Fit for transport

Stand calves up first, then check to make sure they are fit for transport

1. Bright and alert
2. Milk feed within 6 hours of transport
3. Firm, worn hooves
4. Dry navel
5. Appropriate tag
6. No scours
7. 5 to 30 days old
   Strong and walking

Calves must be between 5 and 30 days old
Calves must have a milk feed within 6 hours of transport
If a calf is not fit for transport, do not load it

Keep calm and take care when handling calves

To stand a calf up, rub, push or pat it on its back. Keep quiet and calm. If a calf is scared it will sit down and not move.
Move calves one at a time or in small groups of three or four – calves will follow a leader.
Gently push with your hand from behind
Sometimes calves load better if you move them backwards, tail-first.

Do not hit, throw or drag calves. Do not use electric prodders.

Handling calves is covered by the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for Land Transport of Livestock. More information on bobby calves can be found at Dairy Australia.
Health and safety when handling calves

Walk calves if you can.

If you have to lift bend your knees – keep your back straight.

Hold the calf close to your body. Carry the calf between waist and shoulder height.

Move your feet. If you need to turn, don’t twist at the waist.

Lift calves with one arm in front of the calf’s front legs and the other either in front of or between the calf’s back legs. Get help to lift heavy calves.

Stay fit, stretch out before you start and during the day. If you start to feel sore tell someone.

Wear boots with toe caps and good tread so you do not slip.

Wear gloves and/or wash your hands.

Look out for hazards and warning signs on farms.

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