

SmartCow

*an integrated infrastructure for increased research capability
and innovation in the European cattle sector*

Welfare, stress, pain

Véronique Deiss, INRAE
Alice de Boyer des Roches, VetAgro Sup and INRAE

Objectives of the course

- **Welfare and stress**

- ✓ To define welfare and stress
- ✓ To evaluate welfare and stress

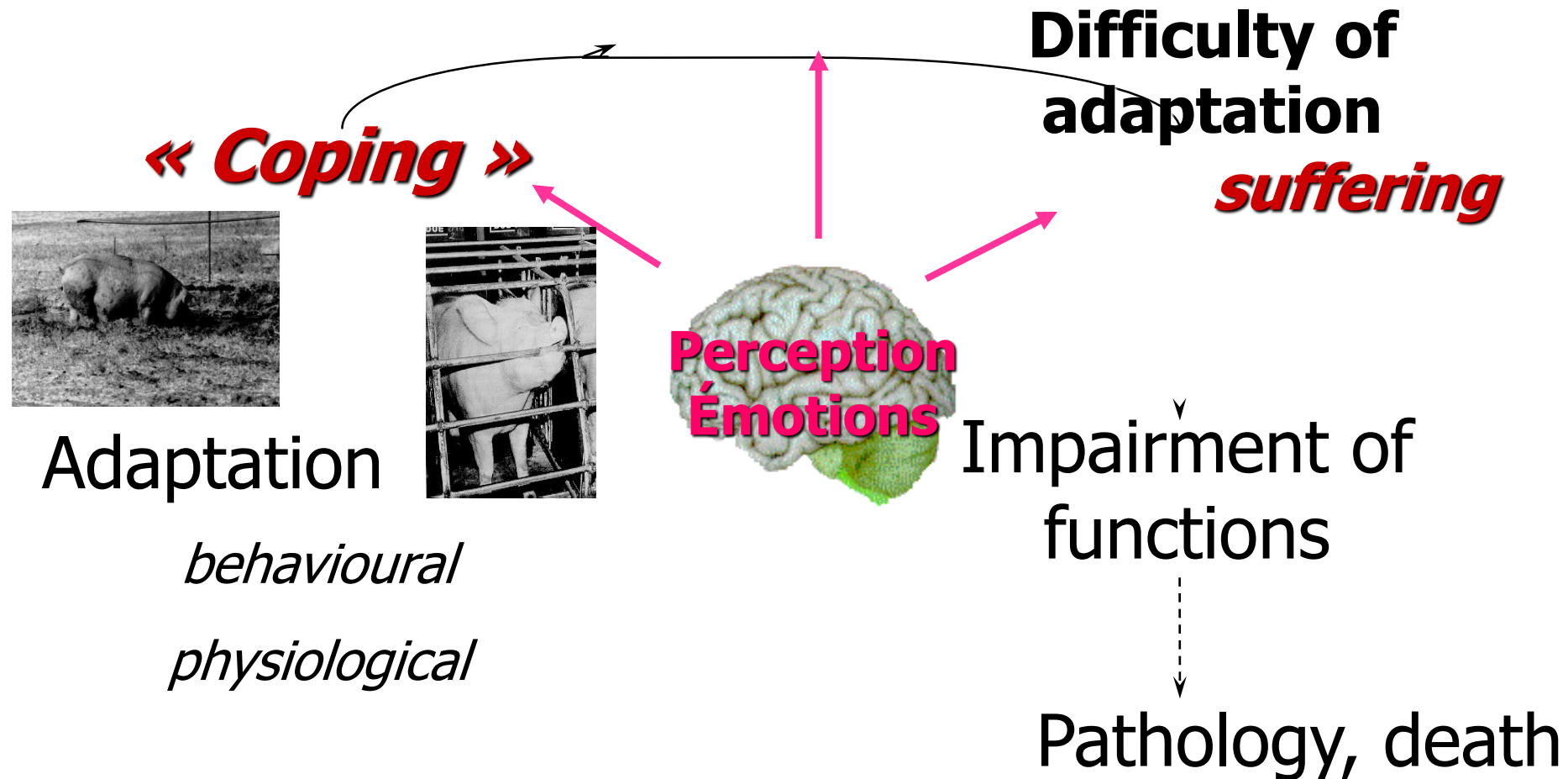
- **Pain**

- ✓ To define pain and explain the mechanisms
- ✓ To identify the sources of pain
- ✓ To cite pain indicators
- ✓ To explain the 3S approach
- ✓ To know the means to sooth pain

welfare: a mental state depending on the perception of the animal

welfare

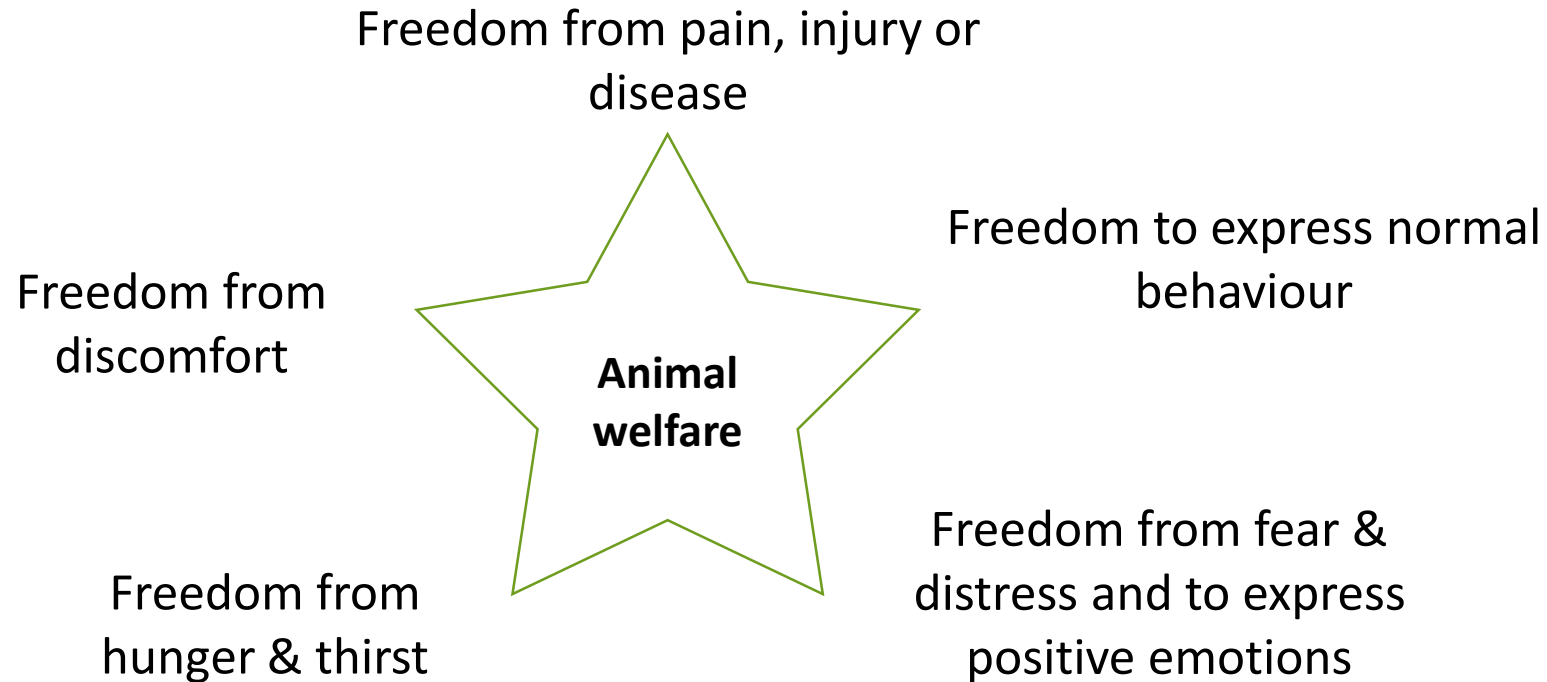
Harmony between an individual and his environment









Definition of welfare

An operational definition: 5 freedoms



4 Principles	12 independant Criteria	33 On-farm measures
Good Feeding 	1. Absence of prolonged hunger 2. Absence of prolonged thirst	Body condition score Provision of water
Good Housing 	3. Comfort around resting 4. Thermal comfort 5. Ease of movement	Behaviour at lying, Cleanliness of cows No measure available Possibility for cows to walk
Good Health 	6. Absence of injuries 7. Absence of diseases 8. Absence of pain due to management	Lameness, Integument alterations Clinical observations : coughing, nasal discharge, ocular, discharge, vulvar discharge, diarrhea; Farm records: mastitis, mortality, dystocia, downer cow Dehorning practices
Appropriate Behaviour 	9. Expression of social behaviours 10. Expression of other species-specific behaviours 11. Good human-animal relationship 12. Positive emotional state	Agonistic interactions Access to pasture (No of days / year) Avoidance-distance test Qualitative behaviour assessment

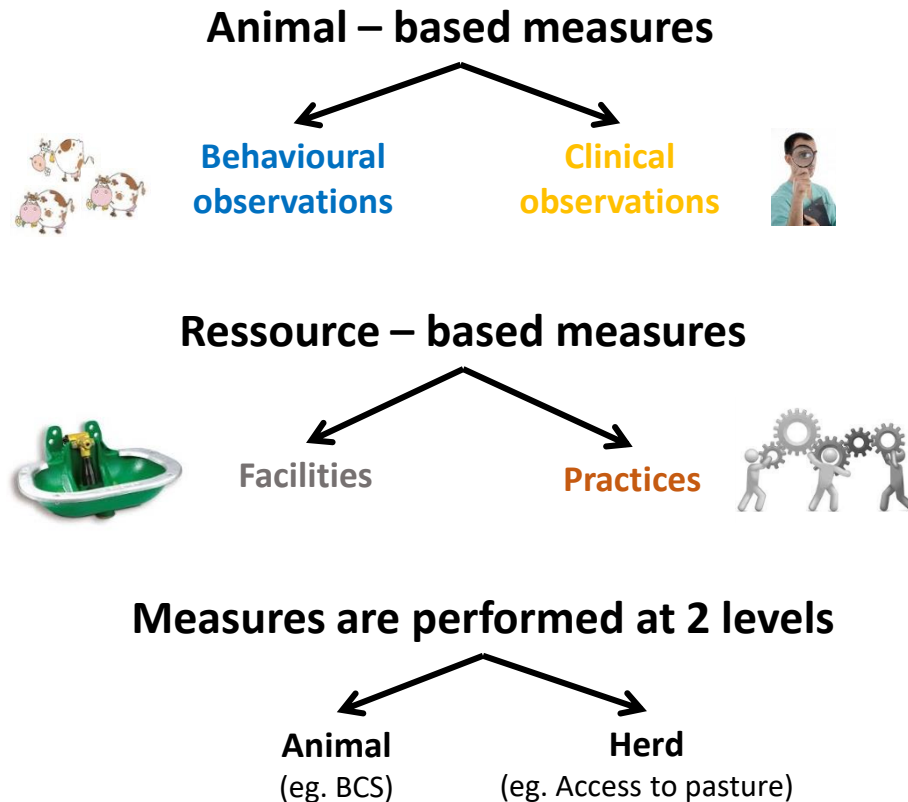



Measuring animal welfare on farms

b. Design of measures



→ Measures: Scientifically valid, reliable and feasible

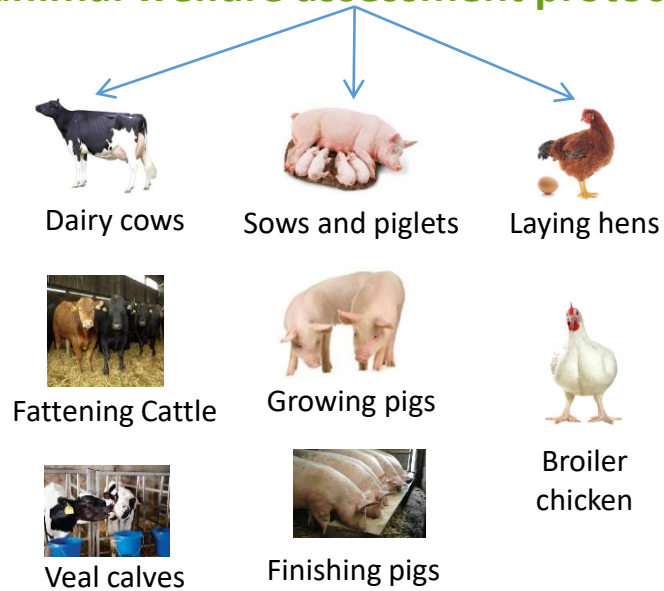


On-farm measures 	
Body condition score	
Provision of water	
Behaviour at lying,	Cleanliness of cows
No measure available	
Possibility for cows to walk	
Lameness, Integument alterations Clinical observations : coughing, nasal discharge, ocular, discharge, vulvar discharge, diarrhea; Farm records: mastitis, mortality, dystocial, downer cow	
Dehorning practices	
Agonistic interactions	
Access to pasture (No of days / year)	
Avoidance-distance test	
Qualitative behaviour assessment	

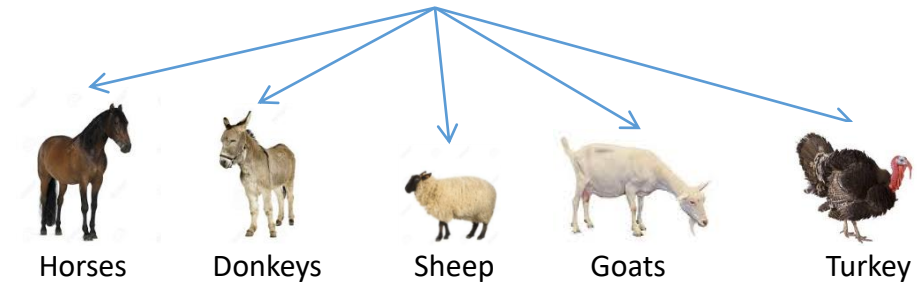
On-farm welfare-assessment protocols



Developing on-farm animal welfare assessment protocols



Developing on-farm animal welfare assessment protocols



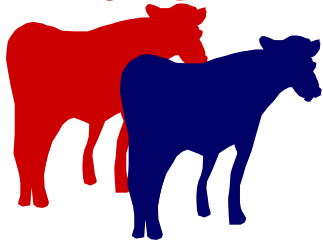
- Factors impacting welfareand our scientific results

Absence of physical contact during food competition test

3 min competition test

cattle

dominant

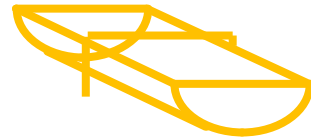


dominated

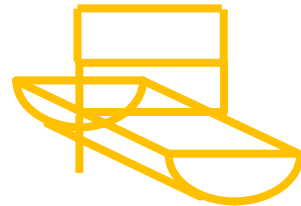
percentage of time spent eating by the dominated



4



47



68



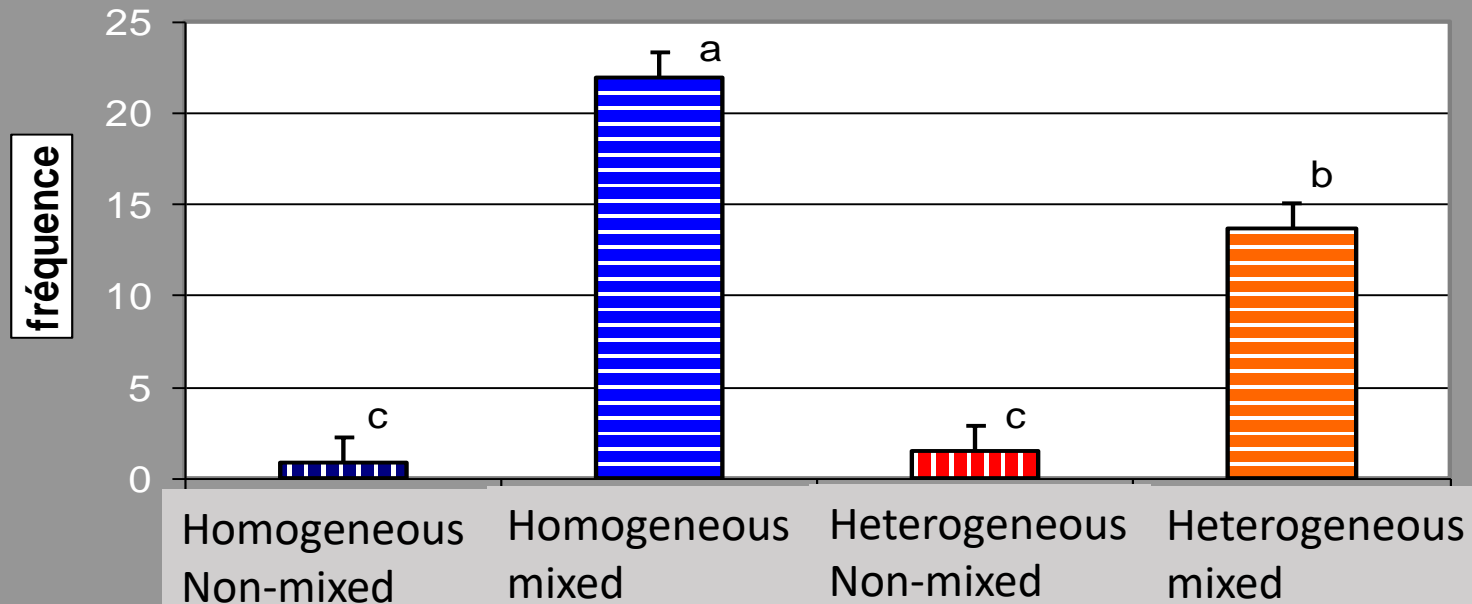
74

Protection of the head
is essential

(Bouissou, 1980)

Mixing beef bulls at the beginning of fattening

Agonistic interactions



Weight daily gain (g) during fattening period:
non-mixed (1700 g/d) > mixed (1600 g/d)

Mounier et al., 2006

- mixed bulls exchanged more agonistic interactions than unmixed bulls
- mixing bulls reduce growth

Social density



survey of 78 fattening farms

kg taurillon / m ²	165	210
Tail necrosis	no	yes
pneumona	23%	40%
diarrhea	3%	6%
lameness	5%	7%

Bisgaard Madsen, 1987

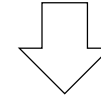
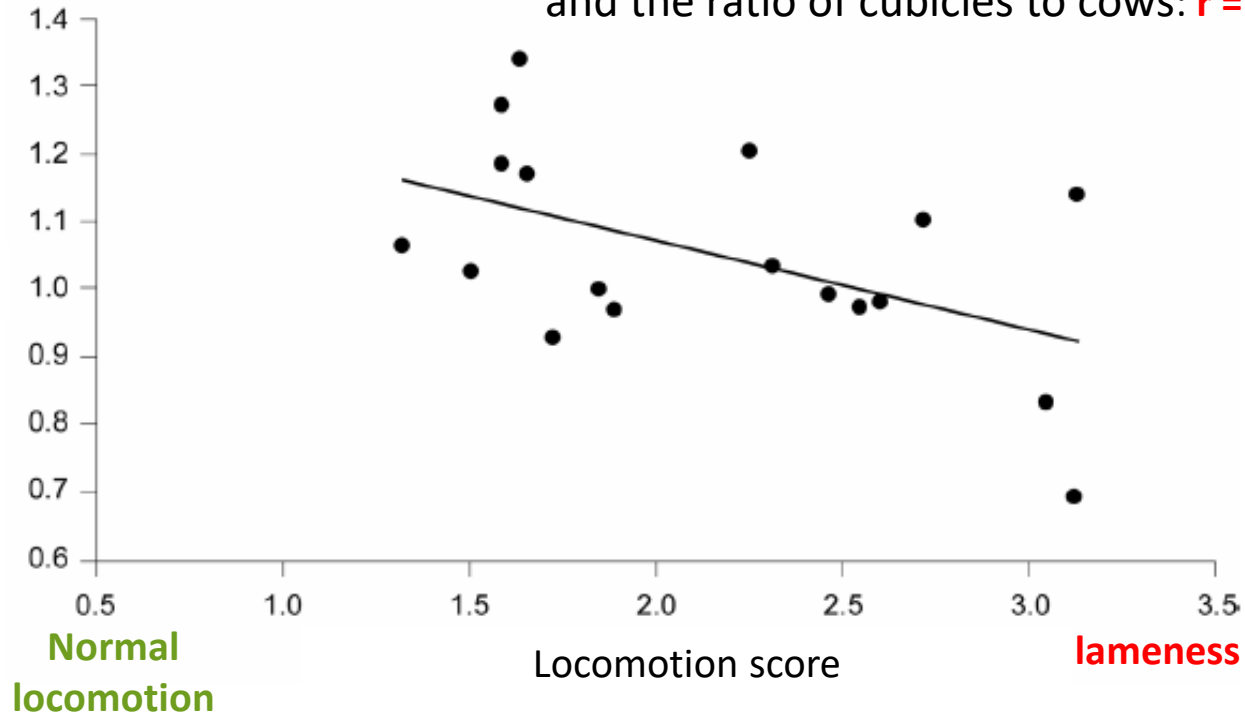
high density promotes disease development

More cubicles than
cows

1 cubicle per cow

fewer cubicles than
cows

Ratio
Nber cubicles/ Nb cows



Insufficient resting space is associated locomotion problems

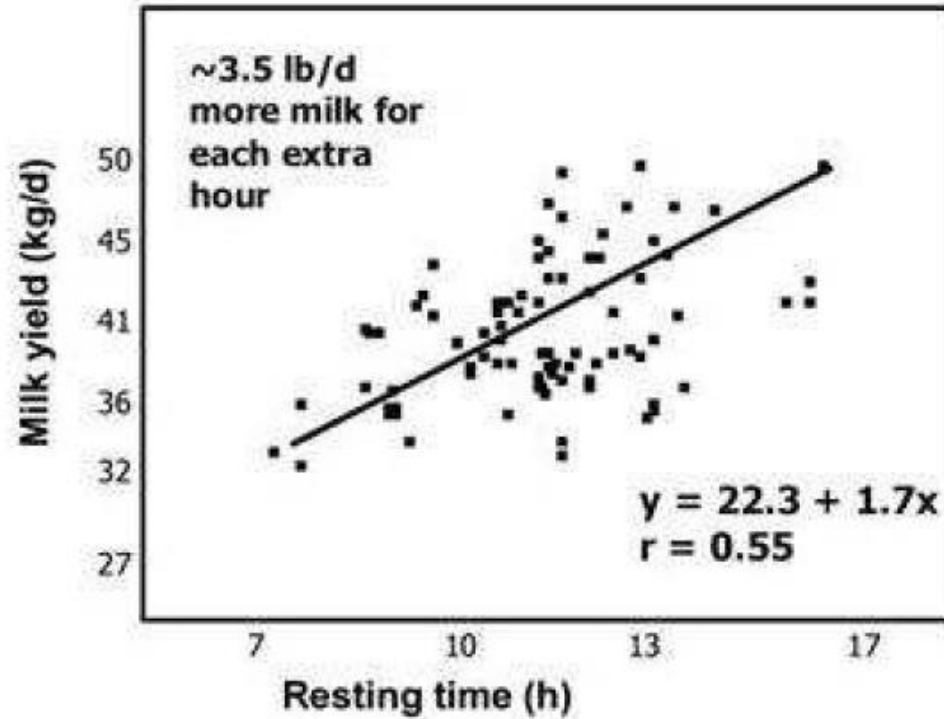


Figure 1. Relationship between resting time and milk yield in dairy cows (from Grant, 2004).

→ Milk production is correlated with time spent lying down

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- **Welfare and stress**
 - To define welfare and stress
 - To evaluate welfare and stress
- **Pain**
 - To define pain and explain the mechanisms
 - To explain the 3S approach
 - To identify sources of Pain
 - To know how can we measure pain ?
 - To define and use grids to assess pain
 - To Pain alleviation

Minimising Pain promotes Welfare

Good feeding	1	Absence of prolonged hunger
	2	Absence of prolonged thirst
Good housing	3	Comfort around resting
	4	Thermal comfort
	5	Ease of movement
Good Health	6	Absence of injuries
	7	Absence of diseases
	8	Absence of pain
Appropriate Behaviour	9	Expression of social behaviour
	10	Expression of other specie-specific behaviours
	11	Human-Animal relationships
	12	Positive emotional state

What is pain ?



Definition and mechanisms of Pain



« An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with, or resembling that associated with, actual or potential tissue damage »



« An aversive sensory and emotional experience (...), it changes the animal's physiology and behaviour to reduce or avoid damage, to reduce the likelihood of recurrence and to promote recovery »

Molony and Kent, 1997

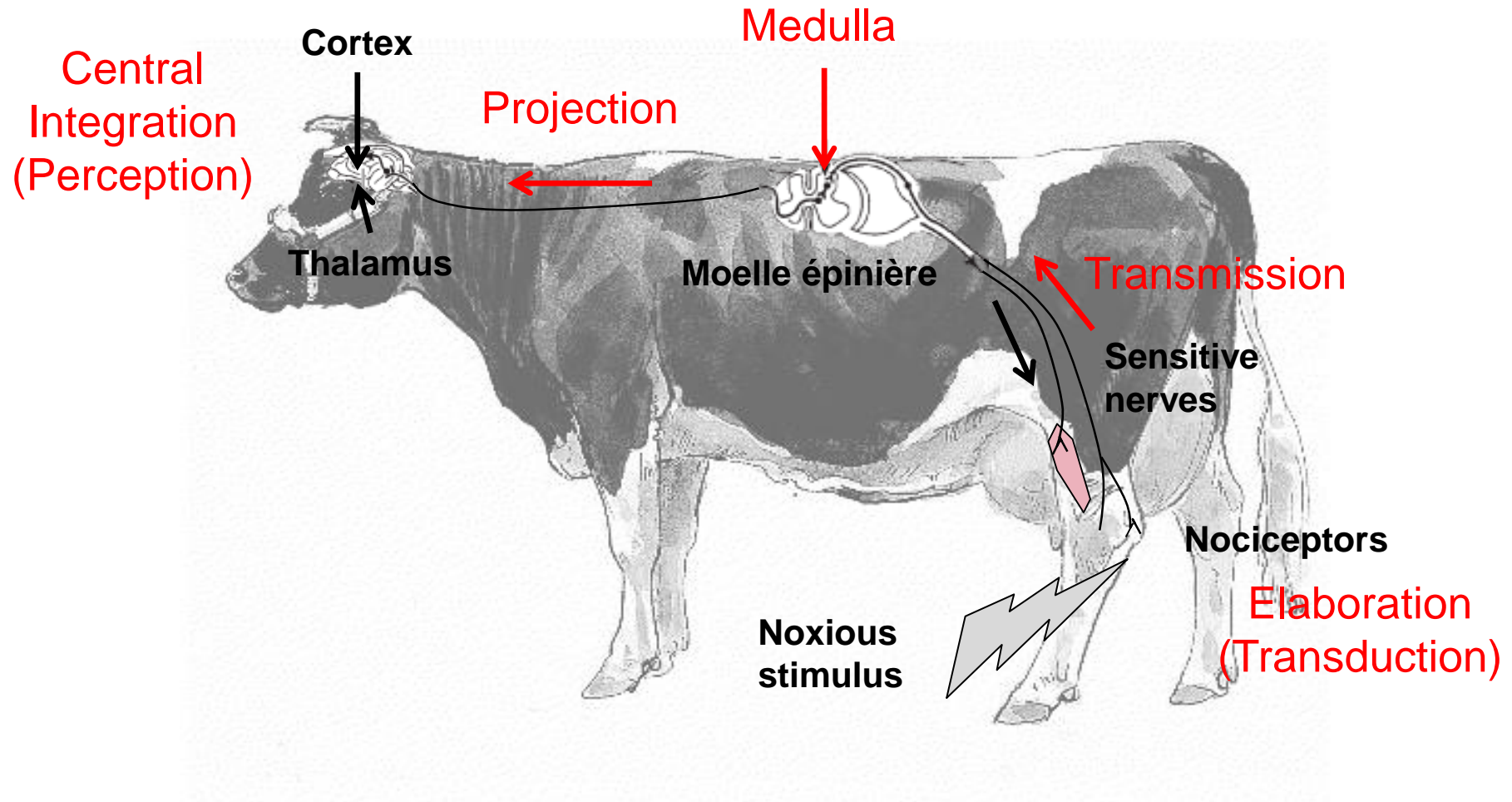
Which animal can feel pain ?

What scientific research has shown:

An animal is able to feel pain if there are :

- Receptors sensitive to noxious stimuli
- Receptors linked to a central nervous system by nerves
- Whole animal responses to noxious stimuli (physiological and behavioural changes) differ from those to innocuous stimuli
- Evidence of long-term motivational change that might include rapid learning
- In case of pain, analgesic treatments change the animal pain responses to noxious stimuli

→ Cattle can feel pain!



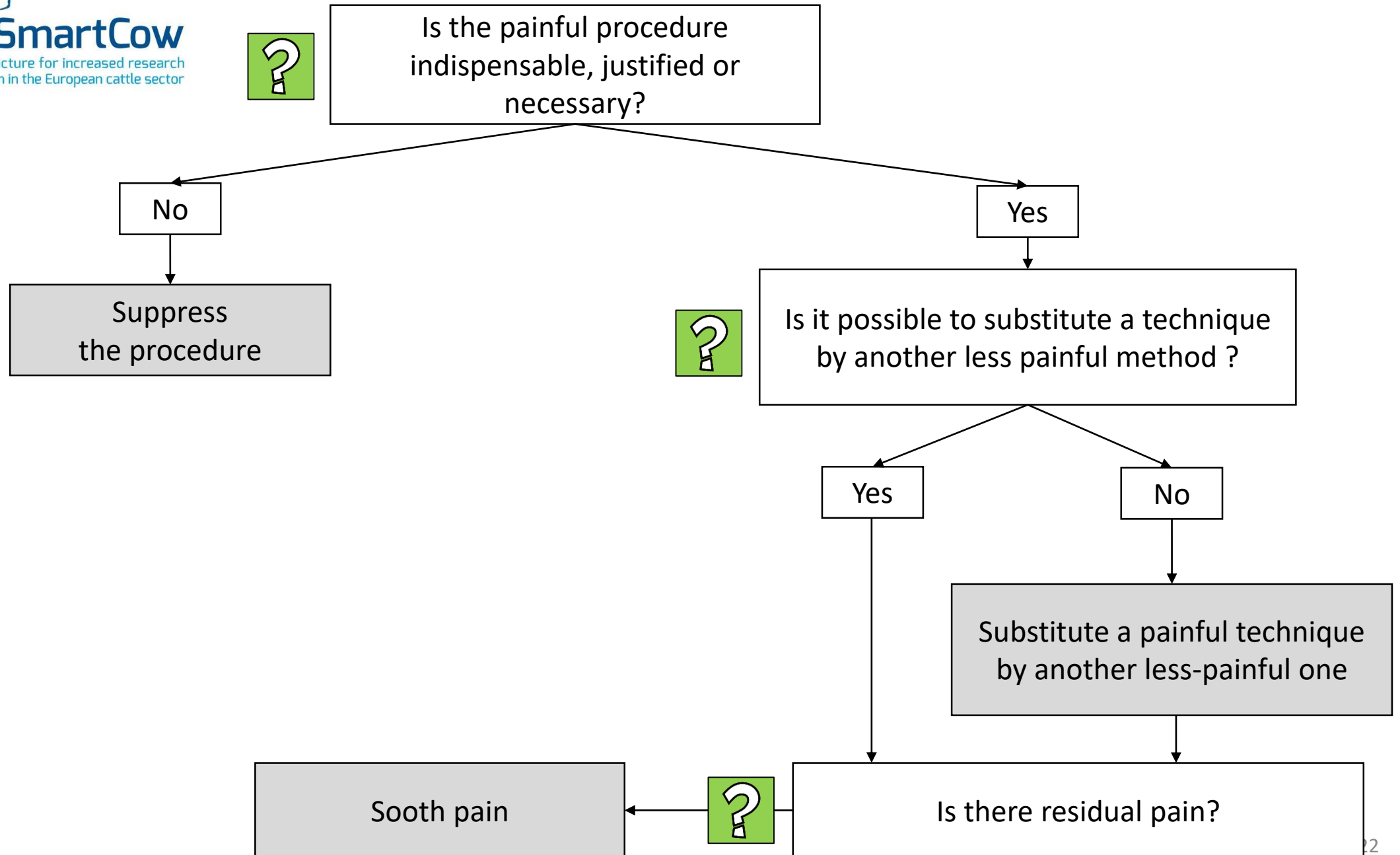
Outline

- Objectives
- Welfare and Stress
- **Pain**
 - Definitions and mechanisms
 - **The 3S approach**
 - Sources of Pain
 - How can we measure pain ?
 - Grids to assess pain
 - Pain alleviation

The 3s Approach

3s Approach : Suppress / Substitute / Soothe

- **Suppress** the procedures that are a source of pain but not indispensable
- **Substitute** the painful procedure by the least painful procedure
- **Soothe** pain caused by procedures considered unavoidable
 - Prevention and treatment of pain
 - Care and peri-surgical environment



Outline

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Sources of pain in cattle



Branding



Disbudding / dehorning



Conflicts



Castration



Surgeries



Skin alterations



Parturition



Lameness



Mastitis and other infectious diseases

Outline

- Objectives
- Welfare and Stress
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 - **How can we measure pain ?**
 - Pain alleviation

How can we measure pain ?



Physiological indicators

Lesional indicators

**Production performance
indicators**

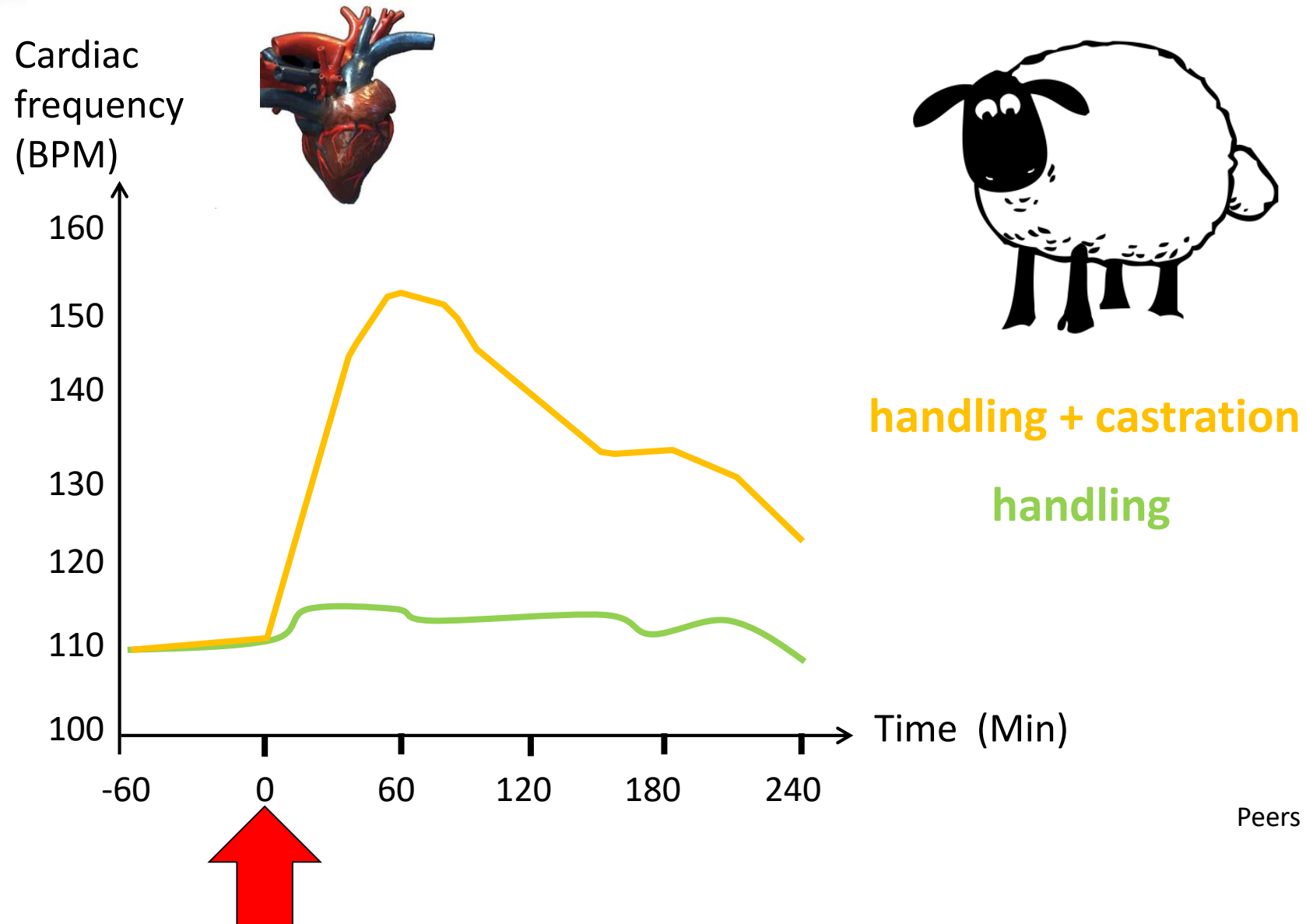
Behavioural indicators

Physiological indicators of pain

Indicators	Pain
Adrenalin	↗
Cortisol	↗
Cardiac frequency	↗
Respiratory frequency	↗
Cutaneous temperature	↘
Pupillary diameter	↗
Sudation	↗

**Others factors of
stress**

Physiological indicators of pain



Peers et al., 2012

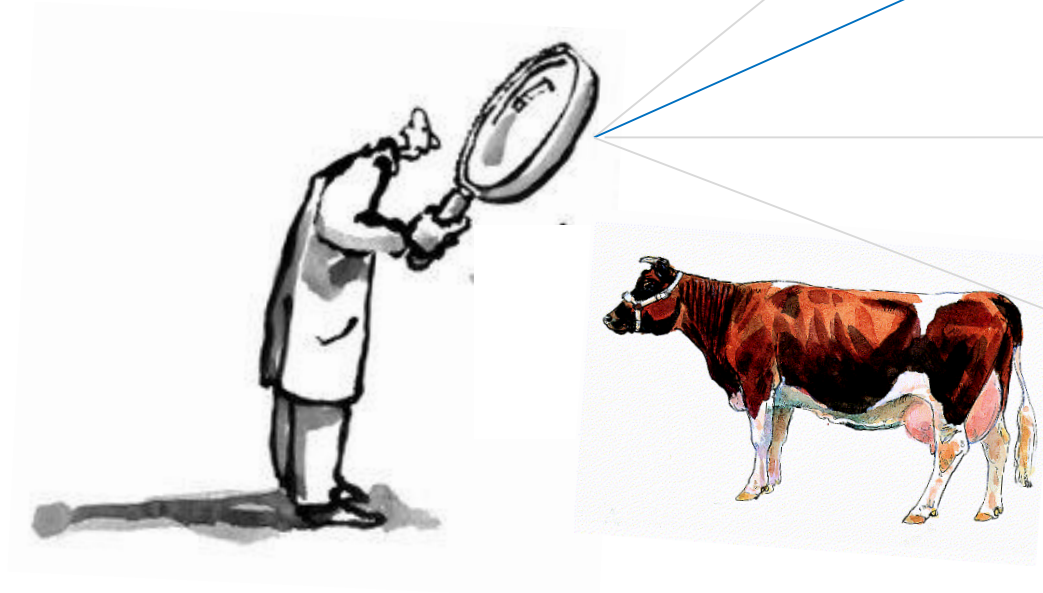
Physiological indicators of pain

- **Sensitive**

BUT

- **Not specific:** we need to take into the context to correctly interpret their variation
- **Often invasive** *BUT* not always (e.g. cortisol in saliva, respiratory rythm...)
- **Often « complicated »** if laboratory assays are needed *BUT* not always (e.g. respiratory rythm...)

How can we measure pain ?



Physiological indicators

Lesional indicators

Production performance
indicators

Behavioural indicators

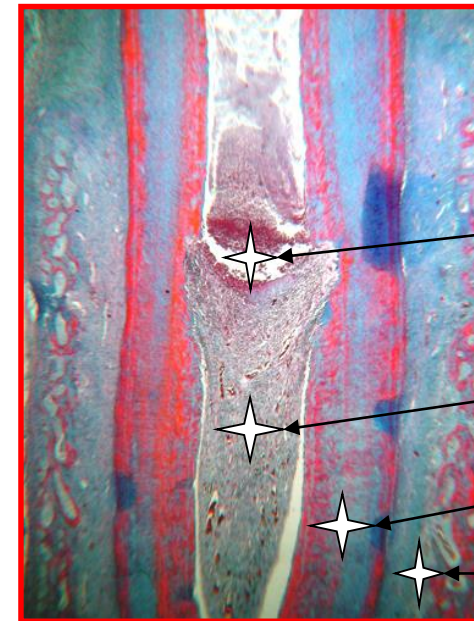
Lesional indicators of pain

External



Internal

Piglet teeth,
cut when 1day old
withdrawn at 28d old (*Hay et al 2004*)



Dental Abscess

Dental pulp

Dentine

Maxillary tissue

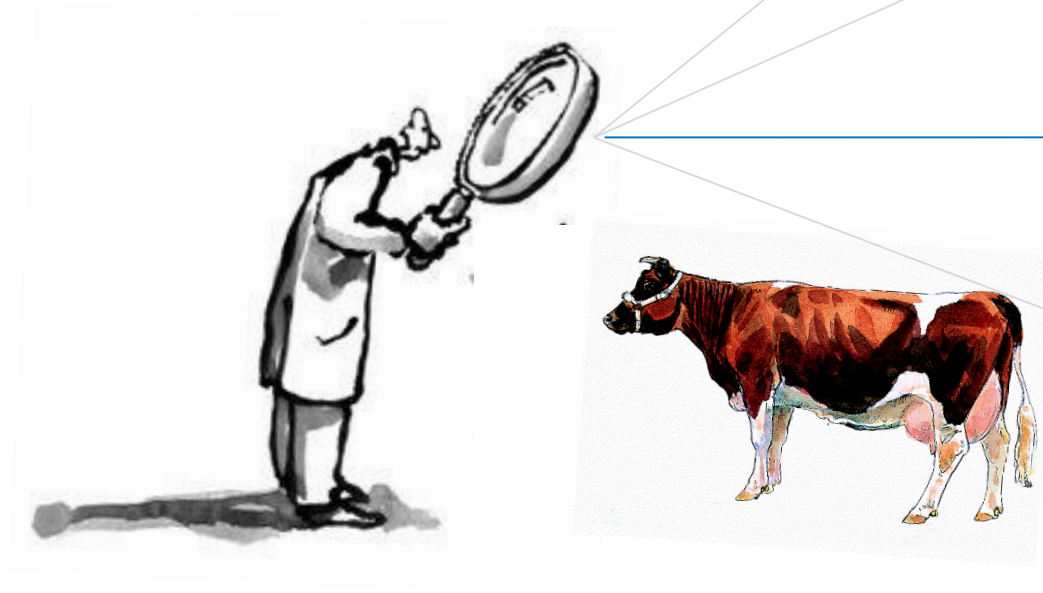
Lesional indicators of pain

- **Very useful** because they can indicate a potential source of pain

BUT

- **A lesion does not always induce pain**
- **Lesions** can be **internal** or **external**

How can we measure pain ?



Physiological indicators

Lesional indicators

**Production performance
indicators**

Behavioural indicators

Production performance indicators

- Calves 3-6 w old, disbudded at under different drug protocols

- **Growth rate** from D-3 to D+15 :

- Calves disbudded **without pain relief** : 0.53 kg / d [0.47-0.60]
- Calves disbudded **with pain relief** : 0.65 kg / d [0.62-0.68]



- **Growth rate** from D16 to D30 :

- Calves disbudded **without pain relief** : 0.66 kg / d [0.61-0.71]
- Calves disbudded **with pain relief** : 0.74 kg / d [0.69-0.80]

→ Dairy calves disbudded with no pain relief had slower growth rates than calves receiving pain relief.

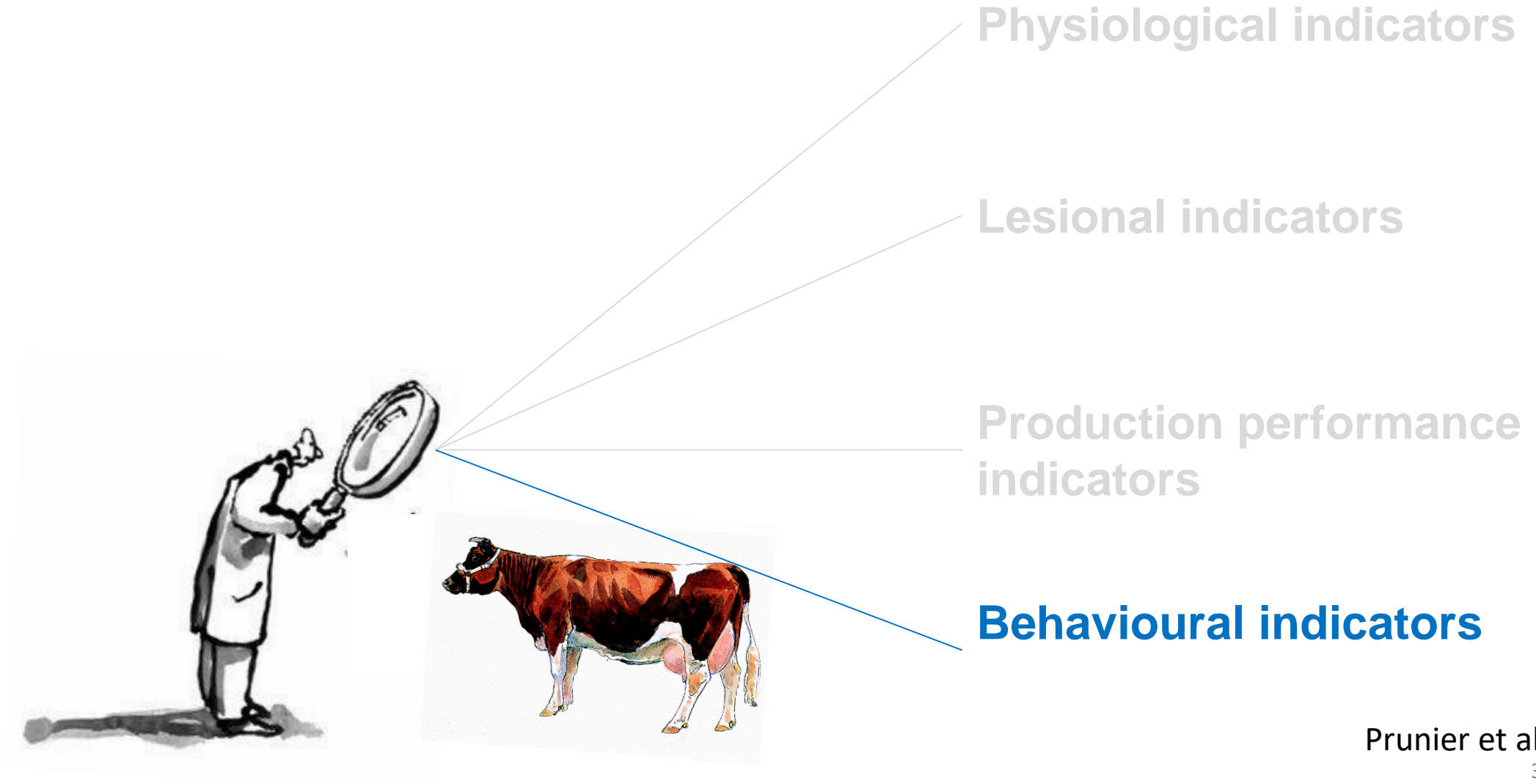
Production performance indicators

- Indicators **not very sensitive** : visible effects if intense or extended pain
- Indicators **not very specific** : numerous other causes possible

BUT

- **Easy to use** on farms

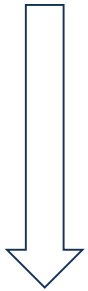
How can we measure pain ?



Behavioural indicators of pain

What kind of behaviour can we observe ?

General Behaviour

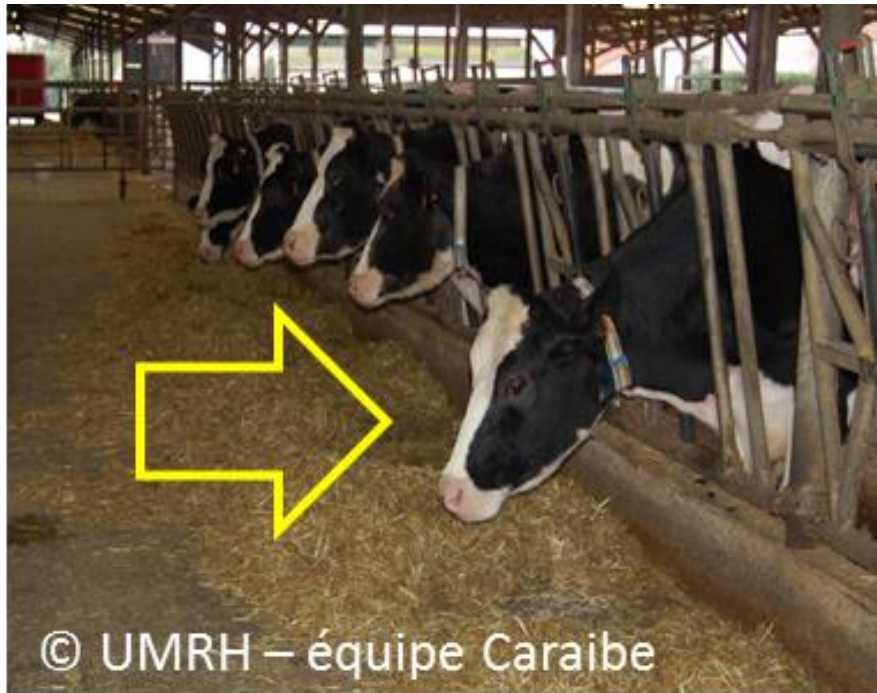


Specific Behaviour

- General Activity and social behaviour (isolation)
- Withdrawal movements (reflex)
- Behaviours and posture to reduce stimulation of the painful area
- Behaviours directed towards the painful area
- Vocalisations
- Expression Faciale

Behavioural indicators of pain: General activity and social behaviour

Apathy



Isolation, desynchronisation



Behavioural indicators of pain: General activity and social behaviour

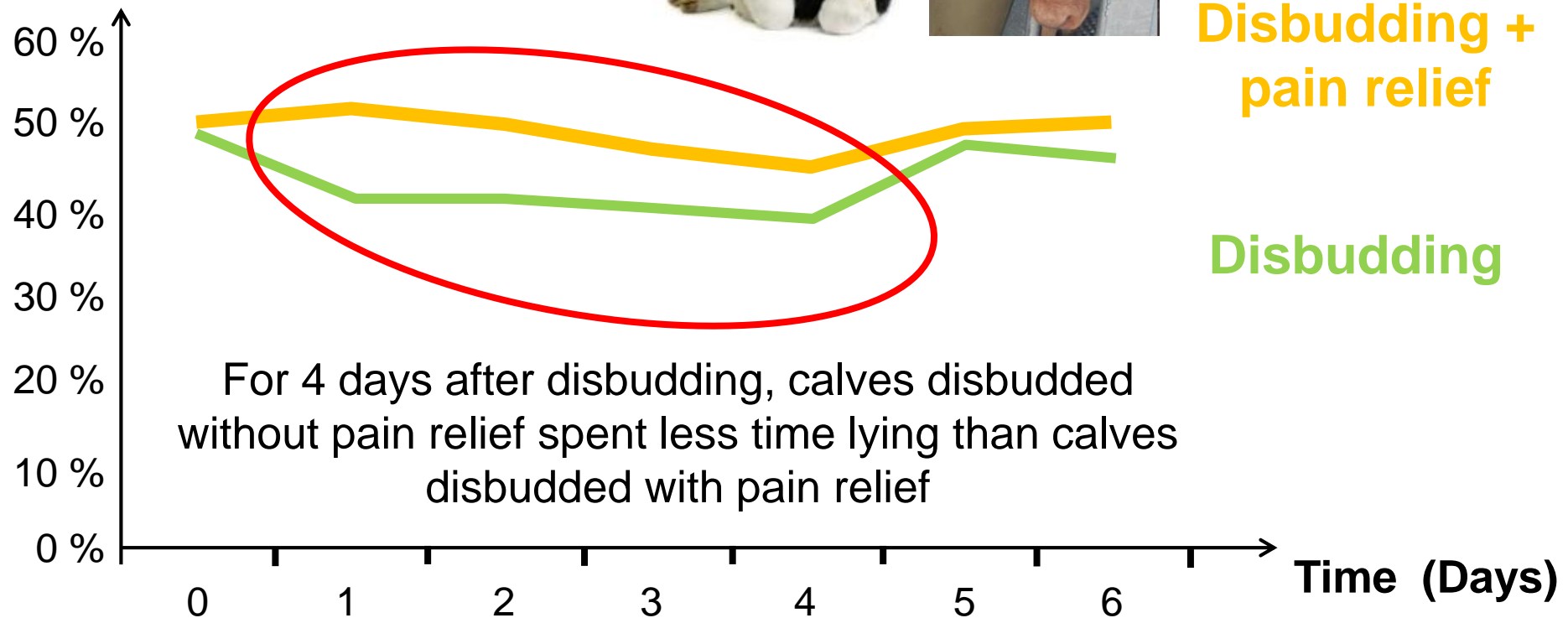
Apathy



© UMRH – équipe Caraïbe

Behavioural indicators of pain: General activity

% Time spent lying



**Disbudding +
pain relief**

Disbudding

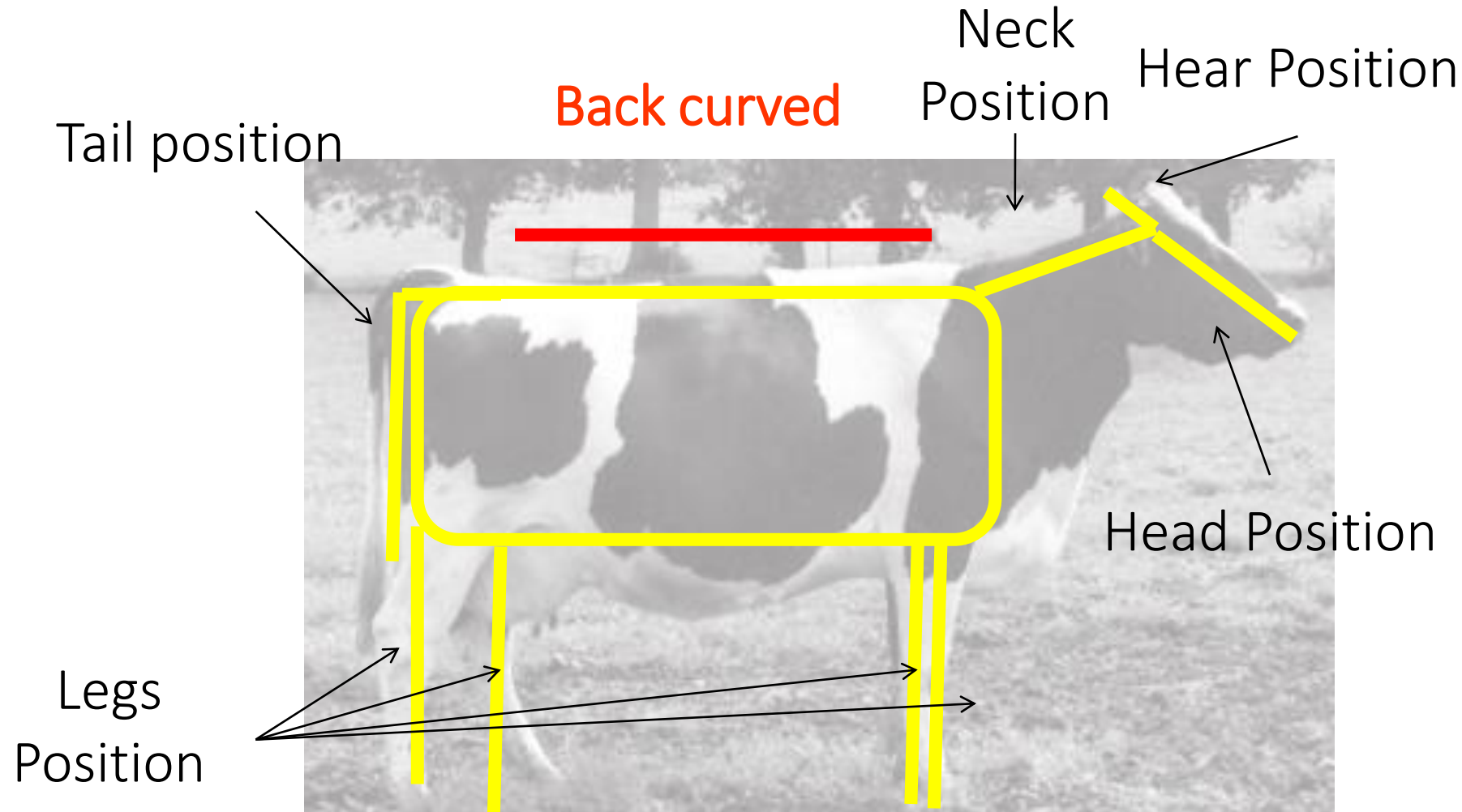
Behavioural indicators of pain: withdrawal movements



Behavioural indicators of pain: behaviours to reduce stimulation

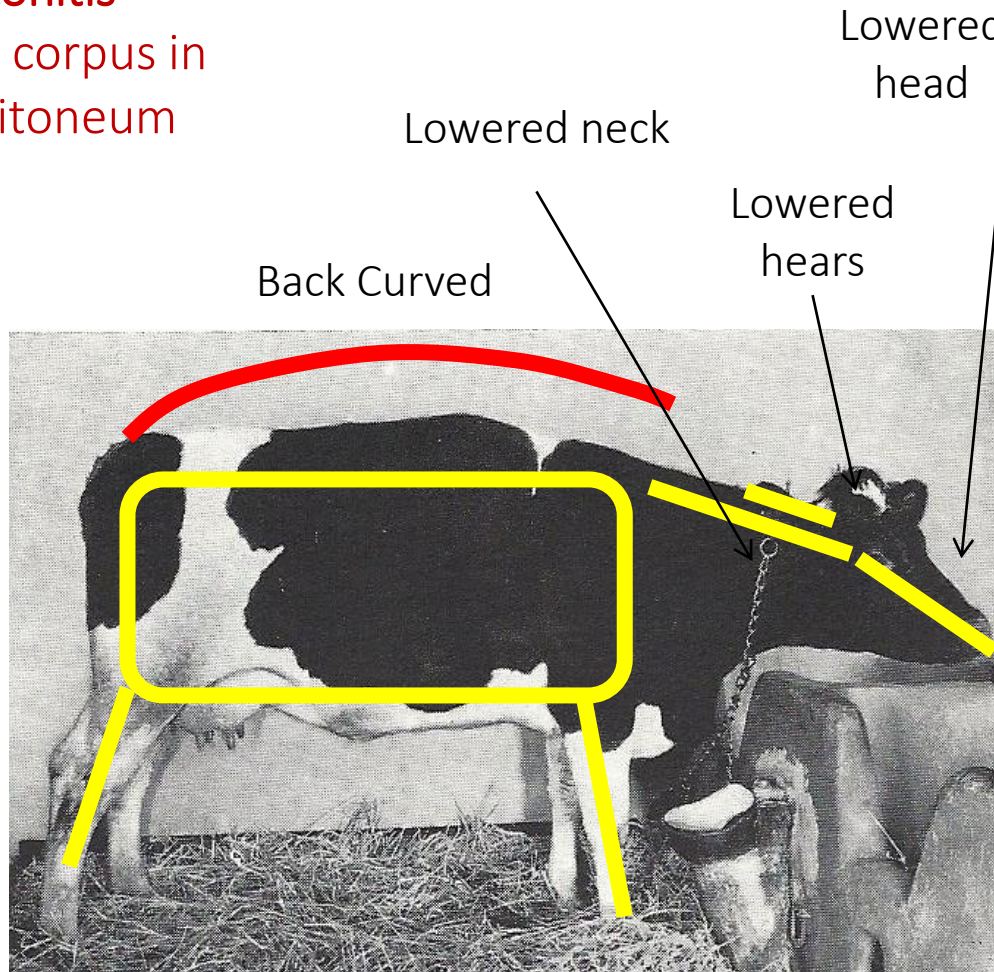


Behavioural indicators of pain: behaviours to reduce stimulation













Behavioural indicators of pain: behaviours to reduce stimulation

Peritonitis
(external corpus in
the peritoneum)



Lameness Assessment

<p>Note de motricité</p> <p>Description clinique :</p> <p>Normale</p> <p>Description : Se tient debout et marche normalement. Les jambes sont bien placées.</p>	<p>1</p>  <p>Position du dos à l'arrêt : plat</p>  <p>Position du dos à l'arrêt : plat</p>
<p>Note de motricité</p> <p>Description clinique :</p> <p>Légèrement boiteuse</p> <p>Description : Se tient debout avec le dos plat mais courbe le dos en marchant. La démarche est légèrement anormale.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Position du dos à l'arrêt : plat</p>  <p>Position du dos en marche : courbé</p>
<p>Note de motricité</p> <p>Description clinique :</p> <p>Modérément boiteuse</p> <p>Description : Se tient debout et marche avec le dos courbé. Enjambées courtes avec une ou plusieurs pattes.</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>Position du dos à l'arrêt : courbé</p>  <p>Position du dos en marche : courbé</p>
<p>Note de motricité</p> <p>Description clinique :</p> <p>Boiteuse</p> <p>Description : Se tient debout et marche le dos courbé. Favorise une ou plusieurs pattes mais peut encore mettre du poids sur elles.</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>Position du dos à l'arrêt : courbé</p>  <p>Position du dos en marche : courbé</p>
<p>Note de motricité</p> <p>Description clinique :</p> <p>Gravement boiteuse</p> <p>Description : Dos courbé, refuse de mettre du poids sur une seule patte. Peut refuser ou a beaucoup de difficultés à se lever.</p>	<p>5</p>  <p>Position du dos à l'arrêt : courbé</p>  <p>Position du dos en marche : courbé</p>

Behavioural indicators of pain: behaviours to increase stimulation



© JM Nicol

Cow with important visceral pain

- Antalgic posture of the legs
- Hit herself with the rear legs

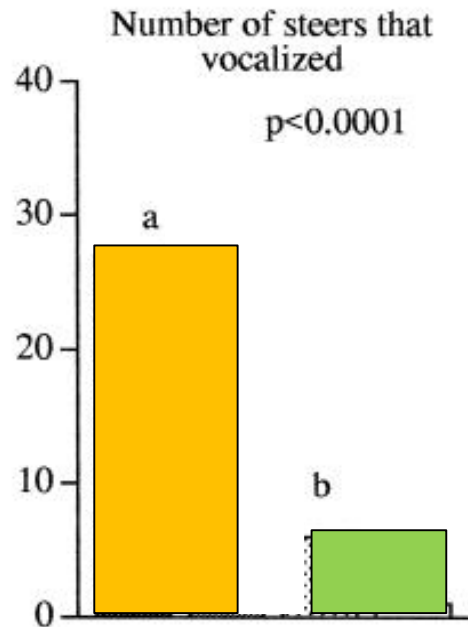
Behavioural indicators of pain: Vocalizations

Branding

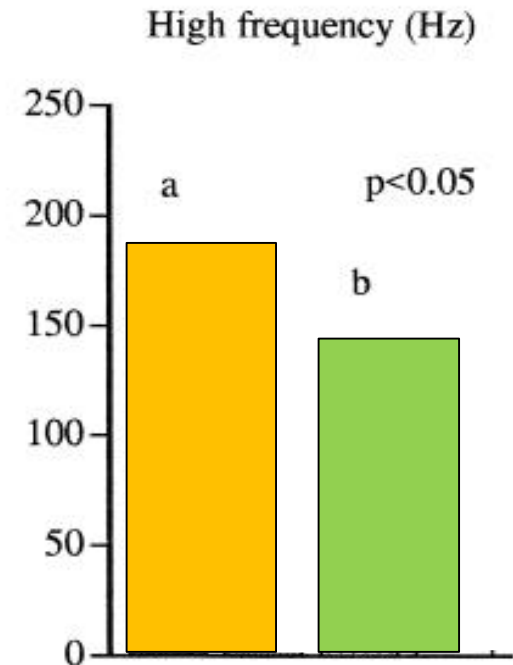


Handling +
Branding

Handling



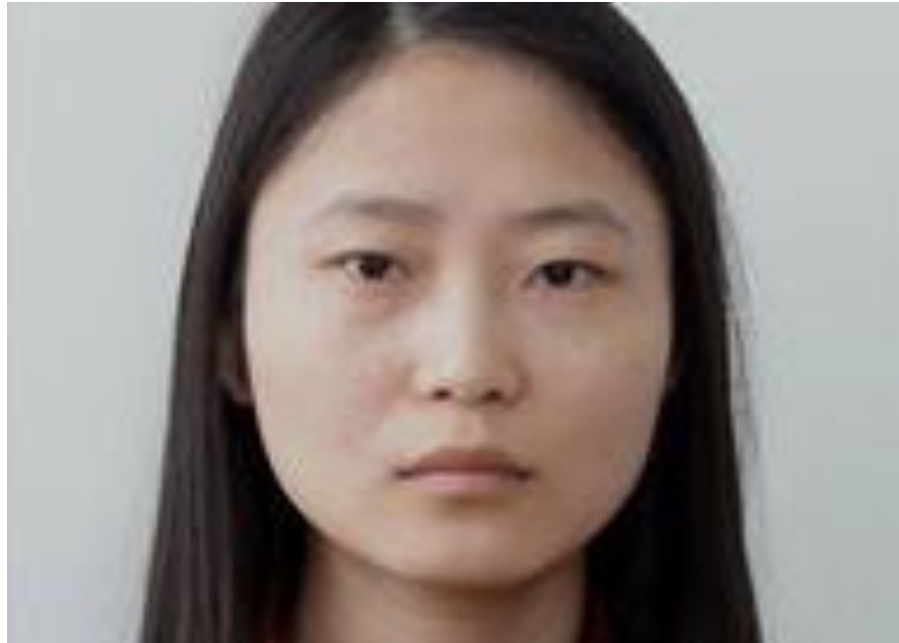
→ Branded steers are more numerous to vocalize



→ Their vocalizations have higher frequency

Behavioural indicators of pain:

Facial expression



No pain



Frowning

Closing eyes

Pleated noze

Tense upper lip

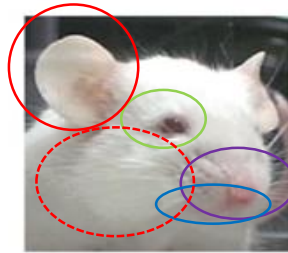
Pain

Prkachin & Kenneth M, 1992, Pain
Photos : Sun et al., 2017, Nature

Behavioural indicators of pain:

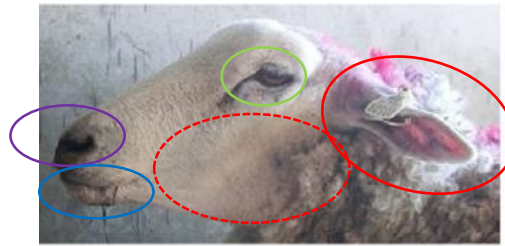
Facial expression

Mouse



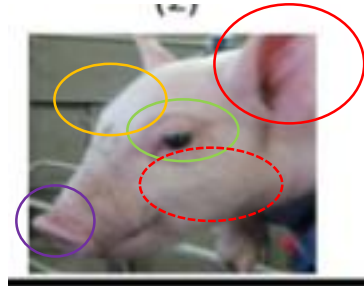
Langford et al., 2010

Sheep



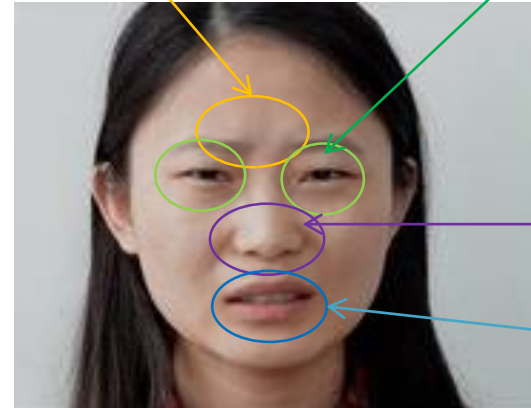
Mc Leenan et al, 2016

Piglets



Di Giminiani et al, 2016

Frowning



Douleur

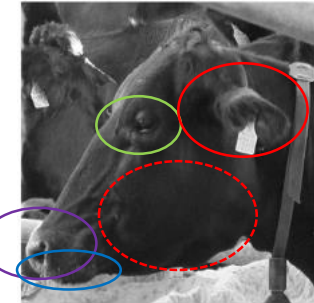
Sun et al., 2017

Closing eyes

Pleated noze

Tense upper lip

Cattle



Gleerup et al., 2015

Horse



Dalla Costa et al., 2014

3 other indicators:
Ears, vibrissae, jaws

Behavioural indicators

- **Non invasive** and easy to see
- **Sensitive** and appear very quickly

BUT

- Often considered as « subjectives » and fewly reliable
- → Need to properly define what has to be observed and to train observers!
- Not always **specific**

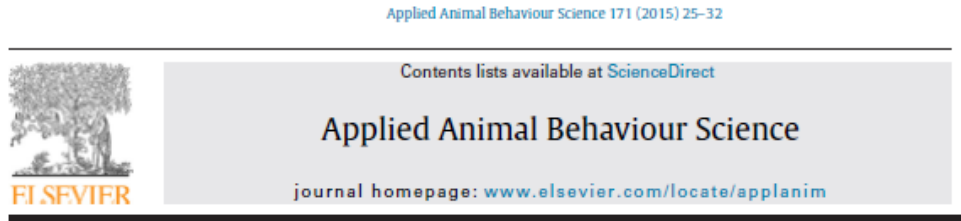
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 - The 3S approach
 - Sources of Pain
 - How can we measure pain ?
 - **Grids to assess pain**
 - Pain alleviation

Pain assessment grids in cattle

- Many papers describe the cattle responses to various situations (disbudding, mastitis, etc...)
- Few papers propose Grids, these being **developped in particular contexts** :

Diseases (various)



Pain evaluation in dairy cattle

Karina Bech Gleerup^{a,*}, Pia Haubro Andersen^b, Lene Munksgaard^c, Björn Forkman^a

^a University of Copenhagen, Department of Large Animal Sciences, Copenhagen, Denmark

^b Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Clinical Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden

^c Aarhus University, Department of Animal Science, Aarhus, Denmark

Mastitis



J. Dairy Sci. TBC:1–13

<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2017-12796>

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J

Behavioral and patho-physiological response as possible signs of pain in dairy cows during *Escherichia coli* mastitis: A pilot study

Alice de Boyer des Roches,^{*1} Marion Faure,^{*} Alexandra Lussert,[†] Vincent Herry,[†] Pascal Rainard,[‡] Denys Durand,^{*} and Gilles Foucras[†]

Castration

de Oliveira et al. BMC Veterinary Research 2014, 10:200

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1746-6148/10/200>



BMC
Veterinary Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

Validation of the UNESP-Botucatu unidimensional composite pain scale for assessing postoperative pain in cattle

Flávia Augusta de Oliveira^{1†}, Stelio Pacca Loureiro Luna^{2†}, Jackson Barros do Amaral³, Karoline Alves Rodrigues², Aline Cristina Sant'Anna⁴, Milena Daolio² and Juliana Tabarelli Brondani²

Pain assessment grids in cattle

Applied Animal Behaviour Science 171 (2015) 25–32



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Pain evaluation in dairy cattle

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^c Aarhus University, Department of Animal Science, Aarhus, Denmark

3 levels
(expert-based levels)

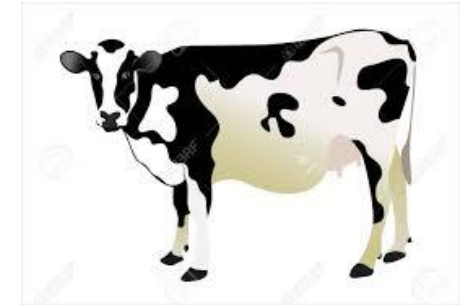


Table 4
The Cow Pain Scale including the pain specific behaviours.

Score	0	1	2
Attention towards the surroundings	Active and attentive The cow is active: eating, ruminating, grooming etc. The cow is attentive and/or attention seeking/curious	Quiet/depressed The cow is not active, avoiding eye contact, may move away from the observer	
Head position	High/level of withers The cow is active, eating, ruminating or is contact seeking/curious	Level of withers The cow is <i>not</i> active, not eating, ruminating, grooming or sleeping	Low The cow is <i>not</i> active, not eating, ruminating, grooming or sleeping; may lie down quickly after getting up
Ear position	Both ears forward or one ear forward or back and the other listening	Ears back/asymmetric ear movements Both ears back or moving in different directions (not forward or back)	Lambs' ears Both ears to the sides and lower than usual; the pinna facing slightly down
Facial expression	Attentive/neutral look The cow is attentive, focused on a task (eating, ruminating) or sleeping	Tense expression/strained appearance The cow has a worried or strained look, furrows above the eyes and puckers above the nostrils	
Response to approach	Look at observer, head up, ears forward or occupied with activity (grooming, ruminating)	Look at observer, ears <i>not</i> forward, leave when approached	May/may <i>not</i> look at observer, head low, ears <i>not</i> forward may leave slowly
Back position	Normal	Slightly arched back	Arched back

6 indicators



RESEARCH ARTICLE

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Validation of the UNESP-Botucatu unidimensional composite pain scale for assessing postoperative pain in cattle

Flávia Augusta de Oliveira^{1†}, Stelio Pacca Loureiro Luna^{2†}, Jackson Barros do Amaral³, Karoline Alves Rodrigues², Aline Cristina Sant'Anna⁴, Milena Daolio² and Juliana Tabarelli Brondani²

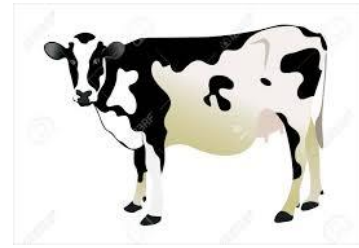
5 indicators;
3 levels per indicator
(observation-based levels)



Figure 1 Characteristic signs of pain in cattle after orchiectomy. **A** - Head below the line of spinal column; **B** - Hind limbs extended caudally when in standing posture; **C** - Moves and arches the back when in standing; **D** - Kicking/foot stamping; **E** - Licking the surgical wound; **F** - Lying down in ventral recumbency with full or partial extension of one or both hind limbs.

Item	Score/Criterion
Locomotion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Walking with no obviously abnormal gait. • (1) Walking with restriction, may be with hunched back and/or short steps. • (2) Reluctant to stand up, standing up with difficulty or not walking.
Interactive behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Active; attention to tactile and/or visual and/or audible environmental stimuli; when near other animals, can interact with and/or accompany the group. • (1) Apathetic: may remain close to other animals, but interacts little when stimulated. • (2) Apathetic: may be isolated or may not accompany the other animals; does not react to tactile, visual and/or audible environmental stimuli.
Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Moves normally. • (1) Restless, moves more than normal or lies down and stands up with frequency. • (2) Moves less frequently in the pasture or only when stimulated.
Appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Normorexia and/or rumination. • (1) Hyporexia. • (2) Anorexia.
Miscellaneous behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wagging the tail abruptly and repeatedly. • Licking the surgical wound. • Moves and arches the back when in standing posture. • Kicking/foot stamping. • Hind limbs extended caudally when in standing posture. • Head below the line of spinal column. • Lying down in ventral recumbency with full or partial extension of one or both hind limbs. • Lying down with the head on/close to the ground. • Extends the neck and body forward when lying in ventral recumbency. <p>(0) All of the above described behaviours are absent. (1) Presence of 1 of the behaviours described above. (2) Presence of 2 or more of the behaviours described above.</p>

Pain assessment grids in cattle



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Behavioral and patho-physiological response as possible signs of pain in dairy cows during *Escherichia coli* mastitis: A pilot study

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8 indicators
2 to 3 levels per indicator
(expert-based levels)

Table 1. Description of criteria evaluated in the behavior evaluation scheme

Item	Score and criterion	Maximum score
General attitude: Attention toward the surroundings and head position (Hudson et al., 2008; Prunier et al., 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Cow active or attentive, and has her head at or above the line of spinal column • (0.5) Cow not active, does not look at the observer • (1) Cow avoids eye contact, is not active, not sleeping and not ruminating • (1) Cow's head below the line of spinal column 	2
Ear position (Gleerup et al., 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Both ears forward or one ear forward or back and the other moving back and forth • (1) Ears lower than spinal column, with an increased distance between ears and the opening facing downwards 	1
Facial expression (Gleerup et al., 2015)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Attentive or neutral look with no furrows above nostrils • (1) Strained look with furrows above nostrils 	1
Standing posture (de Oliveira et al., 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Normal standing: standing, walking, eating, or investigating with no apparent abnormalities • (1) Standing unsteadily, sometimes the body leaning against a wall, or back arched standing, or standing with weight shifting on hind legs 	1
Limb posture (de Oliveira et al., 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Normal posture of the legs • (1) Standing with hind limbs extended caudally, or a leg held in suspension, or forelegs and hind legs brought closer 	1
Lying position (Robertson et al., 1994)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Normal sternal recumbency • (0.5) Sternal recumbency with the hindlimbs partially or fully extended • (1) Lateral recumbency with one shoulder on the ground, with full or partial extension of one or both hind limbs 	1
Miscellaneous abnormal behaviors (Hudson et al., 2008; Prunier et al., 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Normorexia or rumination • (1) Foot stamping • (1) Hyporexia or anorexia • (1) Absence of rumination 	3
Tail position (Mølgaard et al., 2012)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Normal position of tail • (0.5) Central part of tail slightly pressed against udder base • (1) Central part of tail pressed against udder base 	1
Clinical signs (Hudson et al., 2008)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (0) Normal eyes, smooth hair coat, no shivering • (1) Presence of eyes sunken into orbits • (1) Obviously erect hair coat • (1) Shivering of muscles • (1) Shivering • (1) Panting 	5

Grids to assess pain

- There is no « gold standard grid »
- Published grids were developed according to:
 - The situation assessed (e.g. castration, mastitis etc)
 - The species : *Bos tauros* vs. *Bos indicus*

