



Building a Tradition of Quality

To Leave a Legacy of

Excellence

Animal Handling Policy at Smucker's Meats

Handling

- All animals are moved in a calm and consistent manner taking advantage of species specific behavior such as flight distance.
- When handling or moving animals, stress from loud noises and rapid movements are minimized.
- Animals are not forced to move if there is no sufficient space ahead for them to move
- Abuse or maltreatment of animals is prohibited. The following actions are prohibited and are considered by *Smucker's Meats* to constitute animal cruelty:
 - o Shackling, dragging, hanging, cutting, bleeding or dressing any sensible animal.
 - o Beating or striking any animal.
 - o Intentional electrical prodding or poking of an animal in a sensitive area such as the anus, the eyes or the genitals.
 - o Intentionally driving animals over an animal that has fallen or will not move.
 - o Any other action that causes intentional harm to an animal.

Downed animals

- Downed animals that cannot rise and move spontaneously under their own strength to get off a transport vehicle must be immediately euthanized in a manner that renders them immediately insensible to pain.
- Animals that have been unloaded to holding pens and are subsequently found to be unable to rise and move spontaneously under their own strength will be segregated and allowed to rest comfortably to see if they will recover.
- Animals that show no sign of recovery after segregation and rest will be euthanized.
- Downed animals will not be dragged or moved for disposal prior to euthanization.



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Inspection of facilities

- The unloading area, holding pens and stunning area will be inspected before operations commence each day and at intervals thereafter to ensure cleanliness and safety.
- Inspections of the unloading area, holding pens and stunning area along with any problems and their correction are documented.

Unloading Areas

- Animals will be unloaded from transport vehicles as soon as possible after arrival at the slaughter facility.
- If there is an unavoidable delay or breakdown that means animals must remain on the transport vehicle for longer than one hour the plant personnel will make sure they have shade, shelter, ventilation and water as appropriate.
- Unloading areas, alleys, and ramps will provide enough room such that animals can walk freely down the ramp.
- Lighting will be sufficient to encourage animal movement in unload areas.

Holding Pens and Alleys

- Clean water will be provided in the holding pen or anywhere the animals are to be held longer than 30 minutes.
- Holding pens or any other areas where animals are to be held will provide adequate room to allow animals to access water.
- Pens will allow protection of animals against extreme heat, cold, and inclement weather. This could include ventilation, shade, wind breaks, the ability to wet animals with a coarse spray depending on the season and climate.



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Stunning Area

- Restraining systems are designed to minimize stress to the animal and ensure that animals can breathe normally in restraint.
- Appropriate light will be provided to encourage animals enter stun boxes.
- Every attempt is made to minimize movement around the stun box or area.
- The stun box is designed to ensure effective stunning of the species being slaughtered can take place.

Stunning

- Stunning must render animals immediately insensible to pain on the first attempt.
- Stunning must ensure animals remain insensible to pain until the animal dies due to slaughter or blood loss.
- All animals must be rendered insensible to pain prior to being shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut. *Note: Signs of insensibility include non-coordinated movement, limp and floppy head, a non blinking blank stare, and in cattle tongue hanging out of the mouth. Signs of sensibility include: natural (not seizure) blinking, rhythmic breathing (not gasping or "puffing"), eye tracking, righting reflex (the lifting of the head up, not side to side), or vocalization. Kicking, trembling, and movement of the body are not reliable indicators of sensibility.*
- If any sign of sensibility is observed at any time after stunning, the animal will be re-stunned immediately.
- Equipment used to stun, shackle, bleed and kill an animal will be kept and maintained in line with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Equipment used to stun, shackle, bleed and kill and animal will only be used within the design parameters described by the manufacturer.
- For all stunning equipment there will be a manual back-up or reserve equipment for use in case of emergency or breakdown.



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- Staff that carry out stunning and bleeding must have been trained and be competent to use the available equipment.

Methods of stunning used at this facility

- The approved methods for rendering cattle insensible are:
 - Penetrating captive bolt.
 - Free bullet from a gun.
- The approved methods for rendering hogs insensible are:
 - o Free bullet from a gun.
 - o Head and heart electrocution.

Use of free bullet from a gun

- When using a gun, a type that has sufficient power and caliber for the species in question will be used.
- Persons using guns to stun animals will be trained in safe handling and proper stunning placement as angles and where to aim vary from species to species.

Use of a penetrating or non-penetrating captive bolt stunner

- When using a captive bolt gun a type of sufficient power with the right cartridge or propellant according to the manufacturer's specifications must be used.
- Captive bolt stunners must be cleaned and maintained according to manufacturer's specification.
- Persons using captive bolt guns must be trained in safe handling and proper stunning placement as angles and where to aim vary from species to species.
- A penetrative captive bolt must enter the brain to provide an effective stun.



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Use of electrical stunning

- Electrical stunning encompasses this method. Stunning in two cycles; first across the head and secondly across the chest.
- Electrical stunning will provide a strong enough current and be in contact with the animal for long enough so that it is immediately unconscious.
- A minimum of 1.25 Amps must be passed through the brain to stun pigs.
- Electrodes must be placed to span the brain of the animal.
- Persons using electricity to stun animals will be trained in safe handling and proper stunning placement based on the species being stunned.
- Stunning equipment will only be used on the species that the manufacturer recommends and which it is designed for.

Bleeding

- Once the animal has been rendered insensible it must be bled.
- All animals will be bled as soon as possible and the goal is within 60 seconds of stun.
- The bleed wound will be large and allow rapid bleeding.
- The animal is observed during bleeding for signs of sensibility and if any are seen it will be re-stunned immediately.
- No dressing or other operation on the carcass will be carried out until at least 20 seconds after hogs and at least 30 seconds after cattle are fully bled

Staff and Training

- There is a named individual responsible for animal welfare within the facility that has the authority to take action should any welfare issues arise.
- Training in humane methods of animal handling will be made available to all staff working with live animals.



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- Staff will be trained to recognize signs of effective and ineffective stunning and signs of recovery of consciousness.
- There is clearly written standard operating procedures for every step of the operation and staff responsible for animal handling, stunning and slaughter are familiar with these procedures.