

## ALTERNATIVE METHOD

at all ages

### Surgical castration

#### Equipment

- Scalpel or Newberry knife
- Emasculator (optional for young calves)

#### Method

This method can only be used by adequately trained staff.

This method results in the complete removal of both testicles. It is a safe method of castration when performed on a young calf. Risk of complications, such as bleeding and infection, increase with age.

The pain is very acute. It is strongly recommended to use this method in young calves along with the use of pain killers and/or local anesthesia.

## ALTERNATIVE METHOD

for calves over one month old

### Burdizzo emasculatome

#### Equipment

Burdizzo emasculatome in good working condition.

#### Method

The spermatic cord of each testicle must be clamped separately, at a slightly different height, and for a long enough period of time.

Spermatic cord crushing must be performed just above the testicles and not near the abdomen.

The method is difficult to perform. Failures are frequent with this castration method, as there can be revascularization of the testicle. In such case, the animal will develop a masculine conformation.

The pain is acute and the use of pain killers and/or local anesthesia is strongly recommended.

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# Castration



Use of proper methods at the right time by competent staff and with proper equipment

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With the objective of promoting animal welfare The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle contains requirements and recommended practices that apply to castration. This commonly performed procedure is likely to cause pain and stress to cattle.

The Code of Practice recommends castration of bull calves at an early age. Herd management practices should aim to perform castration approximately before three weeks of age. In the event that castration has been poorly performed or has not been performed at an early age, resumption of intervention for an older animal is desirable, but should be carried out by competent staff. Proper pain control becomes necessary. In the absence of competent staff, a veterinarian should be consulted.

Field studies have shown that castration of older calves have greater negative impacts on the average daily gain as compared to when the procedure is performed at an early age.

### Code of Practice Requirements

- Castrate calves as young as practically possible using appropriate equipment and accepted techniques.
- Use pain control, in consultation with your veterinarian, when castrating bulls older than six months of age.

## RECOMMENDED METHOD for calves aged 0 to 3 weeks

### Rubber rings

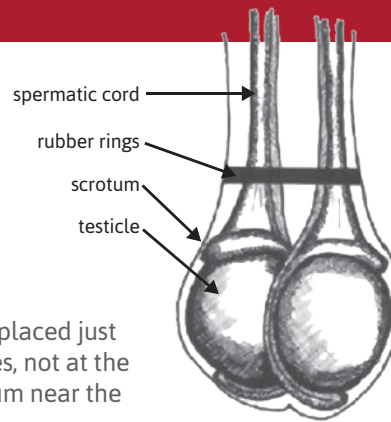
#### Equipment

- Rubber rings, Elastrator or Callicrate Wee Bander type
- Clamps adapted to the rubber ring chosen

#### Method

Pull both testicles down into the scrotum.

With the prongs of the clamp facing up (elastrator), stretch the ring open. Slide the stretched elastic ring up over the scrotum just above the top of the testicles.



The ring must be placed just above the testicles, not at the base of the scrotum near the belly wall.

Verify the location of the ring with regard to the testicles. Both testicles must be palpated and below the elastic ring. If only one testicle can be palpated below the elastic ring, the ring must be cut off and a new one should be applied properly.

Rubber rings must be fully elastic to adequately compress the spermatic cord's blood vessels. Rings may need to be renewed after one year of shelf life particularly if they were not stored in a sealed container and away from the sun.

Pain seems to go away after one week and the use of a pain killer just before the operation is strongly recommended.

The Feeder Calf Specialized Auctions Circuit will return to the farm any animals that show signs of infection following castration. Some of the following methods can require up to 60 days to achieve complete healing required for marketing.

## ALTERNATIVE METHOD for calves less than 6 months old

### Rubber bands

#### Equipment

Rubber bands and appropriate applicators for the selected rubber band: Callicrate Bander, Callicrate Pro Bander, California Bander, XL Castrator, XL Bander, Tri-Bander, T1 Bander, EZE Bloodless Castrator



It is very important to follow the manufacturers' recommendations regarding minimum and maximum weight of the animal to be castrated with the selected equipment.

### Method

After ensuring that both testicles are descended within the scrotum, the band must be applied just above the testicles. Avoid applying rubber bands near the belly wall.

Tetanus vaccination should have been given at least two weeks before castration so that it is in effect when the rubber bands are applied. This type of vaccine requires a booster dose at the time of castration.

This alternative method can be used when it is impossible to perform the castration at a younger age.

The risk of complications occur later, when the rubber band cut through the dead skin, approximately 17 to 21 days after rubber band application.

The resultant pain is chronic and therefore difficult to alleviate, and reaches its peak approximately 28 days after rubber band application. Studies (Stookey, J.M., 2001) have shown that loss of performance is also chronic.

The trauma and pain caused by castration increase as the animal gets older.

### Reference

National Farm Animal Care Council. *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle*. 2013. [www.nfacc.ca](http://www.nfacc.ca)

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