|  |
| --- |
| **POST – OPERATIVE CONSIDERATIONS AFTER DISBUDDING** |
| **Disbudding Tools**   1. Caustic Paste 2. Hot Iron Dehorner 3. Tube/Spoon Dehorner |
| **Complications**  **Hot Iron Dehorner:** If the hot iron used to disbud the animals is held on the animal's head for too long of a period, brain damage such as thermal meningitis or cerebral malacia can occur.  \* If the hot iron used to disbud is not held to the head long enough, scurs can form.  Scurs occur when the horn tissue is not properly burned off during disbudding and the horns continue to grow.  \*Scurs appears unsightly and if the farmer takes too long to inform the vet, the scurs will start to grow back towards the animal’s head, which can further harm the animal. This occurs in goats    **Caustic Paste:** Causes damage to eyes and skin burns and irritation.  **Tube/Spoon Dehorner:**  Infections due to open wound, sinusitis, myiasis, tetanus  **Infection to the site of disbudding following any of the disbudding methods.** |
| **Considerations**  Diseases can be spread from animal to animal on disbudding equipment contaminated with blood. Enzootic bovine leucosis virus and the wart virus are two examples. It is essential to disinfect the dehorning tools especially those that leave open wounds. |
| **Behavioral Indications For Follow Up Treatment**  Postoperative indicators of pain include head rubbing, head shaking, neck extension, ear flicking, tail flicking, and reduced rumination. |
| **Aftercare Treatment**  For the prevention of:  Hemorrhaging- After surgery animals should be observed for excessive bleeding (bleeding should not persist for over 30 minutes after dehorning. Cauterization can be done to stop the bleeding.  Fly strike- Wound dressing and fly repellant can then be added to the dehorning site.  Tetanus- The kid should be given tetanus antitoxin when disbudded. Even though kids should be vaccinated for the disease post dehorning treatment is recommended.  Sinusitis -The sinuses should be properly drained and flush using hydrogen peroxide.  Calves, kids and lambs require careful observation and monitoring over a two week period. If signs of pain persist an Anti-inflammatory such as Banamine can be administer. If the animals acquire a fever/ infection an antipyretic along with a broad spectrum systemic antibiotic can be administered. |