***Self-Tying Castration Method in Piglets***

This procedure was carried out without use of anaesthetic, although local anaesthetic can be used in larger animals.

**Procedure:**

1. Scrub the scrotal sac to remove excess dirt, then swab the area with alcohol.
2. Secure one testis by pushing it upwards and grasping firmly between the thumb and forefinger, using a third finger to prevent it from sliding backwards.
3. Make a ventral incision using a scalpel, making sure to cut through the vaginal tunic so that the testis comes free.
4. Excess tissue is pushed proximally and the testis and spermatic cord are gently pulled distally. The blood vessels are separated from the vas deferens at the tail of the epididymis, and a very proximal square knot is done using the vessels and vas deferens.
5. Clamp both the blood vessels and vas deferens using a haemostat, and cut away the testis.
6. Ensure that there are no pockets within the scrotum where fluid may collect. If there is a pocket, extend the incision ventrally (make sure not to cut into muscle!). Carry out procedure on second testis.
7. Spray the incisions with antibiotic spray and the surrounding tissues with screw worm spray.

The incisions would heal, leaving a sterile male pig- hog.

**Complications:** the testis can go proximally and get lost within the body cavity if it is not held steady. Because the wound is left open, the animal is still at risk for secondary infection and should be monitored. If the blood vessels were not totally ligated by the square knot, haemorrhaging could occur.