

EXTRA TEAT REMOVAL: CALVES**1. PURPOSE**

To describe the teat removal procedure performed on calves. Teat removal is performed after the disbudding or dehorning procedures to avoid repeat anesthesia.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 Trained and qualified personnel.
- 2.2 Veterinarian

3. MATERIALS

- 3.1 Sharp surgical scissors or large scalpel blade
- 3.2 Alcohol towelette
- 3.3 Aluspray®

4. GENERAL

- 4.1 Appropriate standards of cleanliness and hygiene must always be observed: hands, the calf's environment and the dehorning instruments.
- 4.2 Never leave a sedated or anesthetized animal unattended.
- 4.3 Removal of extra teats eliminates a possible site of infection, since any unused cavity is ideal for bacterial growth and may interfere with the function of milking machines.

5. PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Immediately after dehorning or disbudding (refer to SOPs [DC-308: Dehorning](#)), lift the calf's hind leg that is exposed to identify any extra teats. If in doubt, consult with the Technician or Veterinarian.
- 5.2 If an extra teat is observed pre- or post-dehorning/disbudding, inform the veterinarian.
- 5.3 Carefully inspect the mammary area for any extra teats. (See Figures 4a and b).
- 5.4 After you identify it, roll the teat between your fingers to be sure again; supernumerary teats feel firmer and have very little or no teat cistern.
- 5.5 Clean and disinfect surgical instrument with alcohol towelette or use a sterile surgical blade.
- 5.6 Using sharp scissors cut the teat at the base.
- 5.7 Spray the area with Aluspray.

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Figure 4a: Extra Teat



Figure 4b: Extra Teat

- 5.8 Record the dehorning procedure, and teat removal, extra teats that required removal by veterinarian, and all associated medications/quantities administered, in the treatment logbook.
- 5.9 Calves must be regularly monitored until they have regained full consciousness. (Stable on their feet).
- 5.10 Dispose of needles in the "sharps container" and syringes in the bio-box.
- 5.11 Clean and disinfect all necessary tools and return all medication and instruments to their proper location in the pharmacy.
- 5.12 Ensure that the personnel on the next shift have been informed of the procedure.
- 5.13 Regularly monitor the animal for 1-2 weeks following the procedure for a decrease in appetite, bleeding and infections of their wounds that require treatment.
- 5.14 Report any abnormalities to the Technician/ Herd Manager.
- 5.15 Consult with Veterinarian for any complications.

*** IMPORTANT**

Be sure to remove only extra teats. Removal of a normal teat by mistake would be harmful to the animal.

6. REFERENCES

Physiology and Behaviour. The fascinating world of extra nipples. August 13, 2011. Retrieved from http://heiferinyourtank.typepad.com/theres_a_heifer_in_your_t/2011/08/the-facinating-world-of-extra-nipples.html

Document Status and Revision History

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