: CVMA Position Statement on Dehorning of Cattle

Thank you for providing the Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians (CABV/ACVB) with the opportunity to comment on CVMA's draft Position Statement on Dehorning of Cattle. The CABV/ACVB sees this statement as being very timely given the public's increasing level of interest in animal welfare, particularly as it relates to food animal production.

The following is a brief summary of our suggested changes:

- The position title, Dehorning of Cattle, is too restrictive and should perhaps be broadened to "Disbudding and Dehorning of Cattle". We would also urge the Committee to review and include some of the points and verbiage from the National Farm Animal Care Council's "Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle"¹, specifically, as it relates to disbudding and dehorning.
- The first line of the "Position" states that "*Removal of horns in cattle may be necessary to enhance safety but it is a painful procedure requiring....*". The CVMA should adopt a more forceful position, such as, "*Removal of horns in cattle is necessary to enhance handling safety and it is a painful procedure requiring...*"
- The current draft appears to be more concerned with disbudding and dehorning of young calves. We would like to see a more inclusive position that includes older calves (i.e. feedlot animals) and mature animals. What is the CVMA's position on dehorning feedlot animals or mature cows and bulls? Should this procedure be condoned, if so, how should it

¹ <http://www.dairyfarmers.ca/what-we-do/animal-health-and-welfare/code-of-practice-for-the-care-and-handling-of-dairy-cattle>

be done? The statement needs to address 3 types of animals: young calves (< 2 months), calves > 2 months (includes feedlot animals), and mature animals.

- While we appreciate that the Position Statement is not meant to provide a comprehensive review of all the literature published on the subject, there are a number of more recent articles that you may wish to review and insert in your list of references. These have been appended to this letter.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and would be interested in reviewing Draft #5.

We would also appreciate being involved in all future food animal related welfare position statements (i.e. tail docking, etc.)

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Cleghorn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Jason Cleghorn
President, CABV/ACVB

JC:pmm
Attachment

REFERENCES

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