***Keystone dehorner***

**Technique**

A large cutting instrument is the guillotine or Keystone-type dehorner, which has two opposing blades that cut the horn when brought together by two long handles. These are used on large heifers, cows, and smaller bulls. Room is needed to accommodate the handles. After the animal’s head is secured, the blades are set far apart and pushed to the base of the topmost horn, allowing removal also of a half inch of surrounding skin. The handles are pulled sharply together to cut the horn. If the horns are so large that the operator cannot close the handles easily, separating the handles slightly and rotating the blades a bit before pulling the handles together again can help complete the cut. Ideally, the head can be turned and the other side properly cut in like manner. Pulling the arteries achieves haemostasis if the cuts are done well. If the arteries cannot be pulled, a tourniquet around the base of the horns and across the poll will usually suffice. Baler twine, large rubber bands, canning jar rubbers, and cut pieces of inner tube have been used as tourniquet material. With twine, another piece of twine across the top of the poll drawing the circle tighter may be necessary. Caution the owner to remove the tourniquet in a few days, because it can keep drawing together and get hidden if ignored, creating a non-healing wound until it is removed.

**Advantages**

* Can be used in older cattle with large horns.

**Disadvantages**

* Greater risk of exposed sinus, infection and blood loss
* painful
* may lead to set-backs in overall health and performance, including weight loss
* requires follow-up care
* poses risk of injury to the animal and handler.