

Cattle Flight Zones

Dr. Grandin talks to cattle owners about how to move cattle calmly. She teaches the owners how to know where the **flight zone** and **point of balance** are for the cattle. The flight zone is how far from the animal a person must stay to keep the animal calm. The picture below shows the flight zone and point of balance for cattle. For cattle, the point of balance is the shoulder. The outer circle is the edge of the flight zone. You can find the flight zone by slowly walking up to the animal. Walking up to an animal's head increases its flight zone. If a person is in the flight zone, the animal will move away.

The dotted line represents a curved chute. A chute is an alleyway that people use to walk cattle to a pen. For most animals the point of balance is at their shoulder. When the handler stands at or behind the point of balance, the animal will move forward. They will back up if you stand in front of the shoulder. Avoid standing at the head of an animal and poking its rear. You should also not stand in the animal's blind spot, which is behind them. When a herd, or group, of cattle are moved in pastures and large pens, their behavior is usually different because they are not in a small pen. The flight zone may be different for a herd of cattle in pastures.

Calm livestock can be harder to move because they no longer have a flight zone. These animals can often be led using a halter or feed bucket. When animals are used to the person and the person stays calm, the animal learns to trust them.

