

# Right From the Start

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## Dairy Cattle

# Characteristics

- Docile
- Easy to work with
- Poor vision clarity
- Poor depth perception
- Panoramic vision
- Very sensitive hearing
- Good memory
- Small flight zone



# Danger Points

- Body mass
- Head
- Feet

# Equipment

- Halter
- Lead rope
- Grooming tools



# Safety

- Approach animal slowly and calmly toward the shoulder
- Be aware of the animal's blind spot-directly behind its body
- Handlers should always have adult supervision
- Ensure appropriate match between animal and handler
- Abandon project if unsafe for animal or exhibitor

# Haltering & Leading

- Use lead rope to secure calf during haltering
- Apply appropriate discipline
- Move calf side to side to upset their balance and regain control
- Let go if you are off balance and falling forward

# Haltering and Leading



# Footing

- Start training process on dirt surface
- Footing is important for handler and animal stability
- Footing is crucial for handler control
- Move animals slowly across areas of poor footing, like pavement



# Grooming

- Use for gentling process
- May require animal to be tied up
- All handlers should work from the same side
  - Allow animal to have an escape route

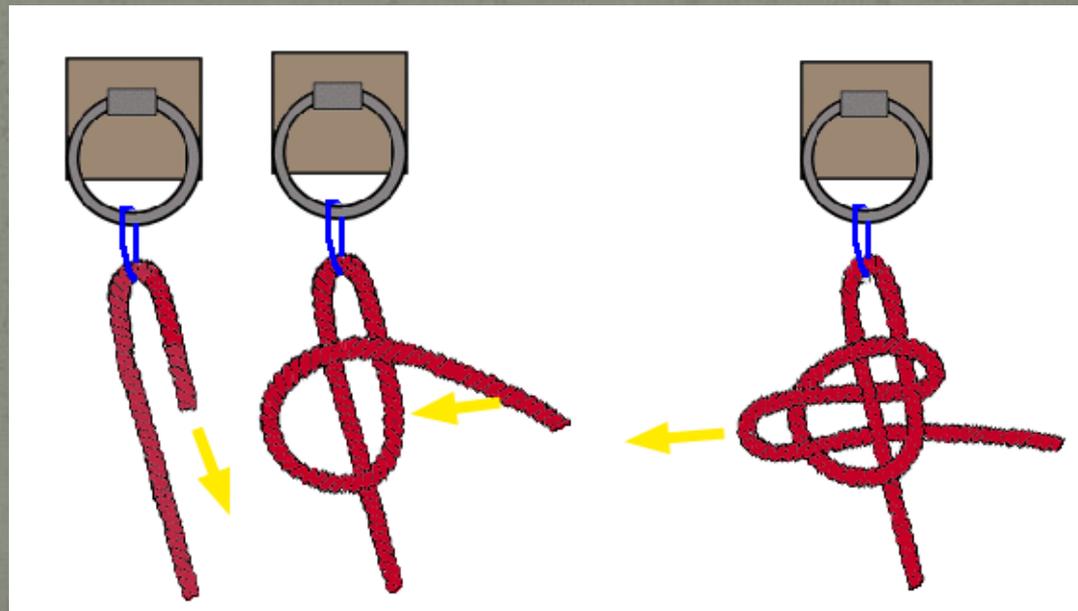
# Acclimatization

- People
- Environments
- Sounds
- Lights



# Tying

- Use only stable objects
- Tie animals high
- Use a slip knot



# Approaching

- Be calm
- Make the animal aware of your presence
- Do not linger in danger zones
  - Behind the animal

# Exhibitor/Animal Match

- Consider handler:
  - Size
  - Age
  - Experience
- Younger handlers should be matched with smaller, more docile animals
- Young handlers should never interact with bulls

# Exhibitor/Animal Match



# Animal Health

- Needle stick risks
- May need to be done by someone else

# Production Dairy Cattle- Bulls

- Particularly dangerous
- Aggressive
- Unpredictable
- Always identify an escape route





# The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

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