**DISBUDDING/DEHORNING GOATS**

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| **Method** | **Advantages** | **Disadvantages** |
| Hot iron/cauterization | - Fast and easy to use once trained - Cannot be rubbed off - Pain can be significantly reduced by the use of analgesics | - Requires training to apply correctly and consistently - Potential to overheat the brain and cause damage or death (Thermal meningitis) |
| Disbudding paste | - Simple to use  - Less acute pain - Pain can be reduced with the use of analgesics | - Can rub off onto other goats or other parts of the body, causing unintended burns  - Can burn the eye and surrounding tissue - Animal cannot be exposed to rain/water  - Often results in scurs (little, deformed horns)  - Can only be used in young animals |
| Obstetrical or Embryotomy Wire Dehorning | - Can be used to remove horns in older animals  - Can be used on odd shaped horns | - Greater risk of exposed sinus, infection and blood loss  - Painful  - May lead to set-backs in overall health and performance, including weight loss  - Longer post-op care  - Risk of injury to the animal and handler |
| Rubber bands | - Not invasive, bloodless | - Painful. Takes weeks for horn to fall off.  - Set-backs in overall health and performance  - As they fall off they may leave scurs |

References

1. Inc. H. Obstetrical Wire Dehorning | Embryotomy Wire Dehorning [Internet]. Dehorning.com. 2018 [cited 30 September 2018]. Available from: http://www.dehorning.com/dehorning-methods/obstetrical-or-embryotomy-wire-dehorning
2. Make disbudding less painful for everyone – Ontario Goat [Internet]. Ontariogoat.ca. 2018 [cited 30 September 2018]. Available from: https://ontariogoat.ca/goat-gazette/make-disbudding-less-painful-for-everyone/