

06.05.13

Dear Cattle Standards and Guidelines Writing Group,

There is a pressing need for a simple, efficient and pain free method of castration of cattle, sheep and goats. Neither surgery, Burdizzo crushing, or elastrator rings is stress and pain free, without some form of analgesia.

Effective prolonged analgesia is possible.

The quickest, simplest, safest, most cost effective, and easiest to learn method of castration is elastrator rings. However the problem has been the animals' pain. To quote Stafford & Melloy 2005 "Rubber ring castrated calves assumed various stances & tried all means to reach their testicles to remove the agent of irritation for weeks post castration."

By injecting 5 -15 mls of local anaesthetic (1% or 2% lignocaine with adrenalin) UNDER and BELOW the ring, the procedure can be totally pain free.

I have used both elastrator rings (smaller/younger animals) and the California Bander (larger/older cattle), and have not seen any animal display signs of discomfort. It is essential that the anaesthetic is injected after the ring or bander is correctly applied to effectively trap the anaesthetic within the tissues.

Sincerely,

Leonard Martin