

ONLINE ARTICLE

Title:	"Calves killed in road train fire"
Author:	Carl Curtain
Date:	Monday, 23 July 2012
Publication:	ABC Rural
Copyright:	ABC
Address:	< http://www.abc.net.au/rural/news/content/201207/s3551438.htm >
Accessed:	Monday, 30 July 2012



Barry Kelleher runs to help the cattle on the road train.
| Photographer: (Margo Bellis)



The road train cabin burnt to the ground, however the trailers were only scorched.
| Photographer: | Margo Bellis

Two weaner-calves were killed in a road train that caught fire on Saturday, about 200 kilometres east of Darwin in the Northern Territory.

Although the fire was initially extinguished in the truck's cabin, parked along the Point Stuart Road, a second fire started once the driver left the vehicle to get help.

Margo Bellis and her partner Barry Kelleher came across the blaze, which she says appeared to have begun as a fuel or oil leak.

She says the passers-by did not know where the truck driver was and thought he had been killed, until he returned two hours later.

"He had gone away in another road train to deliver the rest of the cattle, and when he came back, of course the thing was burnt to the ground."

With the help of another man, Barry Kelleher began letting the weaners out of the cattle crates while the truck was burning.

"They opened up the gates on the bottom deck and let the cattle out...and let them run off into the bush.

"Then they opened the cross gates up the top and moved the cattle from the top of the front crate to the back.

"So they basically had three pens of cattle in two crates at the top."

One weaner suffocated, while another was injured and had to be put down.