

Introduce new animals to a holding

Overview

This standard covers the management practices and precautions that should be taken when introducing new animals to an established herd/flock, or when mixing groups from different sources when setting up a new unit.

Modern diseases are often highly contagious and spread very rapidly so good bio-security is a key part of this standard.

When working with livestock or machinery you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

When carrying out your work you must consider the impact it will have on the environment.

This standard is suitable for those responsible for introducing new animals to a holding.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the activity to be carried out
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. prepare the environment for the introduction of the new animal(s) to the holding
4. maintain hygiene and bio-security in accordance with business practices
5. take actions to keep new animal(s) isolated from other groups for an appropriate period of time, consistent with bio-security requirements
6. undertake specific tasks and treatments to new animals as advised by the veterinary surgeon, before introducing them to established groups e.g. specific vaccinations and worming
7. introduce the new animal(s) to the holding, taking steps to avoid any physical bullying, fighting and exposure to disease
8. observe the health of the animal(s) continuously and record your findings
9. seek veterinary advice where required
10. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
11. process waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
12. carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
13. complete records as required by relevant legislation and the business

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the risks inherent in moving animals and how these can be minimised
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. why you need to introduce the new animal(s) and the implications of introducing new animals to established groups
4. the methods of introducing new animals to a holding
5. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
6. how to work with the veterinary surgeon to produce a health plan for introducing new animals to a holding
7. the current health status of the established group and the new animal(s)
8. what an isolation unit is and how it should be used
9. the early signs of ill-health in animals, what these might indicate and the actions to take
10. the isolation periods required to detect common infectious diseases
11. the behaviour of animals and what may occur when introducing new animals to a group for the first time
12. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
13. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
14. your responsibilities for the welfare of livestock under relevant animal health and welfare legislation, codes of practice and business policies
15. your responsibilities under
16. current environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
17. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

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