

# Section 4 **Emergencies and simple operations**

## **9 Emergencies and first aid**

In an emergency give the best treatment you can **immediately**. You may not have time to get skilled help straight away but it is a good idea to get skilled help as soon as you can. Some emergency treatments are difficult to do well, such as stitching large wounds. After you have treated an emergency a skilled worker can still check what you have done and help you with more difficult treatment if it is needed.

**THESE PROBLEMS NEED EMERGENCY TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY:**

### **Breathing has stopped**

If an animal is not breathing start treating it immediately.

#### **EMERGENCY TREATMENT**

- Look in the mouth. Remove anything that stops the air getting in.
- Put the animal's neck straight out.



- Make the animal breathe by pushing on the chest or blow into its mouth. Do this about ten times a minute.



When an animal has a bad accident, such as being hit by a truck, and is badly injured the first thing to do is to make sure it can breathe.

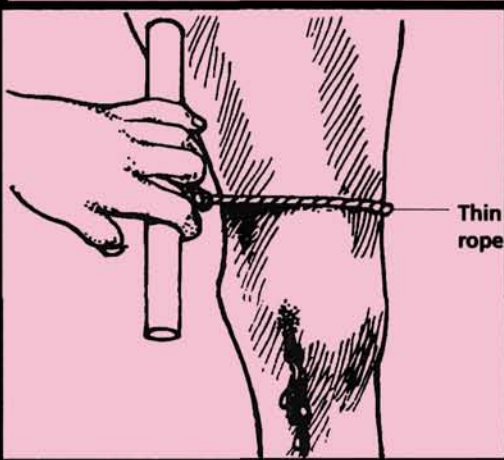
## Bleeding

Stop severe bleeding as soon as possible. A small amount of bleeding is not a problem and the flow of blood may help to clear away infection but if an animal continues bleeding for more than a few minutes or loses a lot of blood it will need emergency treatment.

### *How to stop bleeding from a wound*

#### EMERGENCY TREATMENT

- Keep the animal as quiet as possible. Do not let it run around bleeding. Restrain it and do not let people or other animals disturb it. This will lower the blood pressure and help to stop the bleeding.
- Pour clean, cold water over the wound. The cold helps to stop bleeding. If it does not:
  - Press a clean, wet cloth or your hand over the place that is bleeding.
  - Press hard and keep pressing for about a minute.
  - Put pressure over the wound itself or between the wound and the heart.
  - Release the pressure and see if the bleeding has stopped. If it has not, press again. Most bleeding stops after a few minutes.
  - Rarely, severe bleeding from a leg or the tail does not stop. Tie a thin rope above the bleeding. Tighten the rope with a stick through the knot until the bleeding stops. Loosen the rope about every ten minutes to see if the bleeding has stopped. Never leave the rope tight for more than 20 minutes.



## How to stop bleeding inside the body

Animals can bleed inside where you cannot see it. They bleed inside after very severe injuries or when the uterus is damaged after a difficult birth. Animals that bleed inside can lose very much blood and become weak.

### Signs

- They breathe very fast.
- The *mucous membranes* are white.
- Sometimes the animal dies.

### EMERGENCY TREATMENT

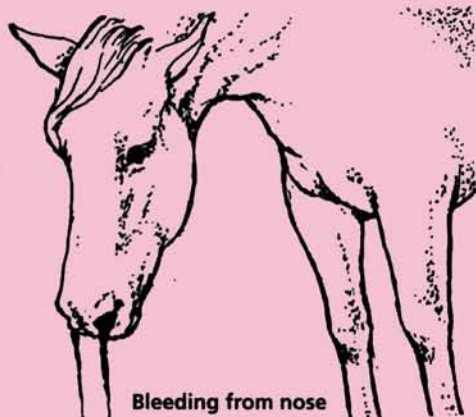
- Let the animal lie down in a quiet place, do not disturb it.
- Give it water to drink. It helps to put a small handful of salt in a bowl of water.
- If the bleeding comes from the vagina or uterus after a difficult birth put a large clean cloth soaked in cold water into the vagina. Take the cloth out after 1–2 days.



Bowl of water with small handful of salt in

Some animals die because they bleed so much inside. Often there is nothing you can do to stop this, but even when an animal loses a lot of blood it is still good for meat when it is dead.

## Bleeding from the nose



Bleeding from nose

Blood coming from the nose happens after severe injury but can also be a sign of infection in the trachea or lungs (p. 128).

### EMERGENCY TREATMENT

- Keep the animal quiet.
- Put cold water over the nose or hold a cold wet cloth over it.

## Other ways to stop bleeding

Some medicines help to stop bleeding. People use aloe plants [*Aloe* species] to stop bleeding. They put clean pieces of the flesh of aloe leaves into deep wounds. Juice from aloes makes veins and arteries contract. People in India put the powdered dry bark of mango trees [*Mangifera indica*] on a wound to soak up blood and to stop bleeding.

Sometimes you can stop bleeding by burning a wound with a hot iron.

Skilled workers sometimes can find an artery that is bleeding and tie it or clamp it to stop it bleeding.

## More about bleeding

Blood coming from *veins* is dark red/black. It usually comes slowly from a wound and stops on its own or is easy to stop. Blood coming from *arteries* is bright red and sometimes sprays out fast from a wound. Bleeding stops naturally when blood clots and because broken arteries and veins close themselves off. As an animal loses a lot of blood its *blood pressure* falls and bleeding slows down but it may not stop. Animals can lose a lot of blood and still survive.

Blood in the milk is usually a sign of an infection of the *udder* (p. 244).

## Choking

When something is stuck in the *oesophagus* an animal may need EMERGENCY TREATMENT, see *choke* (p. 228).

## Collapse or shock

When an animal loses a large amount of blood or suffers much *stress*, for example from poisoning, severe injury or burns, it may collapse and become very weak or unconscious. This is called 'shock'.

### Signs

- An animal with shock usually has pale *mucous membranes*.
- It breathes very fast, and the heart beats very fast.
- The body temperature is below normal.

### EMERGENCY TREATMENT

- Look for signs of bleeding – from the skin or inside the animal – and control any bleeding you find (p. 66).
- Keep the animal quiet, keep people and other animals away from it.
- Shelter it from the hot sun but keep it warm.

These signs are very serious and skilled workers give large injections of fluids into a vein to help save the animal.

# Poisoning

Poisoning can be very severe and will need EMERGENCY TREATMENT. See Treatment for poisoning (p. 302).

## Wounds

### *What to do about wounds*

- Stop any bleeding (p. 66).
- Clean the wound. Clean wounds will heal. Wounds with infection will not. Clip hair or wool away from the edges of the wound. Wash the wound. Use plenty of clean water.



Boil the water first and let it cool. It helps to add salt or mild antiseptic (p. 324) to the water. Dry the wound with a clean cloth.



- Put a wound dressing or antibiotic powder on the wound (p. 324). Wounds can let infection get into an animal's body and that makes the animal sick. Some diseases, such as *tetanus* (p. 263), get in through wounds. When there are many flies use a wound dressing that repels flies or kills fly eggs and larvae (p. 326).
- Encourage wounds to drain and pus to come out. Pus is made up of dead white blood cells that have killed microbes. It must come out of the body for the animal to recover.

If a wound does not heal and becomes black and smells bad, cut away the dead flesh. Wash the wound with antiseptic and treat the wound with antibiotic powder.

## How to bandage wounds

- If the wound is in a place that will stay clean, leave it open to the air and it will heal faster. Leave wounds open if possible but you may need to cover a wound to keep it clean.
- Put a piece of clean cloth directly onto the wound.
- To make a piece of cloth clean to put on a wound, boil it then dry it in the sun somewhere where it will not get dusty.
- Hold the piece of cloth on the wound with clean bandages or strips of cloth.

Piece of cloth to be boiled in water



Dry the cloth in the sun.



Place the cloth on the wound then bandage over it.

## WARNING

Be careful a bandage is not so tight it stops blood flowing, for example, into a leg. Take the bandage off every day or two to check the wound for infection and put a clean bandage back on. If the bandage becomes wet and dirty replace it with a clean one.

## How to stitch wounds

If a wound is very wide you may need to stitch it. To find out if a wound needs stitches see if the edges come together by themselves or you think the edges will come together as the wound heals naturally. If the edges will not come together you may need to stitch the wound.

Be aware that the animal will be in pain and you will have to hold it securely before you stitch a wound. Skilled workers often use local anaesthetics (p. 348) to stop pain.

If a wound is deep but the edges come together it is best not to stitch it. Especially if the wound is infected, leave it open so that pus and liquid can drain out of it. Wounds made by the bites of other animals are often deep and infected, do not stitch them.

If you decide to stitch a wound, do it before the wound is 12 hours old. Fresh wounds heal better. **Do not stitch old infected wounds.**

If an old wound is not healing and you need to stitch it you must first clean away infection. This is difficult and you may need skilled help. First cut away any scabs and dead flesh. Dead flesh is usually grey/brown. Cut until you see clean pink/red flesh with some clean blood coming from it, then stitch the wound.

*To stitch a wound:*

- It is best to use special nylon stitching material (*suture*). If you do not have this, use thin thread or fishing line. Make sure the material and needle are *sterile*. To sterilise things boil them for 20 minutes and let them cool or put them in strong disinfectant, such as alcohol, for 20–30 minutes (p. 325). To stitch deep flesh you need special stitching material, for example 'catgut', that the body will absorb and you will not have to remove.
- The wound must be clean. Shave wool or hair around the wound. Wash away any hairs that get in the wound with clean water or antiseptic (p. 324). Wash your hands very well with water and soap.
- If the skin you are stitching is very bruised and torn it may not heal properly. Cut away badly damaged skin and stitch through healthy skin.
- Make the first stitch across the middle of the wound, then make enough stitches to close the whole wound but leave a small gap at the lowest end to let pus drain away if the wound becomes infected while it heals.
- Stitch the edges of the wound together with stitches like one of these:



Try to bring the edges of the wound together.



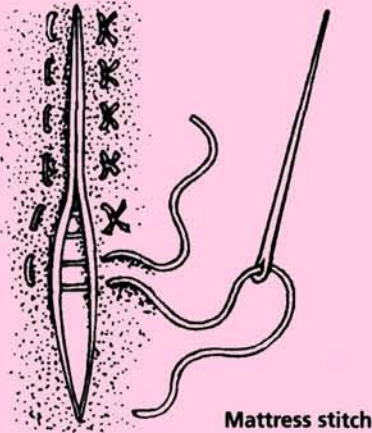
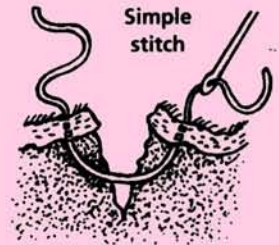
Cut away scabs and dead flesh round the wound.

### Simple stitch

Push the needle through both edges of the wound and tie the knot to one side of the wound.

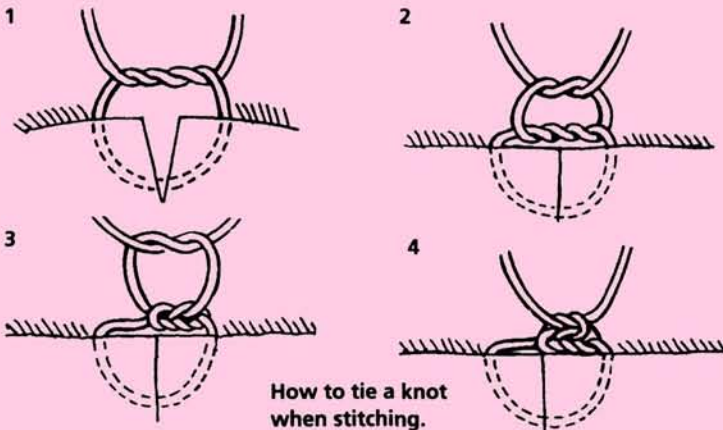
### Mattress stitch

Push the needle through both edges of the wound then back again and tie the knot on one side. This is a very strong stitch. It is good for animals with thick skin and large wounds.



- Tie a good knot like this:

Do not tie the edges of the wound too tightly together. Skin swells as it heals and the stitches will become tighter. To stitch animals with thick skin it helps to use pliers or forceps to hold the needle. Always disinfect the tool as well as the stitch material and the needle.



- After you have stitched a wound, wash away any blood and put on a wound dressing (p. 324).

Check to see that wounds are healing every day. If the wound becomes very infected, remove the stitches, wash the wound and leave it open to drain.

Take out stitches after 10–14 days, when you think the edges of the wound have healed together. Cut through the stitches with a very sharp knife (or scissors) near the knot and pull on the knot.



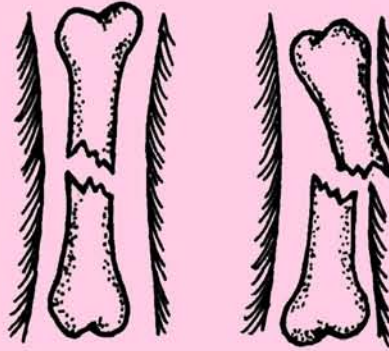


## Burns

- Wash the burnt place with lots of clean, cold water as soon as possible.
- Wash with mild antiseptic (p. 324).
- Put on a wound dressing (p. 326) to kill fly eggs and infection. If the burn is large or severe give an antibiotic injection (p. 328) to prevent infection.
- Check the burn every 2–3 days. Keep the part that has been burnt clean to stop infection. If there is a lot of pus because of infection, wash the burnt place and put on more dressing.

## Broken bones

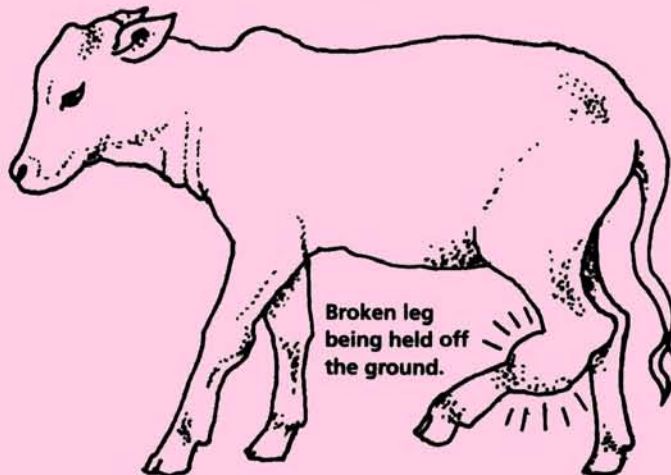
Sometimes a leg looks broken and occasionally bone even sticks out through the skin but it is not always easy to tell if a bone is broken.



**Broken bone comes through the skin.**

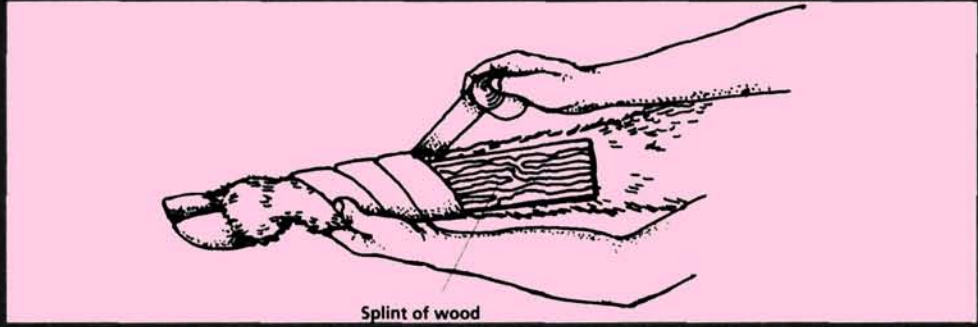
### **Signs**

- The animal is suddenly lame and cannot walk normally. It usually holds a broken leg off the ground and does not put any weight on that leg.
- There is swelling around the break and often you can feel the broken ends of the bone touching each other. You can hear a grinding noise as the broken ends touch.



## EMERGENCY TREATMENT

- Keep the animal quiet and stop it moving around.
- Stop any bleeding (p. 66).
- If the bone has come through the skin clean the wound (p. 69) and give antibiotic by injection (p. 328).
- Arrange the leg so that the broken ends of the bone touch in their normal position as nearly as you can.
- Use a piece of wood – a splint – tied to the leg so that the bones stay in position.



People fix broken bones in place in many ways. In Pakistan people use strips of cloth dipped in mud and egg white. In Mali people tie the bark from a tree around the leg. In Kenya they use the raw skin of a goat. As the skin dries it shrinks and becomes hard, holding the broken bones in place.



Cloth dipped in mud and egg white - Pakistan



Raw skin of goat - Kenya



Tree bark - Mali

However you hold the bones in place, check every day that the fixing is not too tight. Feel the leg further down and if it is cold or very swollen, loosen the fixing and carefully tighten it again but **keep the leg in the same position**.

Leave the fixing on, to hold the bones in place, for at least 10–14 days for a young animal or 3–4 weeks for an adult animal.

It is only possible to put a splint on bones low down the leg. When a bone breaks high up in the leg or a large animal breaks a large bone it is usually best to kill the animal for meat. Even a bone high up in the leg might heal, though, if you can keep the animal rested for as long as possible.

# Dislocated joints

Sometimes the joint between bones is damaged. The bones do not join together normally even though they are not broken.

You can often feel when a joint has been dislocated.



**EMERGENCY TREATMENT**  
Keep the animal quiet in an enclosure. Then rest the animal until it recovers.

# Broken horns

Broken horns can bleed severely.

**EMERGENCY TREATMENT**

- Stop bleeding by:
  - a) tying a thin rope around the base of the horn or
  - b) by pressing a clean cloth onto the wound or
  - c) putting a hot iron onto the wound.

The image contains three diagrams labeled a), b), and c). Diagram a) shows a cow's head with a rope tied around the base of its horn. Diagram b) shows a hand pressing a cloth against the base of a broken horn. Diagram c) shows a hand holding a hot iron over a fire, with the iron being used to cauterize the base of a broken horn.

- Cut the damaged horn off the same way you would take off a healthy horn (p. 83).
- If a horn is broken near the end and there is little or no bleeding, file it smooth with a rasp or a knife.

## Colic – severe pain in the abdomen (horses especially)

An animal that is very distressed by severe pain in the abdomen (colic) needs **EMERGENCY TREATMENT** or urgent attention (see page 218).



A young horse with colic

## Sudden swellings and lumps

These may need **EMERGENCY TREATMENT** or urgent attention (see page 186).

## Prolapsed uterus

Sometimes the whole uterus comes out through the vagina. **THIS IS AN EMERGENCY. START TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY.**

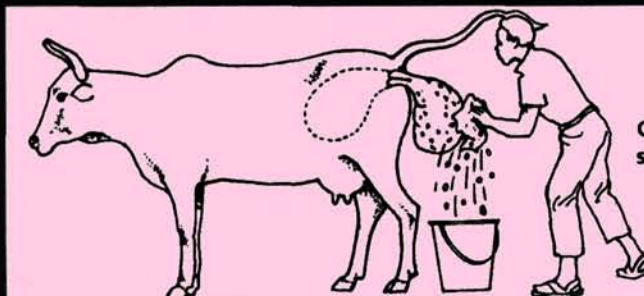
It is dangerous for an animal and difficult to put back. Get skilled help if you can. This happens to cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and occasionally other animals. It usually happens to old animals that had large babies and animals that had difficulty giving birth.

### Signs

A few hours after an animal gives birth a very large swelling – the uterus – comes out through the vulva. You can often see parts of the placenta stuck to the uterus.

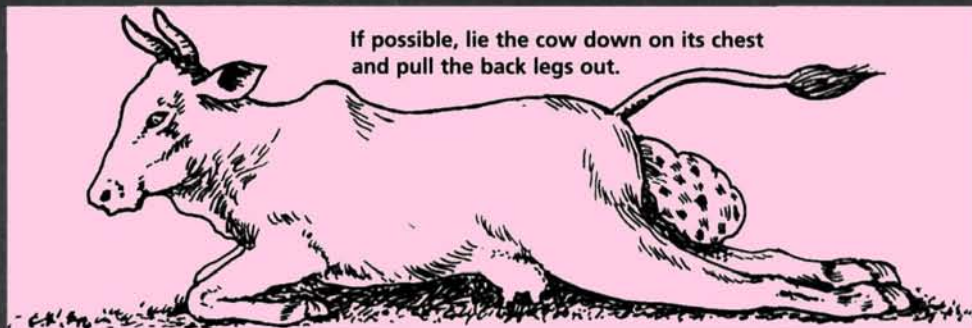
### EMERGENCY TREATMENT

- Hold the animal to stop it running away. Keep dogs and chickens away from the animal. Give her clean water to drink.
- Clean the uterus with water or with soap or antiseptic and water. Keep the uterus off the ground and keep it wet with a large wet cloth.



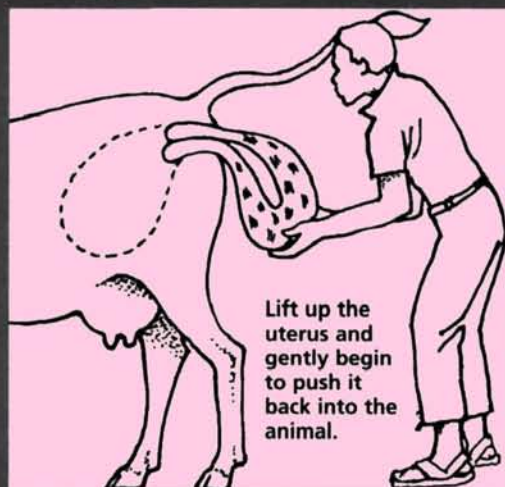
Carefully wash the uterus with soap, water and antiseptic.

- Remove pieces of placenta stuck to the uterus gently by hand if possible.
- Many people put about 1 kg sugar or molasses on the uterus to make it smaller.
- A cow or buffalo has a large uterus. It is heavy and difficult to push back in when she is standing up.

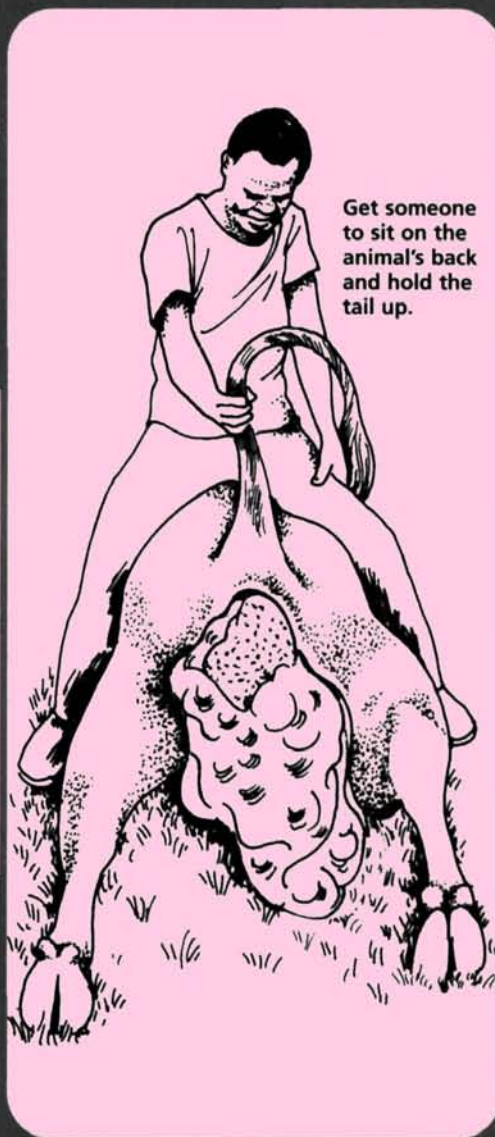


If possible lay the animal down on its chest and pull the back legs out. This makes it much easier to put the uterus back. Get someone to sit on the animal's back and hold the tail up.

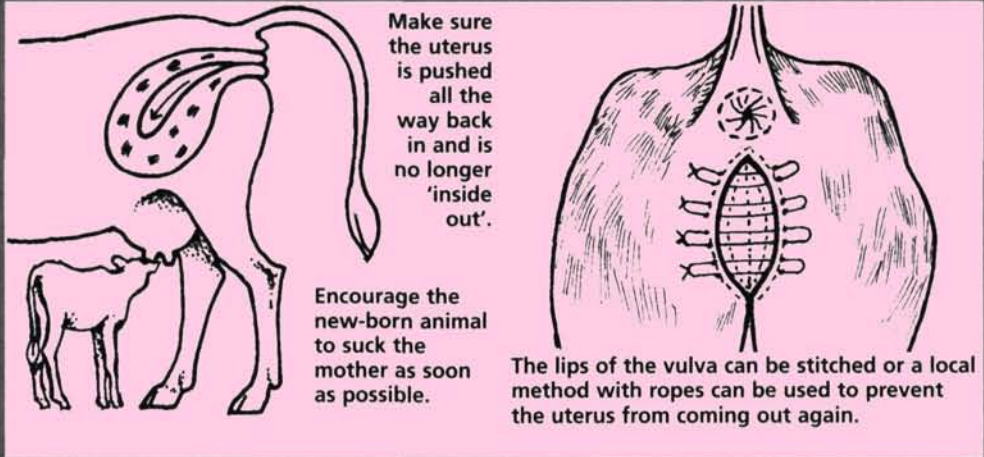
● If the animal is standing up make it stand with its head lower than its tail. Make the uterus slippery with soapy water. Carefully push the uterus back in, starting around the edges.



It is hard work and often takes more than half an hour. When you have pushed it back in make sure the uterus is back in its normal position by pushing with your arm. If your arm is not long enough use the base of a clean bottle.



- Put some antibiotic (p. 350) into the uterus. Give an antibiotic injection as well (p. 328).
- If the animal has been lying down, put her legs into position for her to get up. Encourage her to stand.
- Encourage the new-born animal to suck the mother as soon as possible. This makes the mother release a *hormone* (called *oxytocin*) into her blood that makes the uterus contract. Skilled workers can give oxytocin injections to make the uterus contract.
- Some people stitch or clamp the vulva closed. This sometimes helps to stop the uterus coming out again. Remove the stitches or clamp after 4–5 days.



## Birth difficulties

These may need **EMERGENCY TREATMENT** or urgent attention, sometimes by skilled workers (see page 55).

# 10 Simple operations

Many of these procedures are difficult to do well. Before you do any of them try to get skilled help or more training if you think you need it.

## Castration

Always get a skilled worker to teach you how to castrate animals properly. **Bad castration is distressing and dangerous for an animal.** People castrate animals because it makes animals less aggressive and stops them fighting each other. They are easier to handle. It stops poor quality animals from breeding and stops males mating with immature or closely related females. Castrated animals grow faster and produce higher value meat. The meat from adult male pigs sometimes smells very strong but if you castrate them it does not smell.

It is usually best to castrate animals when they are a few days old – before they are weaned. Young animals recover quickly. But most people do not castrate working animals until they are older so that they develop some male characteristics and more strength. For example, many people do not castrate working oxen until after they have developed their hump.

Try to do castration in a dry season when there are not so many flies.

To castrate older animals get a skilled worker who is properly trained. It is more difficult and dangerous for the animal if you castrate them when they are older.

## **WARNING**

**Do not crush the spermatic cord or the testicles with a hammer or stones. This usually causes the animal much pain and distress. There are safer and better ways to castrate animals.**

### *Castration with a Burdizzo tool*

This is a way to castrate animals with no bleeding. Done properly it is a safe method. There are large Burdizzo tools for cattle and smaller ones for sheep and goats. A Burdizzo tool should not be used for horses, mules, donkeys or camels.

**Cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats** Use a Burdizzo tool (p. 11) on animals 2–3 months old.

- Hold the animal still.
- Squeeze one *testicle* to the end of the *scrotum*. Find the cord that comes from the testicle with your hand and hold the cord close to the skin.
- Put the Burdizzo jaws over the cord 2 cm above the testicle and close the jaws. Do the same thing again 1 cm higher. Then do the same with the other testicle. Make sure not



Hold the animal still like this.



Close the Burdizzo jaws over the cord.

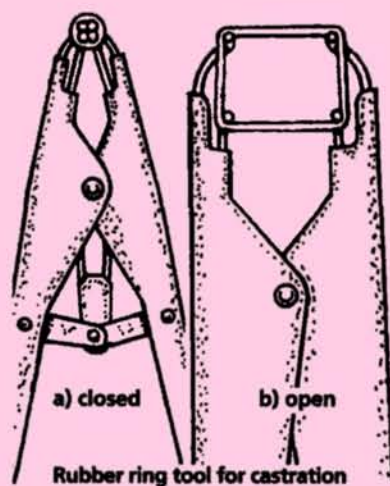
to crush all the way across the scrotum in one line. And **be careful not to crush the penis** at the same time.

- Check after three weeks that the testicles have become smaller.

### *Castration with rubber rings*

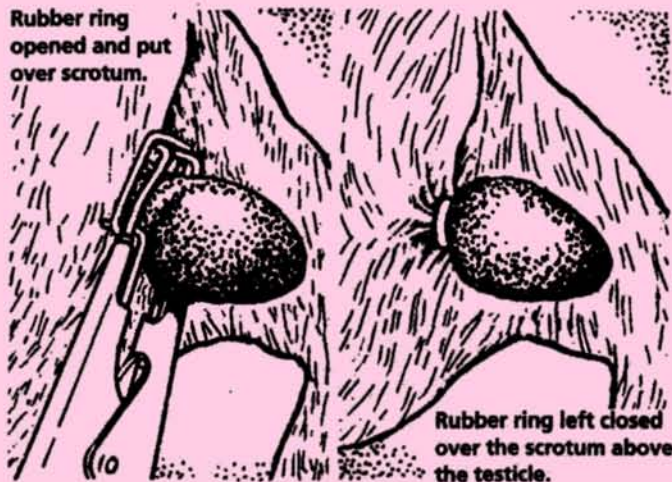
**Sheep and goats** This is a good way to castrate sheep and goats. Some people castrate cattle and buffaloes with rubber rings but the other methods of castration are better for them. Rubber rings are only good for very young animals up to a few days old.

- Hold the animal still (p. 18).
- Squeeze both *testicles* down to the end of the *scrotum*.
- Put the rubber ring over the scrotum with the special tool. Release the tool and leave the rubber ring behind. **Be careful not to get the penis inside the rubber ring.** The scrotum should fall off after about two weeks.



Rubber ring tool for castration

Rubber ring opened and put over scrotum.



Rubber ring left closed over the scrotum above the testicle.



## Castration with a knife

This is a good way for people who are properly trained to castrate older animals.

### Equipment:

- Local anaesthetic with syringe and needle. (Preferable for older animals.)
- Scalpel, very sharp knife or razor blade.
- Clean water. (Preferably hot water with disinfectant (p. 324)).
- Antiseptic or antibiotic powder.
- Sterilise any equipment you use with boiling water (p. 71).

- Get help to hold the animal still (p. 14).
- Check the *scrotum* to see if there is any unusual swelling. If you find a swelling, suspect a *hernia* (p. 188) and **DO NOT CASTRATE THE ANIMAL.**
- Clean your hands and clean the skin of the scrotum. Wash the scrotum clean with soap and water or antiseptic (p. 324).
- Inject local anaesthetic (p. 348).
- Cut across the base of the scrotum on one side.
- Squeeze the *testicle* out through the cut.
- Different methods are used to remove the testicles. See under the animals listed below.
- Leave the wounds open and put antiseptic or antibiotic powder on them.
- After you have castrated an animal check that there is no bleeding from the scrotum after an hour or so and then daily for a few days. Do not worry about a few drops of blood but if there is a lot of bleeding try to stop it (p. 66). The wounds should stay open for a few days to let any pus or liquid come out. If the wounds seal up and there is much swelling, re-open them to allow drainage. If the wounds are infected and there is pus, clean them and wash them out as you would an abscess (p. 186).

**Sheep and goats** Pull steadily on the testicle until the cord breaks. Then do the same with the other testicle.

**Cattle and buffaloes** Pull firmly on the testicle and twist at the same time. Do this until the cord breaks. (Often 10 or more twists are needed.) You can help make the cord break by scraping with the knife.

For older and larger animals skilled workers pull on the cord then clamp it and tie it with a *suture*.

**Horses, mules and donkeys** Castrate horses when they are two months old. People often castrate horses when they are older but get a skilled worker to do this. It is possible to castrate horses until they are 2-3 years old. Castrating animals older than that is complicated and difficult and should only be done by a very skilled worker. Mules do not reproduce but they are sometimes aggressive because of *sex hormones* so people castrate them. Castrate horses, mules or donkeys by cutting with a knife and removing the testicle. Horses get *tetanus* (p. 263) very easily.



Make two cuts through the skin of the scrotum to the testicle with a scalpel.



Squeeze the testicles out through the cuts.



Twist the spermatic cord and pull firmly to break the spermatic cord



Leave the wounds open and put antibiotic powder on them.

To prevent tetanus:

- Wash yourself and the skin around the testicles carefully and use a knife that has been sterilised (p. 71).
- Vaccinate for *tetanus* a month before castration and again on the day of castration.
- Give an antibiotic injection on the day of castration (p. 328).

To castrate a horse:

- Hold the horse securely – skilled workers can give an injection to calm the animal. Make the horse lie down and tie the legs securely. (Some people do castration with the horse standing up.)
- Give a local anaesthetic (p. 348). Inject about 10 ml of anaesthetic on each side of the *scrotum*. Put it in a line just under the skin of the scrotum where you want to make the cuts.
- Inject about 10 ml of local anaesthetic through the skin into the cord as far away from the *testicle* as you can on each side.
- Make a cut each side where you put the local anaesthetic. Cut through to the testicles but not into the shiny white skin that covers them.
- Free the testicles from the scrotum until they are outside but still with the shiny white skin around them. Cut through the shiny skin of one testicle and pull gently on the testicle to free it.
- Tie the whole cord, including the shiny white covering, with absorbable (catgut) stitching material. Tie the cord two or three times to make sure it does not bleed. Cut through the cord. Do this with a red hot iron, or squeeze the cord with a clamp. Then cut it with a knife.
- Do the same with the other testicle

**Camels** Castrate working camels after they are four years old. It needs a skilled worker to do this. Skilled workers often give camels an injection to calm them before they castrate them.

- Make the camel lie down and roll him onto his right side. Protect the right eye. Secure all his legs with rope.
- Inject 20 ml of local anaesthetic into the cord and testicle on each side of the scrotum as you do for horses (above).
- Cut close to the line between the two testicles and pull out the testicle.
- Crush the cord. Tie the cord with absorbable – catgut – stitching material.
- Cut through to the other testicle through the same hole and remove it in the same way.
- Untie the animal's back legs first, roll the camel onto its chest to let it get up. Many people pray when they castrate camels and believe this helps the animal to recover.

**Pigs** Castrate pigs when they are 2–3 weeks old. One person should hold the pig securely with its head down by gripping the pig between the knees. Pigs often have *hernias* (p. 188) in the scrotum.

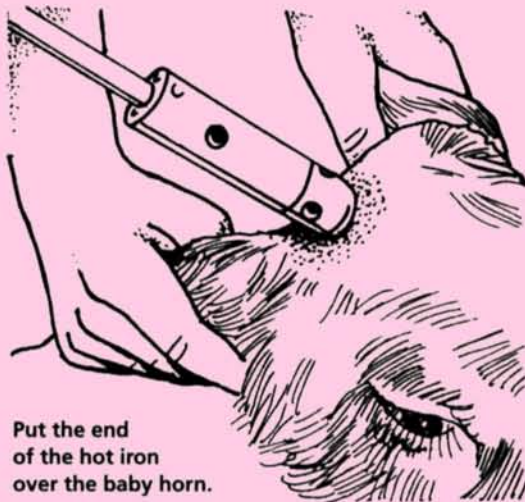
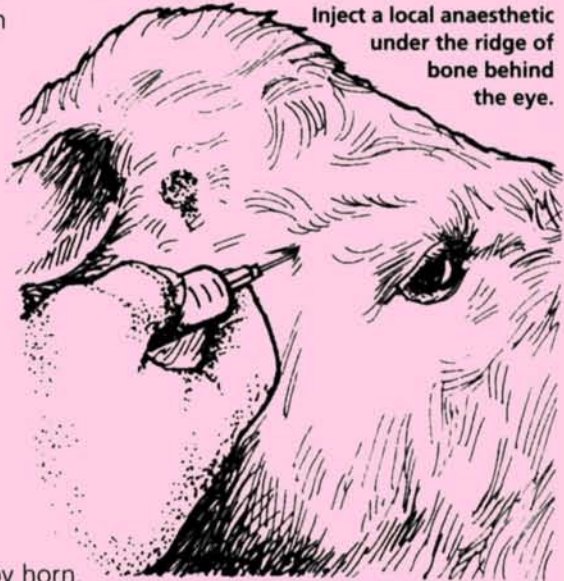
- Squeeze one testicle against the skin and cut through the skin of the scrotum into the testicle.
- Squeeze the testicle out through the cut and pull on it firmly but slowly until the cord breaks.
- Do the same with the other testicle.
- With older pigs, tie the cord off with absorbable – catgut – stitching material as you would for horses.

# How to remove horns

People remove the horns of animals that live close together to stop them damaging other animals. Animals with no horns also need less space at a feeding bowl.

## How to remove horns from young animals

- Remove the small developing horn when the animal is about one week old.
- Use a hot iron with a hollow end that fits over the baby horn. You can heat the iron in a fire but some modern irons are heated by gas.
- If the animal is much more than a week old give the animal a local anaesthetic (p. 348). Inject the anaesthetic about 1–2 cm deep under the ridge of bone just behind the eye. Pull back on the syringe first to check the needle is not in a vein (p. 40).
- Make the iron hot enough to easily burn a black ring on a piece of wood.
- Get someone to help you by holding the animal still.
- Put the end of the hot iron over the baby horn.
- Move the iron round and round for about 15 seconds until the baby horn is loose.
- Scrape the baby horn out completely.

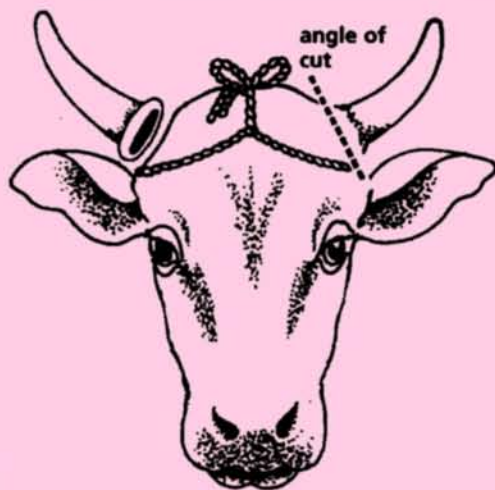


- The heat should seal the wound and stop any bleeding. If there is any bleeding put the iron on again for a few seconds.
- Put on a wound dressing that kills fly eggs (p. 326).

## How to cut horns off adult animals

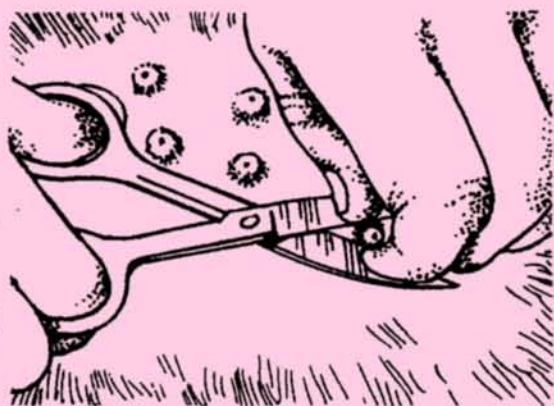
- Tie the animal up securely.
- Inject local anaesthetic (about 10 ml altogether) under the skin around the horn.

- Tie a piece of thin rope round the base of the two horns to stop bleeding and cut the horn near the skin with a saw. To help stop bleeding after you take the horn off, burn the cut surface with a hot iron.
- Put on a wound dressing that kills fly eggs (p. 326).
- Release the rope after a day or two if it has not fallen off.



## How to remove extra teats

Sometimes female animals are born with more teats than normal. Check for this when the new-born animal is a day or two old. Extra teats can get in the way of milking when the animal grows up, and they sometimes get infection. It is useful to remove them. **Be sure you know which is an extra teat** – it is usually smaller and not in line with the others. When the animal is about a week old, pull on the extra teat and cut it off with a sharp knife (or scissors). Put a wound dressing on the cut (p. 324).



## Blocked teats

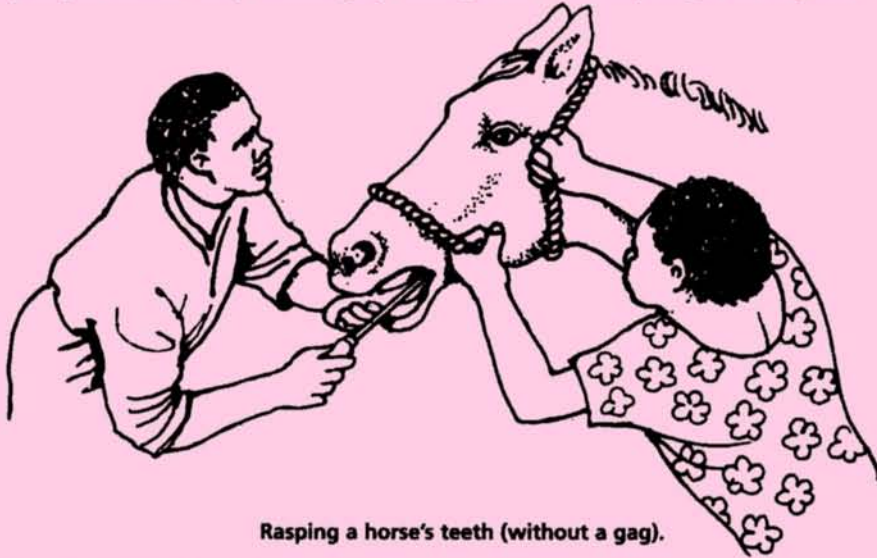
If an animal has milk but the milk will not come out through a teat, you can put a special small tube made of plastic or metal into the end of the teat. This will let the milk come out. Clean the end of the teat and the tube with antiseptic or alcohol. Push the tube into the teat. When the milk has drained out or the udder is recovering pull the tube out. Some people leave the tube in for a few days. Put antibiotics in through the tube if there is an infection in the udder.



## Care of the teeth

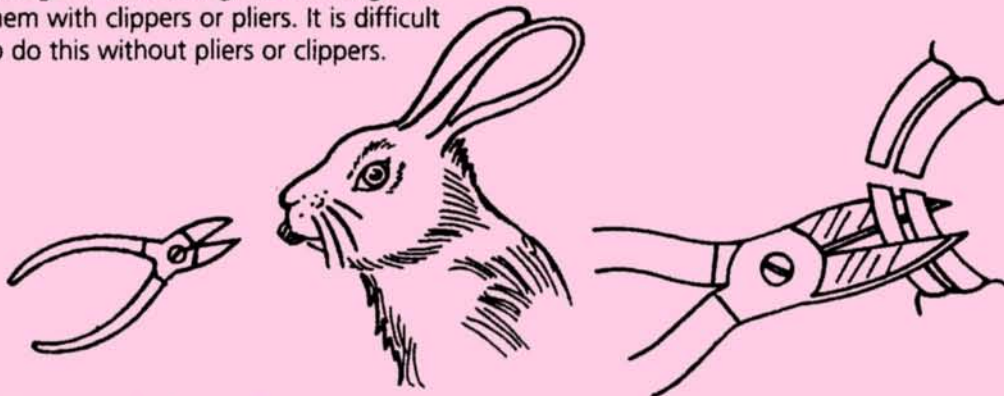
**Horses, mules and donkeys** When these animals eat they grind their teeth down. Sometimes the back teeth have sharp edges on them. These make it difficult for the animal to eat normally. You can grind these sharp edges down with a rasp. It is difficult to do this without a gag.

- Open the mouth and have it held open, preferably with a gag (p. 24).
- Put your hand in to feel the sharp edges and guide a rasp over the teeth and file the sharp edges down. Keep checking by feeling until the sharp edges have gone.



Rasing a horse's teeth (without a gag).

**Rabbits** The rabbit has four front teeth on the upper jaw and two on the lower jaw. The teeth grow all the time. The rabbit usually wears them down as it eats. Sometimes the teeth do not wear down enough. If the teeth grow too long cut them with clippers or pliers. It is difficult to do this without pliers or clippers.

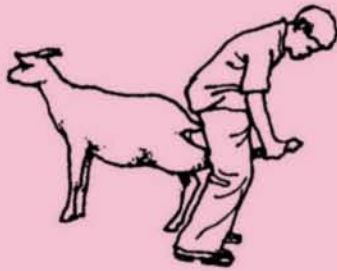


## Care of the feet

Animals' hooves grow all the time but they are worn down by the ground. When the ground is soft, hooves do not wear down as fast as they grow so they become too long. To avoid this it helps to make animals walk on hard, dry ground sometimes. If the hooves become much too long the animal cannot walk properly and the foot easily gets infected.

## How to trim feet

- Hold the animal so you can lift the foot up (p. 14).
- Use a sharp knife to cut off small pieces of hoof until the hoof is a normal shape.



- It is the edges of the hoof that need cutting most. Do not cut too deep, especially over the soft middle part of the foot.
- If the foot bleeds, stop cutting and put antiseptic (p. 324) on the foot.
- If the foot smells or is hot and painful, it is probably infected or has an *abscess* (p. 252).

### Cattle and buffaloes

Hooves that have grown too long look like this (1).  
Cut them so they look like this (2).



Buffalo



Buffalo - trimmed

### Sheep and goats

Hooves that have grown too long look like this (1).  
Cut them so they look like this (2).



Goat



Goat - trimmed

**Camels** A camel's foot is soft underneath and has a pad of fat inside. Keep the toes cut so they are level with the pad. Clean up wounds under the foot and put antiseptic on them (p. 324).

**Horses, mules and donkeys** The middle of the foot should be above the ground when the outside edges are flat on the ground.

When animals often walk on hard ground the hoof wears away faster than it grows so it helps to put a metal shoe on the foot to protect it. You need skilled help to make good shoes and to put them on. Take shoes off, cut the hoof down and put them back on every six weeks.

### Cracked hoofs

If the hoof dries out and cracks, make a cut across the end of the crack to stop it becoming longer.

If the crack is deep, wash it with salt water and put antiseptic (p. 324) in it. Put oil or grease on the foot to keep it moist and stop it cracking. If an animal has shoes, make sure they fit and are changed often enough.

**Rabbits and dogs** Cut the nails with clippers or pliers to keep them short. Do not cut too close or they will bleed.

## WARNING

**Burning on the skin is NOT a good way to treat infectious diseases or worms. It will not help the animal to recover. It distresses animals. There are better treatments and more useful things to do to help recovery (p. 140).**

## Burning and branding

People burn marks onto animals with hot irons for many different reasons.

- Burning is a useful way to stop a wound bleeding (p. 68).
- It is a good way to stop young animals' horns from growing (p. 83).

## How to kill animals to eat

People often have religious rules about how they kill animals for food. In many places only specially trained people are allowed to kill animals. **Respect the traditions of others.**

- When you kill an animal for meat, cut across the neck so that you cut through the large blood vessels and the blood drains out. Hang the animal up to make it easier for the blood to drain out.
- Keep the place where you kill animals for meat separate from where you keep animals. Put a fence around it to keep people, dogs and other animals away.
- Keep flies off the meat.
- Wash your hands before and after you cut animals up for meat.

Where to cut at the neck to kill an animal

