

Dehorn your 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 caustic 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 and 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, and 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. 

Dehorning

Hot iron method

1. Heat the iron until it turns a dull red colour.
2. Hold the calf firmly.
3. Press iron onto horn bud.
4. Twist iron slowly in a circular motion for 10 seconds.



Caustic paste

1. Apply the paste to the horn bud carefully.
2. Use this method before the calf is 10 days old.

IMPORTANT!

- Do not use knives and debudding spoons to dehorn small calves.

Onthooring

Brandystermetode

1. Verhit die yster totdat dit 'n dowwe rooiwarm kleur is.
2. Hou die kalf stewig vas.
3. Druk die yster teen die horingknoppie vas.
4. Draai die yster stadig in die rondte vir ongeveer 10 sekondes.

Seepsoda (chemiese brand)

1. Wend die seepsoda versigtig aan die horingknoppie.
2. Gebruik hierdie metode voordat die kalf 10 dae oud word.

BELANGRIK!

- Moet nie messe of onthoorningsboute op jong kalfies gebruik nie.

Ukunqunyulwa kweempondo

Indlela yentsimbi etshisayo

1. Tshisa iayini ide ibe bomvu.



2. Bamba ithole uliqinise.
3. Cinezela iayini kolu phondo lukhulayo.
4. Yijikelezise ngokucothayo iayini imizuzwana eli-10.

Intlama yokunqumla

1. Dyobha intlama ngenyameko kolu phondo lukhulayo.
2. Sebenzisa le ndlela phambi kokuba ithole libe neentsuku ezili-10.

OKUBALULEKILEYO!

- Ungasebenzisi iimela namacephe okunqumla ukunqumla iimpondo.



Ukunqinda

Ukusebenzisa i-ayini elishisayo

1. Shisisa i-ayini lize libe sengathi lithanda ukuba bomvana okumthuqasi ngombala.
2. Bamba inkonyane uliqinise.
3. Cindezela ii-ayini endaweni okuhluma kuyo izimpondo.
4. Jikisa i-ayini kancane kancane lizungeze imizuzwana eyishumi.

Inhlama edla izimpondo (caustic paste)

1. Gcoba le nhlama endaweni okuhluma kuyo izimpondo ngokucophelela.
2. Sebenzisa le ndlela ngaphambi kokuba inkonyane libe nezinsuku eziyishumi ubudala.

KUBALULEKILE!

- Ungalokothi usebenzise imimese noma izipuni zokunqinda izimpondo lapho unqinda.

Ho kgaola manaka

Mokgwa wa ho sebedisa tshepe e tjhesang

1. Hotetsa tshepe ho fihlela e le kgubedu.
2. Tshwara namane ka tiyo.
3. Beha tshepe ena e tjhesang hodima manakana a hlahang.
4. Sisinya tshepe butle ka mokgwa o potolohang ka metsotswana e 10.

Setlolo sa leqeba la mollo

1. Tlotsa setlolo sa mollo ka hloko sebakeng seo manaka a hlahang ho sona.
2. Sebedisa mokgwa ona pele namana e ba le matsatsi a 10 e hlahile.

TABA YA BOHLOKWA!

- O se sebedise dithipa le dikgaba ho kgaola manaka. 

