



# **LIVESTOCK WELFARE COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

Established 1978

Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee  
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## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **CONSEQUENCES OF STOCK THEFT**

The consequences of stock theft on financial loss, managerial strains and productivity losses are keenly felt by the livestock industry. In addition to these acute losses, the severe effects on livestock welfare that usually accompany stock theft must be considered. There is a long list of terrible fates that may befall stolen livestock. Cattle may be maimed and disabled by cutting their hocks, animals may be overloaded and forced into unsuitable vehicles, sold illegally to unsuspecting buyers, held in totally unacceptable conditions and exposed to diseases. The livestock are often slaughtered by unqualified people in the most inhumane way and not inspected. This can also lead to risks for consumers.

The LWCC therefore urges that in all cases of stock theft, the effects on livestock welfare must be considered as an aggravation of the crime and be included in the charge sheet for prosecution as animal cruelty in addition to stock theft.

**Redrafted: April 2020**