



FIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE IN SALEYARDS

ALTHOUGH NUMBERS HAVE DECLINED IN RECENT YEARS, SALEYARDS ARE STILL A COMMON FORM OF TRADING IN FARM ANIMALS. ANIMALS ARE TRANSPORTED TO THESE VENUES TO BE SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, BEFORE BEING MOVED TO THEIR FINAL DESTINATION.

WHILE THE TRANSPORTATION PROCESS IS INHERENTLY STRESSFUL FOR ANIMALS, THERE ARE WAYS TO MANAGE ANIMAL WELFARE WHILE THEY'RE BEING HELD AT SALEYARDS AHEAD OF COLLECTION.

Put someone in charge

The person managing the saleyard should be responsible for ensuring the health and welfare of all animals on site, and should take care to report any instances of cruelty to the relevant authorities.

Ensure space for animals to move

Saleyards should be constructed and maintained to allow animals to move around freely within their pens, access water and lie down when they need to.

Provide water, shade and shelter

This is vital. When you're organising these necessities, make sure you take both the local climate and the needs of the animals into account.

Check animals are fit to transport

Check whether animals are fit to continue their journey or require treatment. Animals should not be emaciated or dehydrated. They should be able to walk and see, and should be free from pain and distress.

Keep any handling low stress

Understand an animal's behaviour and their flight zone to encourage rather than force them in the required direction.

The RSPCA is Australia's leading animal welfare organisation and one of Australia's most trusted charities.

For more information about the RSPCA and its work with farming industries, visit rspca.org.au

