**Downed Animals**

Downed animals include any animal that cannot get up on its own due to health issues or injury.

*(See page 24-25 in your proAction Animal Care* Reference Manual, *all shaded areas are required elements of your Corrective Action Plan. You may use your own words to communicate the same intent.)*

1. **Assess the situation**
   * Determine a course of action immediately upon finding the downed animal
     + The course of action and timing will vary depending on the location where the animal has gone down. Immediate action is required in emergency situations. Action can be delayed for up to 2 hours in non-emergency situations.

***Immediate Action Required if:***

* *The animal is in immediate danger of further injury or death, or*

***Animal Goes Down in the:***

* *Parlour*
* *Walk-way*
* *Alleyway (when automatic scrapers are present)*
* *Dug out*
* *Handling System*

***Delayed Action Acceptable if:***

* *The animal is not in immediate danger of further injury or death, or*

***Animal Goes Down Due to:***

* *Illness (e.g. milk fever, grass tetany, metritis)*
* *Difficult Calving (calving paralysis)*
* *Pinched Nerve*
* *Situations where animal is not blocking normal activity or movement*

*The chance of recovery decreases drastically after 6 hours being down.*

1. **Contact the necessary people\***
   * Owner/manager or other trained staff
   * Veterinarian

*\*This contact information should be available to all staff in a known location*

1. **Gather any necessary materials and/or equipment to assist the animal to rise**.
   * Sand, shavings, or other non-slip material for traction
   * Sled, hoists, buckets, chains/webbing, hip lifters, and/or tractor for lifting/moving.

What equipment or lift technique can be used to assist the animal based on the location? Ensure training with equipment and humane handling of animals has occurred.

1. **Carry out appropriate action for the animal and the situation**
   * Lift and move

Include safety precautions to be taken by all staff to ensure that both workers and animals are kept safe (ex. avoid working around the animal’s legs; do not attempt to move a downed animal alone, etc.)

* + Ensure adequate bedding (shavings, straw, sand) is available in the location the animal is moved to
  + Care in place
  + If the animal is lying on its side, it should be rolled into an upright (resting on its chest) position immediately.
  + Treat with medication? If so, which medication? Consult veterinarian if required for diagnosis. Record this treatment and segregation guidelines accordingly and observe milk withdrawal times.

1. **Re-assess the animal**
   * The animal should be lifted regularly to ensure that nerve or other damage to legs does not occur. How will this be done?
   * Does the animal need to be milked? How will this be done?
   * What happens if the animal does not respond to treatment within 24 to 48 hours?
   * If the animal is not responding to treatment, refer to the euthanasia SOP for further direction