DAIRY CALF EUTHANASIA DECISION TREES

Use the following decision trees to determine if euthanasia should be performed immediately.

**Pain:** An unpleasant physical sensation occurring in varying degrees of severity because of injury, disease or resulting from a medical or management procedure.

### Calves at Birth
- Poor veterinary prognosis
- Poor veterinary prognosis
- Poor veterinary prognosis
- Defect identified through evaluation

### Sick Calves
- Off feed or water for 3 days or requires tubing for 3 or more days with veterinary consult
- Poor veterinary prognosis
- Deteriorating condition, even with treatment
- Non-weight bearing on one or more legs with poor veterinary prognosis
- Distress signs of unresponsiveness, thrashing, etc. are present or permanent damage is a risk
- Deteriorating condition, even with treatment

### Calves with Traumatic Injury
- Low vigor score
- Vitamin deficiency
- Deficit

**Calf shows any of the following**
- Injury/lameness
- Low vigor score
- Vitamin deficiency
- Deficit

**Potential for proper healing and recovery with veterinary prognosis**
- Treatable with positive veterinary prognosis
- Marginal vitality/vigor
- Positive veterinary prognosis

**Poor veterinary prognosis**
- Deteriorating condition, even with treatment

**Non-ambulatory**
- Calf is unable to stand or move on its own

**Off feed/water**
- Calf has not been consuming feed or water or decreased quantity for any period of time

**Infection/disease**
- Signs of infection or disease at injection site, infectious arthritis (swollen joints), respiratory or septicaemia

**Non-ambulatory**
- Calf is unable to stand or move on its own

**Off feed or water for 3 days or requires tubing for 3 or more days with veterinary consult**
- Poor veterinary prognosis
- Deteriorating condition, even with treatment
- Non-weight bearing on one or more legs with poor veterinary prognosis
- Distress signs of unresponsiveness, thrashing, etc. are present or permanent damage is a risk
- Deteriorating condition, even with treatment

**Lameness**
- Abnormal gait that affects head or back posture, or prevents weight bearing

**Severe injury**
- Broken bone, frost bite, etc.

**Heat or cold stress**
- Altered respiration, body temperature or activity

**CONSIDER EUTHANASIA by a properly trained individual and/or consult with a veterinarian ASAP**

**At reevaluation, calf is not progressing or condition is worse**

**Treat calf and reevaluate reevaluate at least every 24 hours**

Calves should be euthanized using American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) or American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) approved methods.

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