**Procedure for Disbudding Using a Hot Iron**

1. Preheat the dehorning iron to a red colour.
2. The hair surrounding the horn is clipped, to ensure there is adequate contact between the iron and skin. (1cm of skin surrounding the base of the horn bud is heated to ensure all germinal cells are killed)
3. Hold the calf's ear out of the way to keep it from being burned.
4. Place the tip of the iron over the horn bud and apply pressure, for 15 second intervals\*\*
5. The disbudding process is complete when there is a copper-coloured ring all the way around the base of the horn. The horn bud or button will slough off in 4 to 6 weeks.

\*\*Do not leave the dehorner in place for much longer, especially in young calves. If held for too long, heat can be transferred through the thin bones of the skull and cause a thermal meningitis.