

## **Head Control - The Most Important Feature in any Cattle Crush. Why do very few Cattle Crushes provide this?**

Why is it that very few cattle crushes provided adequate head control? Anytime you catch any animal by the neck their first reaction is to pull back, fight or lunge forward and back throwing its head about. What does this do for operator safety, processing time efficiency, or stress and bruising of the animal. Yet, this is exactly how cattle crushes have been designed to work for years!

Fitting a neck scoop to hold an animals head does little to resolve the problem as the animal is still reacting in the same stressful manner. Consider also the realise of the animal from the head bale, it often pulls back crashing into the vet gate or the back gate, then either baulks or rushes to exit the crush. This all creates a lot of noise, stress and bruising. From an animal's perspective what have we just taught it. It is unlikely to behave any better the next time around.

The manufactures of Silencer Hydraulic Crushes understand that head control is paramount to a smooth and safe processing operation. Safe and easy head control can only be achieved by first gaining control of the animal's body! Control of the body is gained by using a "lower and upper hydraulic squeeze" which work independent to the other.

As the animal is caught, the upper squeeze is immediately applied which prevents the animal from pulling back and fighting. With the body now correctly restrained we are able to gain total control of the head. The animal cannot fight or lunge. The hydraulic neck bars then effortlessly turn the head left or right, making mouthing, ear tagging or vaccinating a quick, safe and easy procedure.

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