

## Incidents Involving Animals – Initial – Species Prompts

### Livestock Quick Reference Animal Fact Sheets (Cattle-Sheep-Pigs)

Common livestock that will be encountered by emergency responders are cattle, sheep and pigs. There are many varieties within these species groups, however basic understanding of prey animal psychology will help emergency responders make correct tactical decisions. Some livestock encountered will fall into the context of exotic livestock. These should be dealt with under guidance from species specialists or animal incident tactical advisors.

#### Key Message:

When stimulated which may be from a range of sources, livestock can become extremely dangerous, even to those who are accustomed to handling them. Do not approach or interact with livestock unless you have a plan and are confident in the anticipated result of your actions.

#### Warning Signs and situations that can cause adverse reactions:

- Fear, maternal instinct or injury/sickness will cause unwanted and possibly dangerous behaviour
- Sudden movement or noise will cause a reaction (air brakes, high pitched sounds, clanging metal etc.)
- Lone animals will instinctively want to return to herd mates (less so pigs) and may, in cattle, present a rapid and very mobile risk
- Being cornered and put under pressure will cause unwanted and dangerous behaviour
- Male animals, particularly bulls, should be treated with extreme caution and specialist advice sought

#### Livestock respond to:

- Confident, calm, positive, patient handlers
- Using your voice to encourage and reassure
- Body language is key, appearing slowly, moving slowly
- Make yourself look big if required to divert a possible threat
- Reduce all stimulation (traffic movement, noise, untrained volunteers)
- Familiarity and safety in numbers
- Move animals along planned routes without obstructions, visual stimulus or opportunity to escape

#### When dealing with livestock you need to:

- Ensure any oncoming resources are updated on species, numbers and location of animals
- Anticipate likely behaviour, be prepared and organised
- Have the necessary equipment and skills in place to achieve your goal
- Work with the animals known normal behaviour (flight zone) as much as possible
- Do not rush animals
- Be aware of possible Zoonoses (diseases/infections) and think about your PPE and hygiene
- Remember pigs have less of a herding instinct and will require directing with boards

#### Associated risks when dealing with livestock:

- Fear and aggression responses
- Kicking (cattle)
- Biting (pigs)
- Crushing (cattle, pigs)
- Butting (sheep, cattle)
- Stampingeding (cattle)