

Disbudding and Dehorning in Kids/Goats

It should be noted that dehorning/disbudding in goats/kids is a slightly different procedure, beginning with the nerve block performed. Unlike cattle, the cornual nerve block in kids/goats is done in two places, namely the cornual branch of the lacrimal/zygomatico-temporal nerve and the cornual branch of the infratrochlear nerve. Kids are confined in a disbudding holding box, and goats are sedated with combinations of xylazine at 0.22 mg/kg of xylazine IM followed 10 minutes later with 11 mg/kg of ketamine IM. In kids, 1 to 2 ml of 2% lidocaine solution is injected into each of the two nerve branches and a Gigli or obstetric wire is used to remove the horn at its base, including a circle of skin completely surrounding the base of the horn. This allows you to make a cut that follows the curvature of the skull thereby decreasing the chances of entering the brain cavity. Make sure you remove at least a thin strip of skin from all around the base. If any of this germinal tissue remains, it will produce scurs. Scurs occur when the horn tissue isn't properly burned off during disbudding and the horns continue to grow. Normally they don't cause any problems, other than looking unsightly. Occasionally the scurs will start to grow back towards the goat's head, which could harm the goat. Like a full horn, a scur contains a lot of blood vessels and you may have a bloody mess. In removing the horn, you will cut several arteries that run within the bone itself. Grasp these arteries with a forceps and pull them until they break off inside the bone. The clot that forms will prevent further bleeding. You will have created a hole into the frontal sinus. Cover or plug the hole with clean gauze that is changed daily until the wound heals. Daily sprays of TopazoneTM (or another antibiotic spray/topical) are also indicated, especially for the first week or so. This hole will require a long time to heal shut, but eventually it will fill with bone and be covered with skin. For this reason, dehorning is best done soon after the fly season is over to prevent fly maggots from appearing on the wound or in the sinus.

Tetanus prophylaxis is also given against the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*, whose spores can enter the body through wounds following castration, ear tagging, disbudding, kidding, etc., resulting in signs of the disease 4 to 21 days later. All adult goats should be vaccinated with a tetanus toxoid prior to performing a dehorning procedure. A booster of this vaccine should be given at the time of dehorning. Tetanus toxoid vaccines should also be considered in kids when they are disbudded at older ages. If the vaccination status of the animal is not known, then tetanus antitoxin should be administered at the time of disbudding/dehorning (250 IU should be given to kids and 500 IU should be given to adults).

<https://www.weedemandreap.com/how-disbud-dehorn-baby-goat/>

<https://104homestead.com/pros-cons-disbudding-goat/>

http://www.goatwisdom.com/ch1baby_care/dehorning.html

<https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/vaccinating-goats-against-enterotoxemia-and-tetanus-is-it-necessary>