

The lowdown on bloodless castration

WHEN it comes time to castrate cattle, there are many options. Here, TechniPharm explains castrating using its Triband and EZE castrator systems.



1 It's important to pick the right timeframe – a dry spell is preferred and if possible it shouldn't be too hot. Before castrating, ideally 14 days ahead, a five-in-one injection should be given. Ensure all the tools are ready to go on the day. Triband Green should be used for calves up to 180 kilograms and the EZE Castrator for larger animals. Ensure the rings are fresh – old and perished rings should not be used.



2 Ideally, a crush or calcrate should be used when marking; this calms the animal down and makes work for the handler safer.



3 The ring is pushed with both thumbs onto the prongs and pushed down to the base, then the applicator is opened (unlike a sheep ring applicator). The Triband locks over the centre so it stays open, which frees the hands up for the actual job.



4 The scrotum sack must be milked, relaxing the scrotum and milking down the fatty tissue. This is important because it speeds healing and ensures the ring cuts off all the blood supply and nerve endings.



5 The applicator is moved towards the body (with ring wide open). Ensure both stones (balls) are below the ring. Place the ring as low as possible; if placed high up on the scrotum the wound may not heal properly. Once happy with placement, flick the handle down with one hand and pull the applicator downwards to remove the stones.



6 With the ring placed correctly, the animal is now ready to join the mob, and in 14 to 40 days the scrotum will have dried up or fallen off.



7 For larger animals, use the EZE castrator and not a larger version of the Triband. This is because one cannot stretch a ring forever and expect it to close off properly. The EZE makes its own ring and as such is a safer method for castrating larger bulls. The sack (skin) is also much tougher, so a good "cut off" is needed to stop all the blood supply and nerve endings.



8 Preparation of the scrotum is the same as with the Triband – milk the tissue and fat away first. Once placed, the applicator forks are pulled off the ring and the ring is tightened around the scrotum by the ratchet gun lever. Once the ring is tight, it's crimped off with the internal crimper and the rest of the band is cut with the internal cutter.



9 With good placement of the EZE applicator ring, the clip can be clearly seen and the ring has locked in place. Once the scrotum falls off, the ring and clip will fall off also and eventually decompose.

■ This information is provided courtesy of TechniPharm, visit www.technipharm.com.au or contact (1800) 124 034.

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