We recognize that despite our best practices to prevent them, we will sometimes be forced to work with a non-ambulatory (down) cow on our dairy. We will use the following protocol to manage these animals humanely and without compromising safety for staff or cows.

**Initial assessment**

When a down cow is encountered, the \_\_\_\_\_(shift lead, owner, herdsman)\_\_\_\_ should be contacted immediately at \_\_\_(phone number)\_\_\_\_ for further instructions

The following individuals are authorized to move down cows on this dairy.

1.

2.

3.

Before moving a down cow, we will consider the following:

1. Is working with the cow in this location safe for the cow and workers?
2. Can this cow be moved without causing further pain or suffering?
3. Can we determine the reason this cow cannot get up?

The following are some situations in which it may be necessary to euthanize the animal before attempting to move:

* Unable to move without causing further pain and suffering to the animal
* Animal has condition for which euthanasia is the only option (ex. broken leg)
* Animal cannot be moved without compromising safety of employees

After this initial assessment, we will do the following to increase the chances she may be able to get up on her own

1. Move other animals out of the area, if needed
2. Move equipment or facilities (as possible) to increase her ability to lunge and move
3. Provide adequate traction by \_\_\_\_\_\_(spreading sawdust, bringing a mat, etc)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following are acceptable methods to encourage a down cow to rise

* Authorized employee may use hand-held electric prod (hot-shot) applied a maximum of \_\_(#)\_\_ of times to the \_\_(body part of cow)\_\_\_\_.
* (add other allowed activities)
* When using these aids, we will use them in a manner consistent with our cow care contract and apply them in a manner that allows the cow an opportunity to respond to the aids.
* After \_\_(#)\_\_ of unsuccessful attempts to get the cow to rise we will re-assess the situation and consider either moving the cow or euthanasia.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are practices that are NEVER to occur on this dairy

**Moving a down cow**

We will employ the following equipment to move a down cow:

1.

2.

Only authorized and trained individuals may utilize the above equipment to move a cow

Authorized individuals will ensure cows are moved in manner that does not result in further injury or suffering to the cow. In order to this we will follow these principles when moving cows:

* If pulling a cow is necessary to get her on the sled/rubber mat, traction or pressure must be applied in more than one location on the body.
* Once animal is positioned on a device for transport, legs and head will be restrained to avoid movement and injury.
* It is unacceptable to move down cows more than 1-3 feet in the following manner:
  + Dragging by neck or 1 limb
  + Hip lifters

**Management and assessment**

Down cows will be moved to \_\_\_(location)\_\_\_

Expectations for Down Cow Monitoring

* Cow will have access to feed and water at all times.
  + Fresh feed will be offered \_\_\_\_ times daily
  + Fresh water will be offered \_\_\_\_ times daily
* Pen should be clean, dry, and deep-bedded with \_\_(type of bedding)\_\_\_ and be at least \_\_\_ inches thick at all times
  + Manure and wet bedding will be removed \_\_\_ times daily
* If unable to rise or shift on her own, cow will be rolled from side to side to reduce pressure on her muscles
  + Cow will be rolled every \_\_\_\_\_ hours.
* Cow’s attitude and behavior will be re-evaluated every \_\_\_\_\_\_ hours.
* Signs of worsening condition will be reported immediately to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. These signs are:



* On a daily basis we will monitor the prognosis of the cow and decide if there is a realistic chance of recovery.
  + If a cow’s prognosis worsens or no improvement is seen in …… x days we will humanely euthanize the animal.

**The following flow chart illustrates our assessment process**

(Complete decision tree worksheet and attach to this form)