

Right From the Start

Beef Cattle

Characteristics

- Very sensitive hearing
- Poor vision clarity
- Poor depth perception
- Panoramic vision



Danger Points

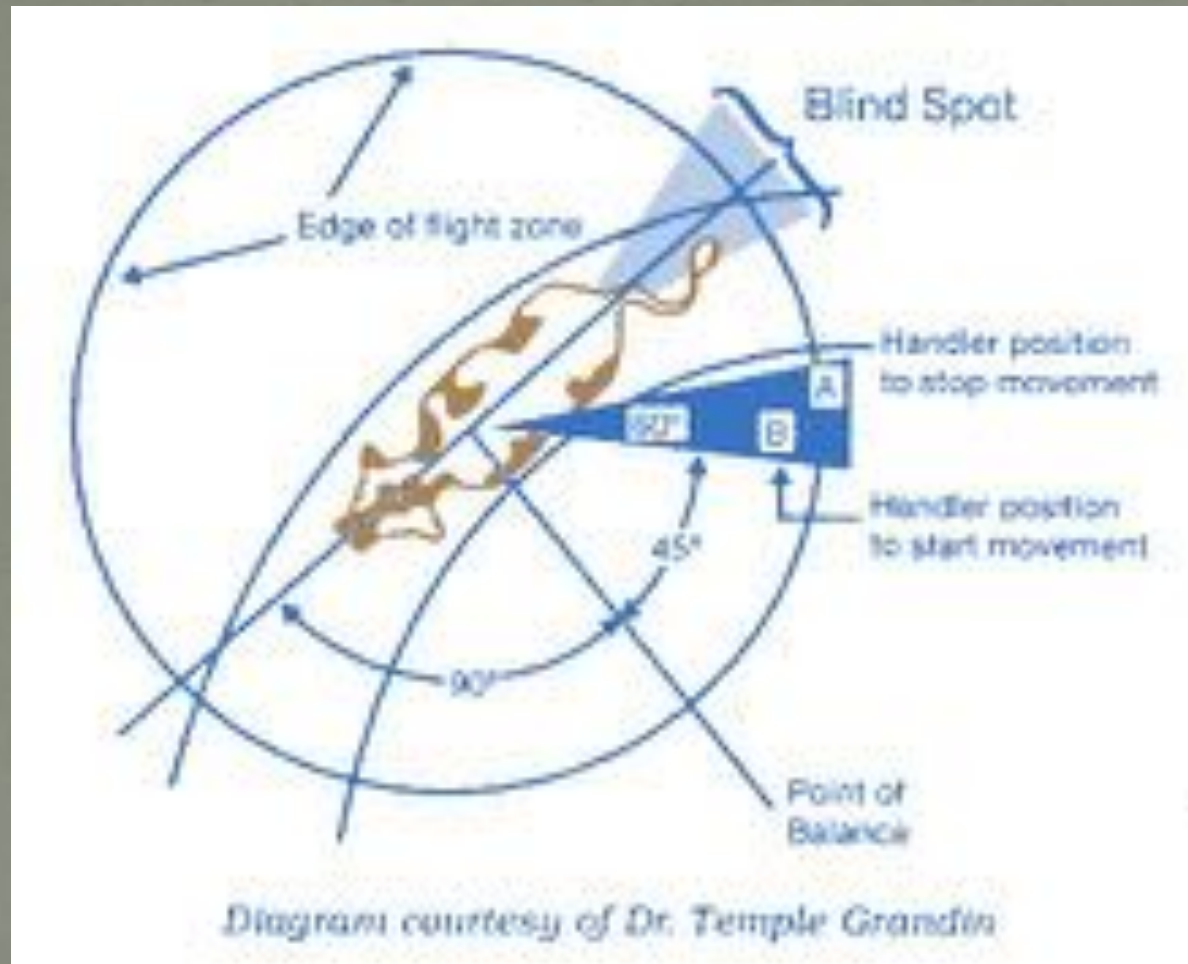
- Body mass
- Head
- Feet



Flight Zone

- Tame Cattle : 0-25 feet
- Wild Cattle : 300 feet
- Increases
 - animal is excited
 - approached from the front
- Decreases
 - in a single file chute

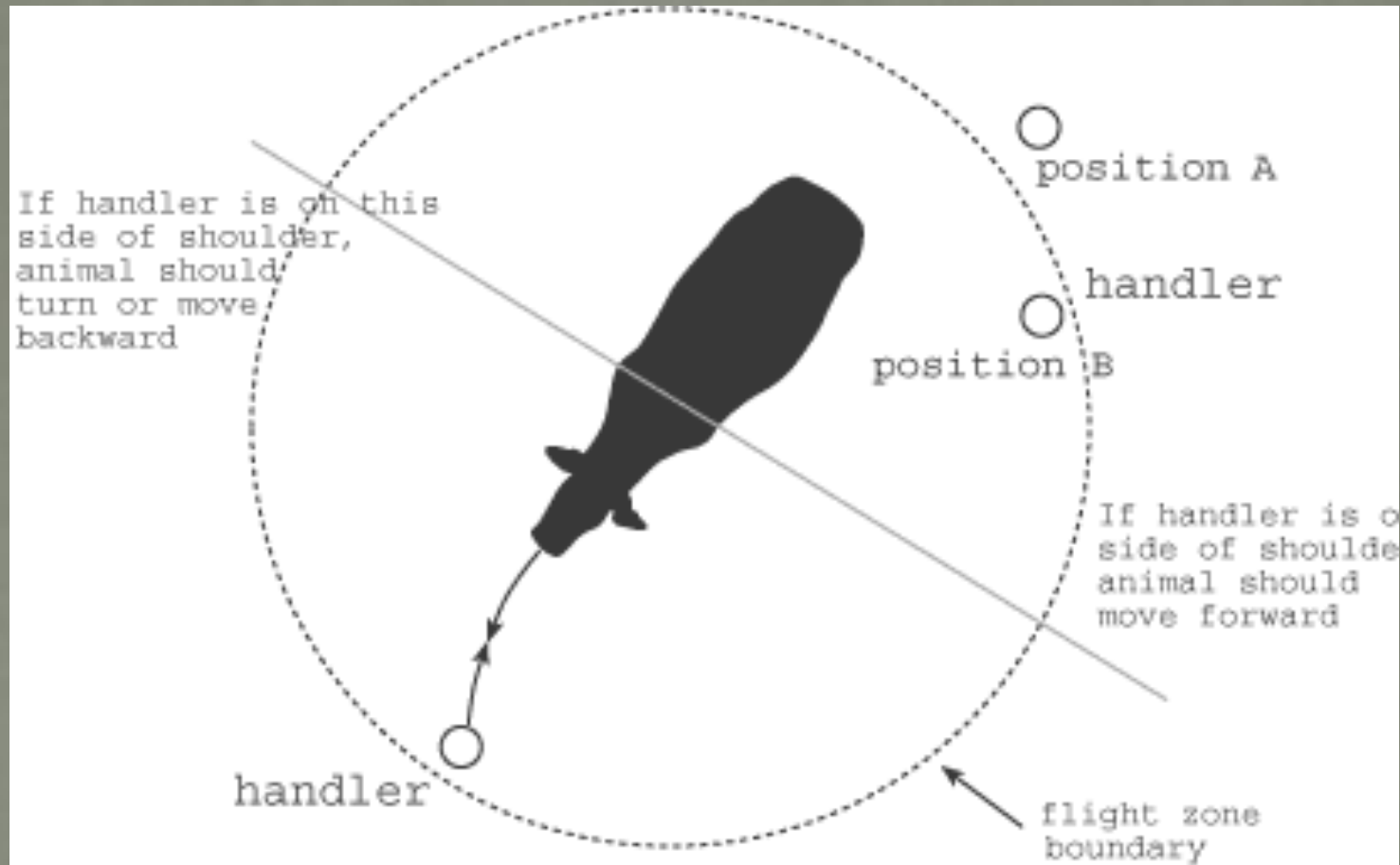
Flight Zone



Point of Balance

- Point of Balance - shoulder
- Forward - stand behind the Point of Balance
- Backup - stand in front of the Point of Balance
- Turn Left or Right
 - approach the cow head on
 - handler moves left ,cow will turn right
 - handler moves right, cow will turn left

Point of Balance



Equipment

- Rope halter
- Show halter
- Lead rope
- Show stick
- Trim chute
- 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

Halter Breaking

- Slow process
- Cattle will remember the experience
- All animals are different
- Consider the flight zone
- Use washing and rinsing to get animal used to touch
- Adjust them to new facilities
- Have patience; apply pressure gradually

Acclimatization

- People
- Environments
- Sounds
- Lights



Footing

- Helps the animal feel secure
- Impacts handler's control
- Contributes to the handler's and animal's stability
- Dirt or shavings can be used to improve footing
- Pavement does not provide good footing
- Move animals slowly when good footing is not available
- Wear non-slip shoes that completely cover your feet

Footing



Spacing

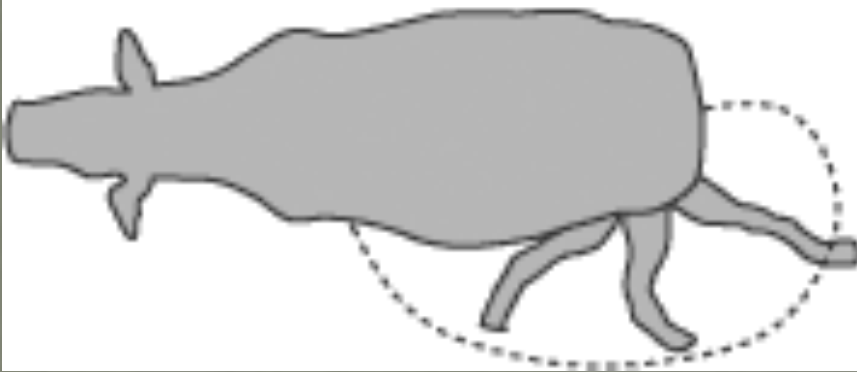
- Important in the show ring
- 1 calf's length
- Good spacing minimizes kicking and bumping risks

Kicking

- Kicking risks are reduced when the handler:
 - Makes the animal aware of his/her presence
 - Stays close to the animal
 - Remains calm
- Cattle can kick to the side and to the back
- Kicking risks are increased when handlers are working around the back of the animal

Kicking

Older Animal



Young Calves



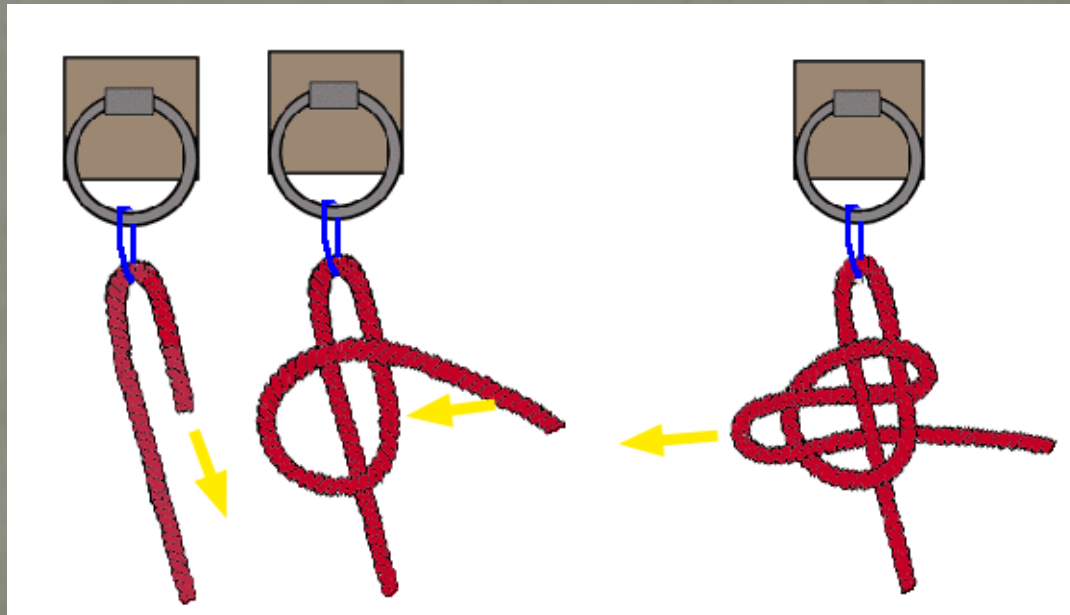
Haltering

- Approach the animal slowly and calmly
- Ensure the animal is aware of your presence
- Do not get wrapped up in the halter



Tying

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



Escape Route

- Identify an escape route
- Do not enter small enclosed areas with livestock
- Tie/untie animals from the opposite side of a fence if necessary

Right From the Start

Production Cattle

Production Cattle

Compared to show cattle

- Different disposition
- Larger flight zone
- Easier to agitate
- Less controlled handling environments
- Different means of restraint

Production Equipment

- Corrals
- Holding pens
- Squeeze chutes
- Single file chutes



Areas of Concern

- Confined spaces
- Squeeze chutes



Animals of Concern

- Bulls
- Mothers
- Weaned calves





The Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education

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