



Dehorning, Castrating, and Docking

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Objectives

- Describe dehorning techniques for calves
- Describe castrating techniques for calves, lambs, and pigs
- Describe tail docking techniques for lambs
- Discuss benefits of dehorning, castrating, and docking

Dehorning

- What is dehorning?
 - Process of removing or preventing (disbudding) the growth of horns
- Why?
 - Improve appearance
 - Reduce injuries
 - Increase feeder space
 - Improve value
- Two methods
 - Non-invasive
 - Invasive

Restraint

- Very important
- Remember safety

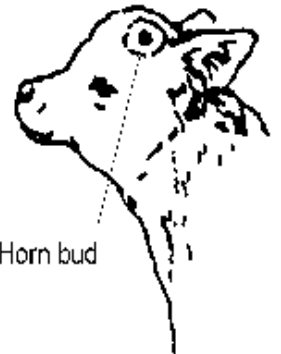
- Restrain head



Non-Invasive

- Bloodless
- Less than 30 days age (at birth)
- Types
 - Chemical paste
 - Hot iron

Dehorning Paste

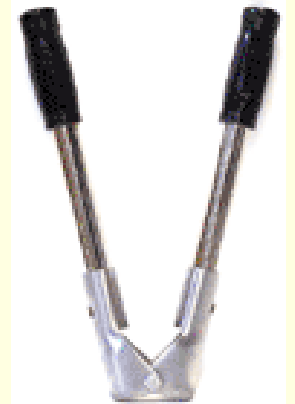


Horn bud



Invasive

- Blood flow
- Greater than 30 days of age
- Involves cutting or scooping the horn off
- Types
 - Tube dehorner
 - Barnes' dehorner
 - Keystone dehorner



Castrating

- What is castration?
 - Process of removing the testicles from a male
 - Less than 2 months of age (at birth)
- Why?
 - Prevent mating or fighting
 - Improve carcass quality
 - Improve value
 - Gentle
- Two methods
 - Non-invasive
 - Invasive

Restraint

- Young calves
 - On side
- Older calves
 - In chute
- Young lambs, kids, pigs
 - On back
 - V-shaped table



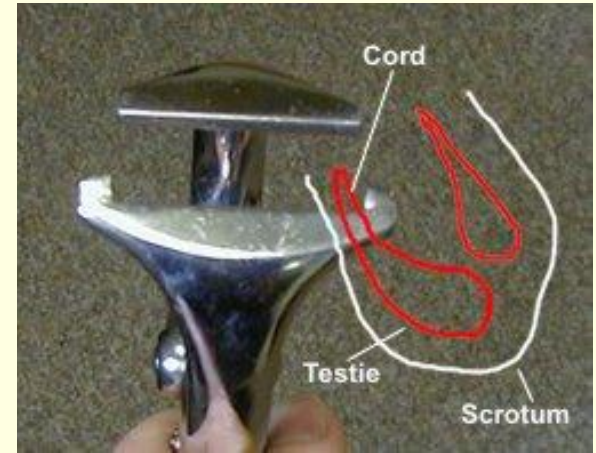
Non-invasive

- Bloodless
- Tetanus antitoxin
- Crimps or constricts arteries – testicles die
- Types
 - Burdizzo
 - Elastrator
 - Calicrate bander
 - Short-scrotumed
 - Chemical castration

- Burdizzo



- Elastrator



- Calicrate smart bander



Invasive

- Blood flow
- Sanitation is key
 - Remove testicles external to scrotum
- Types
 - Knife/scalpel
 - Emasculator

- Knife



- Scalpel



- Emasculator

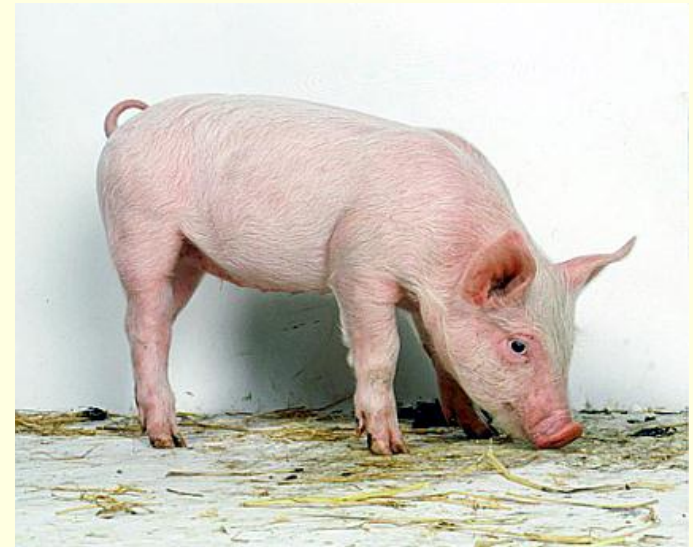


Calf Castration

- Non-invasive
 - Tetanus antitoxin
- Invasive
 - Remove 1/3-1/2 scrotum with knife
 - Force testicles external to scrotum
 - Extract testicles
 - Sever spermatic cord
 - Knife scrape
 - Pull
 - Emasculator

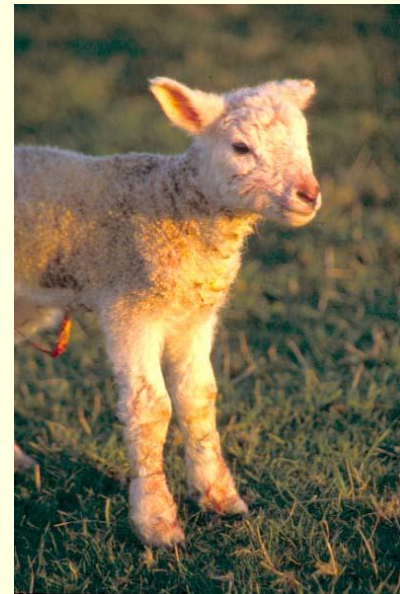
Pig Castration

- Invasive
 - Make two slits through scrotum and tunic with knife or scalpel
 - Extract testicles
 - Sever spermatic cord
 - Knife scrape
 - Pull
 - Emasculator



Lamb and Kid Castration

- Non-invasive or invasive
- Tetanus antitoxin
- Same techniques as calves



Docking

- What is docking?
 - Practice of cutting the tail off an animal
- Why?
 - Improve appearance
 - Increase hygiene (sheep)
 - Reduce tail biting (pigs)
 - Keep tails out of harnesses (draft horses)
- Two methods
 - Non-invasive
 - Invasive
- Techniques vary among species

Non-invasive

- Bloodless
- Types:
 - Elastrator
 - Burdizzo

Invasive

- Blood flow
- Sanitation is important
- Types
 - Knife
 - Scalpel
 - Blade pliers
 - Emasculator

Swine Docking

- Cut tail 1 inch from base
- Don't cut into the base
- Invasive

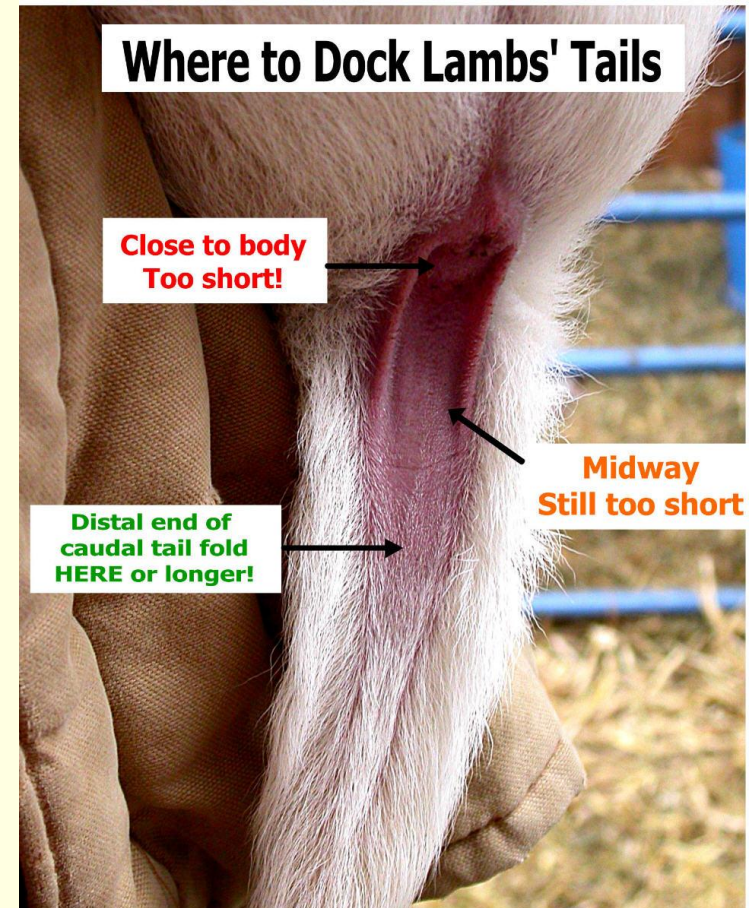


Sheep Docking

- Cut 2 inches from base
- Non-invasive
- Invasive
- Tetanus antitoxin



Too short



Where to Dock Lambs' Tails

Close to body
Too short!

Midway
Still too short

Distal end of
caudal tail fold
HERE or longer!