

Dehorning dairy calves

Young dairy calves are usually dehorned to reduce the damage that the horns can cause to udders, flanks and eyes. You also need less trough space if your animals are dehorned. It is safer to transport cattle that have been dehorned. Dehorning can be done when a calf is younger than three months. The horn buds (developing horns) can be removed surgically by a veterinarian, or it can be done using a caustic paste or a hot iron.

The caustic stick

This method is suitable if you have few cattle. Put caustic soda (stick or paste) onto the horn bud before the calf is ten days old. Do not let the animal walk in the rain, because the soda can run down from the horns and cause damage to the face. It can also run into the calf's mouth, causing great damage to the mother's udder when the calf suckles.

The hot iron method

This method is used most often on dairy calves, when they are between three and six weeks old. If you are worried that your calf will experience pain during the dehorning, you can request the veterinarian to give you a sedative, local anaesthetic or an anti-inflammatory.

The tissue at the base of the horn bud is burnt with a debudding iron. The iron is heated over gas or fire. When the iron turns a dull red colour, it is pressed onto the bud and is twisted slowly in a circular motion for about ten seconds. If the horn bud is too large, you will have to remove the tip first with a clean, sharp pocket knife.

DO NOT use knives and debudding spoons to dehorn a calf. These methods are known to result in open wounds and infections, and very often calves develop horn stubs afterwards.

Important measures

- The best time to dehorn, is during late afternoon when it is cooler. The wound will dry quickly, there is less fly activity and less risk of infection. Do not dehorn in wet weather, because the wound will take longer to heal.
- Before you start dehorning, sharpen the blades of all the instruments and disinfect them in a bucket of antiseptic solution.
- Make sure that you know exactly what to cut, and where. A wrong cut can cause stress and infection.
- Hold the calf firmly during the procedure. If possible, use a calf cradle in which to restrain the calf. It will minimise stress and you can also use it later on for vaccination and marking. [UM](#)

Dehorning

The hot iron method is used most often.

- Heat the iron until it turns a dull red colour.
- Hold the calf firmly.
- Press iron onto horn bud and twist slowly in a circular motion for 10 seconds.

Apply the **caustic stick** method before the calf is 10 days old.



Important

- Do not use knives and debudding spoons to dehorn.
- Tips can be removed with a clean, sharp knife.

Onthoringing

Die brandyster-metode word meestal gebruik.

- Verhit die yster totdat dit 'n dowwe rooi kleur kry.
- Hou die kalf stewig vas. • Druk die yster op die horingknoppie en draai dit in a sirkelbeweging vir 10 sekondes lank.

Pas die **seepsoda**-metode toe voordat die kalf 10 dae oud is.

Belangrik

- Moenie messe en onthoringboute gebruik vir jong kalfies nie.
- Horingpunte kan met 'n skoon, skerp mes verwyder word.



Ukususa izimpondo

Indlela yensimbi eshisayo ivame ukusetshenziswa kakhulu.

- Shisisa insimbi ize ithophe ibe bomvu. • Libambe uliqinise inkonyane.
- Cindezela insimbi esiqwini sophondo bese uyayijikisa kancane kancane uyijikelezise imizuzwana eyishumi.

Sebenzisa indlela **yenduku eshisa ngamakhemikhali** ngaphambi kokuba inkonyane libe nezinsuku eziyishumi ubudala.

Okubalulekile

- Ungayisebenzisi imimese nezipuni zokususa isiqu ukuze ususe izimpondo.
- Lokhu okusemaphethelweni kungasuswa ngommese ohlanzekile obukhali.

Ukunqunyulwa kweempondo

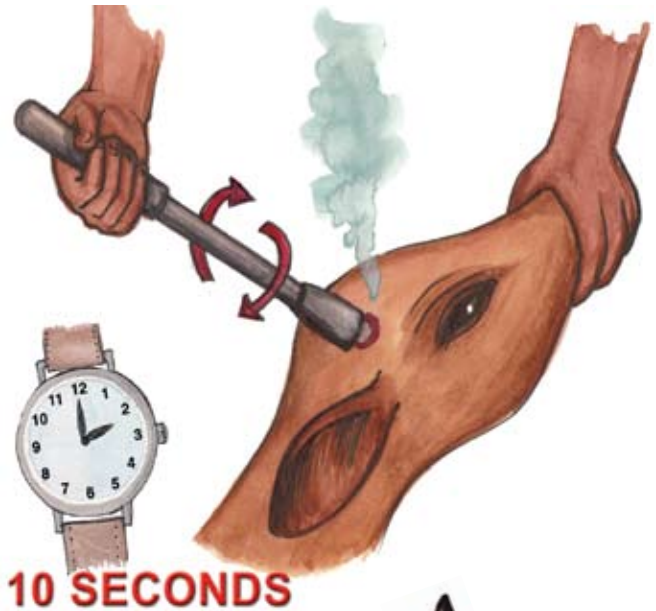
Uhlobo lokunqumla iimpondo ngentsimbi eshushu lihlala lisetyenziswa rhoqo

- Yenza shushu intsimbi de ibe ngumbala obomvu burnfiliba.
- Libambe ngokuqinileyo ithole.
- Cinezela intsimbi kwithupha lephondo yaye, ujije ngokucotha ngokujikelezayo isithuba semizuzu eli-10.

Sebenzisa uhlobo **loluthi olutshisayo** ngaphambi kokuba ithole libe neentsuku ezili-10 ubudala.

Okubalulekileyo

- Musa ukusebenzisa iimela kunye namacephe okunqumla iimpondo ezintshulayo ukunqumla iimpondo.
- lintupha zingasuswa ngemela ebukhali necocekileyo.



Ho tjheswa ha dinaka

Hanganta ho sebediswa mokgwa wa tshepe e tjhesang

- Futhumetsa tshepe ho fihlela e fetola mmala e eba mofubedu bo lerootho.
- Tshwara namana o e tiise.
- Hatella tshepe pentong ya lenaka mme o nne o e tsamaise butle ka tsela ya ho potolohisa metsotswana e 10.

Sebedisa mokgwa wa **thupa e bohale** pele namane e qeta matsatsi a 10 e tswetswe.

Sa bohlokwa

- O se ke wa sebedisa dithipa le dikgaba tsa tshepe bakeng sa ho tjhesa dinaka.
- Metsu e ka tloswa ka thipa e hlwekileng, e bohale. 