

BARNES DEHORNERS

Barnes dehorners remove the horns by cutting them off and are useful in calves from 2 months to 1 year of age. The dehorners come in several sizes, so it is important to select a size big enough to remove the horn and a 1/4 – 1/2 inch circle of skin at the base of the horn. Place the Barnes dehorner so the widest part of the cutting blade is aligned with the widest part of the base of the horn. Close the handles of the instrument and place it on the calf's horn. Dehorning is completed by pressing the instrument firmly against the calf's head and quickly opening the handles of the dehorner. A twisting motion, when the handles are nearly completely opened, assures a complete cut through the skin.

CONSIDERATIONS

- It's a bloody procedure. Haemostat may be used to pull the artery at the base of the horn and cause blood stasis. The hot iron can also be used to cauterize the artery and stop bleeding as well.
- Painful if nerves aren't blocked properly; the animal may react violently which poses risk of injury to the animal and handler.
- It may cause a hole in the frontal sinus of calves over 2 months of age. The wound will heal more slowly and will be at a greater risk of becoming infected.



Figure 1 showing base of horn removed with 1/4 inch of skin



Figure 2 showing ligation of blood vessels with haemostat



Figure 3 showing cauterization of blood vessels