

## Appendix 4

# Moving Nonambulatory Animals

### Recommended procedures for moving a nonambulatory animal:

- If the animal is recumbent in a stanchion, tie stall, or free stall, frequently the rear leg on the down side is cramped in an unnatural position. If this is the case, move the animal so the legs are properly positioned and the animal can stand on its own.
- Specialized hoists can fit into tight spaces and are built to gently lift and lower a nonambulatory animal. The large wheels allow persons to efficiently move the animal.
- If the animal goes down in a pen or alley, tow it on plywood or belting with a truck or tractor to a transfer point. Gently roll a nonambulatory animal onto a large piece of plywood or conveyor belting (which can be obtained in six-foot-wide strips). If belting is used, reinforce one side with smooth-edged metal strips to prevent it from buckling and bending when moving the animal.
- Carefully transfer the animal to a properly equipped forklift or to the bucket of a large loader, or move it with a special lifting harness. If a forklift is used, construct a pallet platform to fit over the forks. Angle the pallet's leading edge to form a ramp for rolling the cow onto the pallet, and equip the pallet with straps to prevent the animal from falling off. Never use exposed forks. One person operates the loader, and the other two people roll the animal onto the bucket.
- Do not drag or lift an animal by its limbs unless there is no other alternative and only if the animal must be moved only a few feet, such as in a milking parlor. If the animal must be dragged because no other alternative exists or because it can recover only by dragging, pad non-injured limbs and use padded belts to which a rope, chain, or cable can be attached. Drag the animal the shortest possible distance to a point where a better method of moving can be employed.
- Use of a floatation tank can assist some recumbent animals to regain a standing position. Prior to placing an animal in the floatation tank, carefully assess the reasons for recumbency and the condition of the animal. Place a suitable candidate in the floatation tank and add warm water to slowly lift the cow to a standing position.