

Welfare of bobby calves at abattoirs (adopted 01/08/08)

Definition

A *bobby calf* is a bovine less than 2 weeks old that is not accompanied by its mother. In the dairy industry, bobby calves are the unwanted offspring of dairy cows and generally destined for slaughter rather than herd replacement or rearing for veal.

1 Lairage

- 1.1 Shelter must be provided to protect bobby calves from heat, cold, wind and rain.
- 1.2 Adequate wholesome water must be available at all times.
- 1.3 Bobby calves which are not processed within 12 hours of their last feed, must be fed appropriate and sufficient liquid feed by the person in possession of the calves at the times. Thereafter, calves shall be either slaughtered or fed at 12 hour intervals if slaughter is delayed for any reason.
- 1.4 All bobby calves that remain unslaughtered when an unforeseen delay in processing occurs, e.g. at the outbreak of an industrial dispute or major mechanical breakdown, must be humanely killed by competent management staff or by arrangement with normal slaughterers and no attempt must be made to maintain alive those animals on the premises.

2 Slaughter

Bobby calves must be slaughtered prior to other animals, ideally within 12 hours of their last feed.

See also – **Policy F4 Transportation of bobby calves**
Position Paper B1 Welfare of bobby calves at pick-up points and sales
Position paper B2 Welfare of bobby calves on farm
Position paper B3 Commercial harvesting of foetal bovine serum
Position paper F5 Transportation of bobby calves