

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING

SOP No:	ATT 034
SUBJECT:	Castration of Cattle
POLICY:	This procedure may only be performed by operators skilled in the technique. If calf is older than 6 months this procedure may only be performed by registered veterinarians.
PRECAUTIONS:	Proper restraining facilities limiting animal movement are required to ensure operator's safety and speediness of the procedure
EQUIPMENT:	Scalpel blades Triple crush emasculators Lignocaine 2% 18G Needles 10ml Syringes Fly Strike Powder
PROCEDURE:	Calves should be restrained by using a calf marking cradle or standard cattle crush. Examination of the external reproductive organs is essential to confirm that both testicles have descended. If the calves are older than 6 months it is mandatory to use local anaesthesia as a subcutaneously injection in the scrotum using between 2-3 ml of Lignocaine 2%. Additionally, each testicle is injected with 5 ml of Lignocaine 2%. There are three alternatives to make the incision on the scrotum and expose the testicles: (a) total removal of the bottom part of scrotum (about 2 cm) (b) 2 ventrolateral incisions of the scrotum to expose each testicle individually and (c) 2 incisions on the caudal surface of the scrotum. Make sure the incision through the scrotal wall and through the vaginal tunic (the thick fibrous capsule or inner bag surrounding the testicle) is long enough to allow the testicle to be easily squeezed through the incision, and to allow good post-operative drainage. Pull the testicle from the incision hole by wrapping fingers around the testicle and the spermatic cord. Cut through the white fibrous vaginal tunic close to the incision opening, freeing the cut fibrous tissue and testicle with epididymis attached. Remove one testicle at a time by using a triple crush emasculator and check for any excessive bleeding.
RECOMMENDATIONS:	Antiseptic, insecticide, and/or insect repellent preparations should be considered as a postoperative measure. Animal should be checked daily to detect any signs of skin bacterial contamination or fly strike.
DATE ISSUED:	24.06.2009
REVISED:	

REFERENCES

- 1. Newman R. 2007. Branding, Castrating and Dehorning – A guide to best practice in beef Turner A.S. 1989. Techniques in Large Animal Surgery. Lea & Febiger. Page 289**
- 2. Cattle Meat & Livestock Australia Limited. Pages 8-15**