



Meat Industry Professional Development Program

Effective use of working dogs in lairage - Cootamundra NSW

Background

The use of working dogs in Australian abattoirs is a well-established practice. Throughout the supply chain dogs are used to manage livestock on a daily basis.

However, poorly trained dogs or inexperienced handlers can cause stock to become stressed, resulting in reduced eating quality, injuries and decreased yields.

If both dog and handler are properly trained, incorporating the basic livestock handling principles, livestock movement throughout the yard environment should remain highly efficient leading into the slaughter floor.

The ability for livestock to flow smoothly and calmly throughout lairage has many positive impacts on the end product, reducing the risk of highly stressed stock while improving the efficiency of the handler's control of the livestock and working dog.

The use of working dogs in processing plants, livestock transport and sale yards is coming under increasing scrutiny from customers and regulators. Therefore it is timely for the industry to take a structured approach to the training and assessment of stock handlers using working dogs.

Purpose

This course will focus on

- exploring what constitutes sound working dog performance
- providing train the trainer advice for those who have to supervise /train or assess stock handlers
- assessing stock handlers using working dogs

Who should attend?

This course is applicable to stock handlers using working dogs in yards and holding paddocks on farms, at saleyards and at abattoirs. Activities undertaken may include mustering holding paddocks, drafting stock, loading and unloading stock and feeding a race.

This is also a good workshop for managers who may have to train or assess new stock handlers who are using working dogs.

Workshop outline

These workshops will cover the skills and knowledge required to train dog handlers to:

- prepare yards and dogs for work
- muster and move livestock using working dogs
- care for working dogs.

Certificates available

A new Unit of Competency to cover dog handling in abattoirs is being developed by MINTRAC. Although it will be some time before the unit is accredited, participants who successfully complete the draft assessments may then be able to receive a retrospective Statement of Attainment once the unit is accredited.

Certificates of Attendance will be available on request.

About the trainer – Boyd Holden

Boyd has had extensive experience in the delivery of stock handling training working for MLA in

- Indonesia, the Middle East and North Africa
- the Ship Board Stockman's Training Program.

He also developed the supporting training materials for MLA and Live Corp, a project funded by DAFF.

In Australia over the last four years he conducted training courses in conjunction with DAFWA. In 2012 he made an OIE trip on behalf of DAFF to Malaysia, spoke at the RSPCA national conference Canberra and was presenter at the WA AVA conference.

He worked closely with MINTRAC during 2012 to develop the livestock handling training and assessment materials and in the livestock handling training programs for feedlots.

Boyd Holden holds a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and a Bachelor of Rural Science from the University of New England.

Date & Venue details

- Monday 24 February 2014
- starting 8.30 am- Commencing at the Cootamundra Ex- Serviceman's Club before moving to a handling facility
- finishing 4 pm.

Workshop costs

\$110.00 per person (includes GST)

Workshop fees include

- all course materials
- catering for morning and afternoon teas and lunch.

Closing date for registrations

The closing date for receipt of registrations is 17 February 2014.

Conditions

A cancellation policy is in place. If participants cancel 14 days before the delivery date, no charges will be made. If participants cancel inside the 14 days they will be required to pay 50% of the course fee. Participants are able to substitute their position for another person and not incur this fee.

Registration forms can be submitted until 2 weeks prior to the delivery date. If insufficient applications are received by 2 weeks prior to the delivery date, workshops may be cancelled.

Registrations forms will be acknowledged 1-2 days after receipt – if you do not receive an acknowledgement, please contact MINTRAC on 02 9819 6699.

Once the course is confirmed as going ahead, a letter will be posted out to you with the invoice for workshop costs as well as any preparation material.



MINTRAC

NATIONAL MEAT INDUSTRY TRAINING ADVISORY COUNCIL LIMITED

Registration form

Effective use of working dogs in lairage

Monday 24 February 2014, Cootamundra

Name: _____

Position: _____

Company: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Postal
address: _____

Please tick attending

- 24 February 2014 – 8.30am Cootamundra Ex-Services Club, then move to a handling facility**

Signed

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RSVP: Irene Parker

email: iparker@mintrac.com.au

Fax: 02 9819 6099