

Proper Use of Animal Handling Equipment

Professional Services Veterinarian Department Technical Bulletin



What is the need for Animal Handling Equipment?

There are many misconceptions about products such as electric shockers, hip hoists, cow slings and hobbles. When used correctly and as a part of your Down Cow Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), these products can not only help your animal get back to health quicker, but can keep you safe in otherwise dangerous situations.

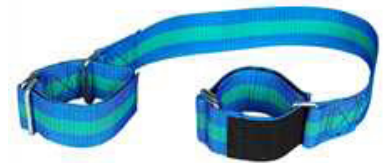
ANIMART recommends all operations have a team in charge of handling Down Cows. For assistance on creating a Down Cow SOP and for forming a Down Cow Team, please visit www.animart.com/down_cow.

Hobbles

Hobbles should be applied to cows' hind legs for support and to keep legs from slipping and spreading. They are best used to aid cows following nerve injuries, usually resulting from calving or injury.

Please Note:

Hobbles can be found in a variety of different sizes and materials. To find the best fit for your cows, contact your ANIMART Professional Services Veterinarian.



17" Nylon Hobble

Hip Hoist

Hip Lifts/Clamps are most effective when they are used to help lift recumbent cows that are bright and alert and do not have underlying problems, such as fractures or a dislocated hip. They are generally used when a cow is weak and unable to rise due to milk fever or calving paralysis.

1. Use of a hip hoist will be decided by the shift manager in charge of the Down Cow Team.
2. A halter will be placed on the cow's head so that she can be controlled.
3. The hip hoist will be placed over the hip/pin bones of the down cow.
4. The hip hoist will be tightened to a point that when pressure is applied, the cow will not slip free.
5. A skid loader will be positioned directly over the hip hoist and as close as possible to the rear of the cow with the bucket elevated to maximum height to avoid injuring the cow or an employee.
6. The bucket will be lowered to a point that allows the hip hoist to be attached to it and leave a gap of 2-3 feet between the bucket and the back of the cow.
7. The skid loader will raise the bucket to a point where the cow can stand straight legged and no higher.
8. The cow may place her feet and begin bearing some of her own weight. If the cow is bearing some of her own weight, the hip hoist and skid loader may remain in place to help stabilize her, but for no longer than 10 minutes.
9. If the cow does not place her feet and begin to bear any of her own weight, she may hang in this position for no more than 5 minutes before she must be lowered back to the ground.



Hip Lift

Please Note:

A hip hoist is only to be used to help a recumbent cow stand.

Under NO circumstances should the cow ever be completely suspended in the air by the hip hoist.

Under NO circumstances should the cow ever be moved from one area of the farm to another by means of the hip hoist.



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Cow Sling

Cow Slings, like hip hoists, are used to gently lift a down cow. Unlike Hip Hoists, Cow Slings can be used to move an animal from one area to another.

1. Use of a cow sling will be decided by the shift manager in charge of the Down Cow Team.
2. Gently roll recumbent cow onto sling.
3. Adjust straps to fit cow and attach C-hooks to front end loader or bucket.
4. Lift cow gently and move to hospital pen or out of dangerous area.
5. After each use, make sure to clean Cow Sling thoroughly.

Please Note:

Slings can be used to help recumbent cows stand and improve circulation.

Hip hoist may be used to aid in the placement of a cow sling when cow is stuck in a stall (contact shift manager).



Daisy Lifter

Electric Shockers

Electrical devices should be used judiciously and only in extreme circumstances when all other techniques have failed and management approves of this practice.

These devices should never be applied to sensitive parts of the animal such as the face, genitalia or mucous membranes and use should be limited from two to three attempts lasting no more than three seconds.

If the cow attempts to rise, the employee should position themselves at the rear of the cow to help stabilize her.

Please Note:

If the cow does not rise after initial attempts, employee should notify the Down Cow Team immediately.



Magrath - Power Pak



Hot Shot Powermite

Available at ANIMART

ANIMART has a broad selection of products to help you with your animal handling needs. For more information regarding this equipment, contact your ANIMART Sales Rep or call 1.800.255.1181. For more information regarding on-farm training, contact your ANIMART Professional Services Veterinarian or call 866.986.9404.

Collars & Ropes

- Cow Collar 44"
- Double Ties - Rope
- Halter - PolyPro
- Vet Rope

Electric Shockers

- Hot Shot Powermite
- Livestock Prod
- Magrath - Power Pak
- Batteries "C"

Hip Lifts & Slings

- Brisket Sling
- Cow Sling - Munks
- Daisy Lifter
- Hip Lift
- Hip Lift - Vink

Hobbles

- Cow CuffLinks II
- Hobbles - Munk
- Hobbles - 3 Buckle
- Hobbles - Repl. Center Strap
- Hobbles - Repl. Leg Strap

Nose Restraints

- Bull Rings
- Noselead & Chain

Snaps

- D-Clips
- Double End Chain Snap
- Open Eye Snap - Brass
- Open Eye Snap - Metal
- Swivel Eye Bolt Snap
- Swivel Eye Bull Snap
- Swivel Eye Spring Snap

