

Abstract for the ISASH conference 2019

Title:

Safer handling of animals – giving attention to stockmanship for decreasing injuries

Presentation of an ongoing process of using recognized methods of health promotion to gain a wider awareness on safety and low stress handling of animals. The extension services in Denmark provides advice, guidance, training and e-learning courses in health and safety on the farm. For the last 2 years we have intensified the focus on safe handling of animals, mainly dairy and pigs, to increase awareness of the high number of injuries that are directly related to handling or working in close contact with farm animals. The competence to act safely in any handling situation is the goal for the training of farmers, teachers of ag. schools and extension service personnel. Build upon guidance by an external expert, multiple efforts have been made to highlight the effectiveness of low stress handling and promote good stockmanship as a tool to increase safety, animal welfare and high productivity. The efforts combine to create a cultural change, to define handling as a hazardous, yet manageable task. A longterm effect is hopefully to burst the farmers proud awareness of being a good stockman and mender of the animals, both in the eyes of farmers themselves and in the public opinion.

5 keywords: Injuries, animal handling, education, behavioral guidance, cultural changes