

INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH NEWS



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In This Issue:

pp. 1	Letter to Reader
pp. 2	Restraint & Handling of Livestock
pp. 7	New Brochure "Bats and Rabies"

Contributors: Dr. Earle Goodman, Editor. Dr. Leroy Dorminy, Co-Editor.

Dear Reader,

We want to remind you that this will be our last paper version of this newsletter. We are switching to an electronic newsletter available by e-mail. If you would like to continue receiving this free newsletter, please write to us by e-mail at vetbooks@cvmusa.org and let us know an e-mail address where we may continue sending this publication to you. Many internet companies offer e-mail addresses for free (www.yahoo.com). If we do *not* hear from you, your name will be removed from our mailing list, and you will no longer receive the IAHN.

We are posting every new issue of IAHN for free on our website. We are in the process of making available articles from past issues on our website as well. Just go to www.cvmusa.org and click on the link to Education. You will see a full list of the books we sell and on the right you will find a link for IAHN.

We enjoy receiving letters and e-mails from you, so please continue to write to us and let us know how you are involved with animal healthcare or how you are using the information provided in these newsletters. Also, if there is a subject that you would like us to address in an article, please let us know. We welcome suggestions for how to improve the IAHN to make it more relevant for your use.

You may make copies of this newsletter and share it with others, as long as you are giving it away for free. We encourage you to tell your friends about IAHN and share with them how they can sign up to receive this information for free.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leroy Dorminy".

Leroy Dorminy, DVM
Founder of CVM

FEATURE ARTICLE

This month's featured author on restraint is
Dr. Peter Quesenberry

Dr. Pete Quesenberry and his wife Mary have committed themselves to living out their faith as they serve the poor – especially in Asia. With the support and care of CVM, they and their children have lived and worked in Nepal, Laos and Thailand for 25 years. Pete has worked at diverse jobs including training farmers in basic animal health care, writing veterinary textbooks and curriculum, teaching veterinary technicians, as a public health consultant, working as an administrator in various government programs, and serving as regional director for World Concern. Pete and Mary love their work and are passionate about their faith.



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RESTRAINT & HANDLING OF LIVESTOCK

Working with livestock can be dangerous. However, livestock that are treated gently and handled frequently from the time they are babies are usually more tame.

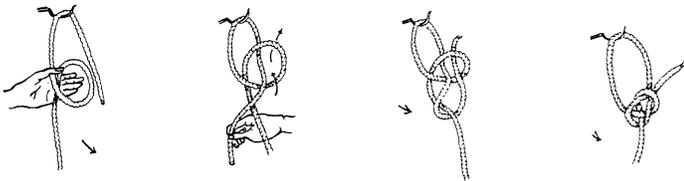
CAUTION!

Any animal can be dangerous when it is frightened, excited, hungry or in pain.

Be especially careful around mothers with babies and adult males during mating season.

How to Tie a Fixed Knot:

Tying knots around the necks of animals can be dangerous. If the knot becomes tight and the animal begins to struggle, it may be impossible to untie the knot quickly, and the animal may suffocate. The following knot, called a "bowline," can be tied quickly and is a fixed knot so it will not tighten when it is pulled.

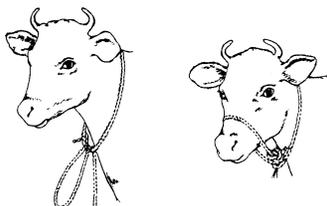


CATTLE AND BUFFALO

A person is more likely to become injured when treating a large, strong animal in a small space. It is better to treat animals in open areas where there is light to see and enough room to avoid being kicked or hit.

Making a Halter

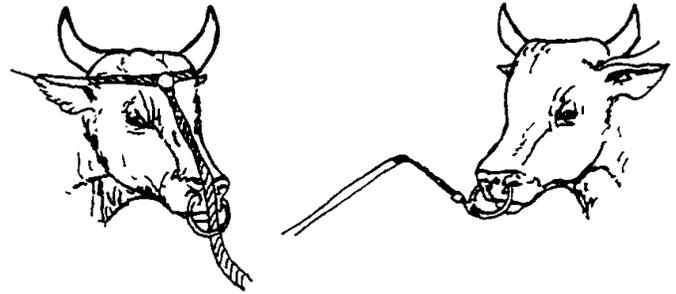
- Tie a fixed knot on the animal's neck.
- Make a loop in the free end, pass this loop through the neck loop and slip it over the muzzle.



Control by the Nose

Since the noses of cattle and buffalo are sensitive, these animals can be restrained by controlling their nose.

Nose Rings

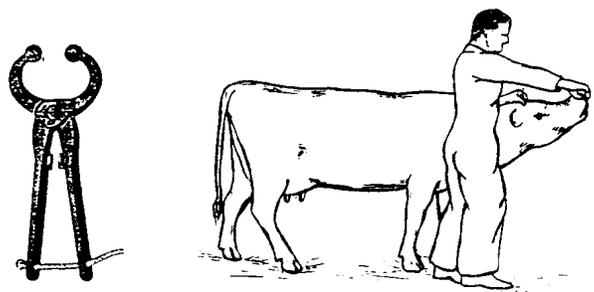


When a hole is made in the nose and a metal or rope ring is put through the hole, the animal can be restrained by grabbing the nose ring or attaching other ropes, chains or sticks to it.

Grabbing the nose with fingers or nose holders

The nose can also be grabbed by hand or with special noseholders. Additional restraint is achieved by lifting the tail up.

Noseholders



Building a Crate

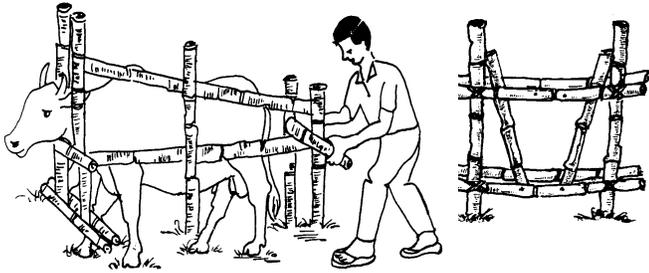
If animals are to be examined, treated, and vaccinated regularly in one place; then it is worthwhile to build a simple crate. A crate should be built on dry, flat ground using local materials such as bamboo or wood. If there is any gradient, animals should enter the crate going uphill. There should be space around the crate for examining all parts of the animal.



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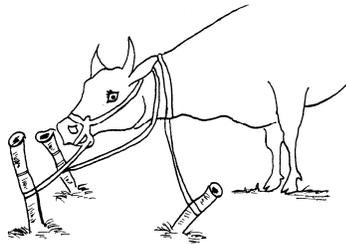
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Note: The posts should be sunk at least 60 cm into the ground and preferably one meter to withstand a big, strong animal. If the crate is only for cows or oxen, it can be smaller in size. If it is only for buffalo, it should be bigger in size.

If no crate is available, cattle and buffalo can be tied between two strong posts or trees placed three feet apart. Tie the ropes low to the ground.



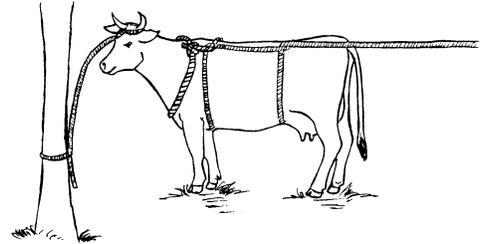
Casting an Animal

If no crate is available and/or an animal is difficult to control, the animal should be forced to lie down using ropes. This process is called "casting." Regardless of the method, you will need the following to cast an animal:

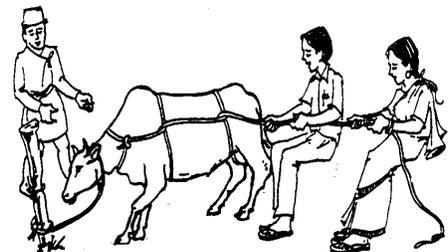
- The ground should be fairly level and soft - without rocks or sticks that could injure an animal when it falls down.
- A short rope or halter is needed to hold the head.
- A soft rope is also needed which is at least 12-15 meters long (35 feet). The rope should be at least the width of your finger. Nylon ropes, although strong, are not ideal because they can wound the skin. Cotton ropes are ideal.
- At least two to three people are needed. One person will be needed to jump on the animal as soon as it lies down, and hold down its head. At least one strong person (preferably two or three) will be needed to pull on the rope.

The Two-Loop Method for Adult Cattle & Buffalo

1. Using the short rope and a fixed knot, tie the animal's head or horns to a strong post or tree. The rope should be tied at the base of the post or tree - i.e. near the ground, otherwise you will "hang" the animal.
2. Pass a long rope around the animal's neck and tie a bowline knot - i.e. a knot that does not tighten once it is tied.
3. A person standing on the left side of the animal should pass the free end of the rope over the back of the animal, to another person standing on the right side of the animal. This second person should pass the rope back under the animal's body to the person on the left hand side, completing a loop around the animal's chest (just behind the front legs).
4. Pass the rope around the animal's body again and back over the top to make a second loop around the body, just in front of the hip bones.



5. Have one or two people pull on the free end of the rope and the animal should lie down.

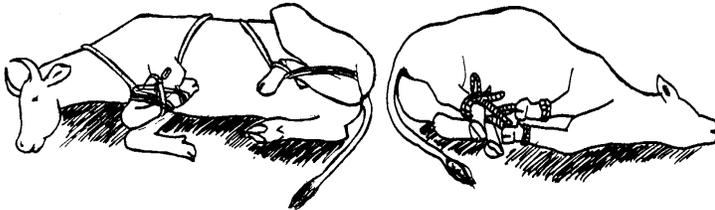


6. Once on the ground, the animal's head and neck must be held firmly to the ground. If its head is held firmly, the animal cannot stand up and will usually stop struggling.



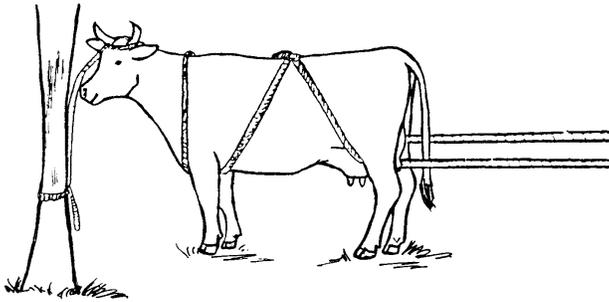


7. Once the animal is lying down, the legs can be tied together using several methods. This will prevent kicking and will make castration or examination of the udder much easier.



The Criss-Cross Method for Adult Cattle & Buffalo

For some cattle, this method works better because it does not pinch either the udder or the penis of the animal. Using the short rope, tie the animal's head as described above.



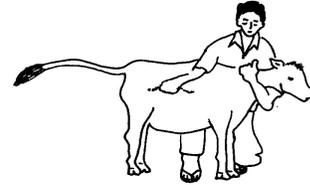
1. Fold the long rope in half.
2. Place the middle of the rope over the neck.
3. Cross the ends under the neck.
4. Pass the ends of the rope back inside the front legs, up over the back and cross them again.
5. Pass both ends of the rope down the sides of the animal and inside (between) the back legs.
6. Pull both ends of the rope to force the animal to lie down.

7. Once again, it is important to tie the legs securely to prevent the animal from kicking and attempting to get up.

CALVES

Calves which are light enough to lift off the ground can be easily laid on their side.

1. Stand on the left side of the calf.
2. Hold it under the throat with your left hand.
3. Hold the skin in front of the hind leg with your right hand.



4. Lift the calf using your right knee and right arm.
5. Slide it to the ground down your right leg.
6. Kneel firmly on its neck with your left knee just behind its ear.



HORSES, MULES, & BURROS

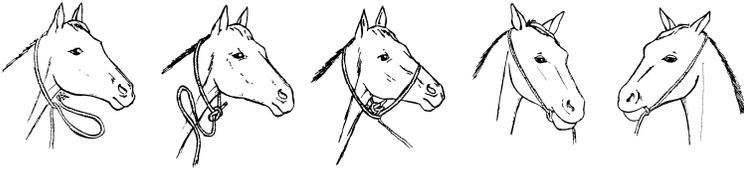
Horses, mules and burros can seriously injure people who are unaccustomed to handling them or are not careful. Unlike cows, they can **strike with both front and hind feet**. Whereas cows usually kick to the side, horses usually kick straight back with their hind feet.

It is better to handle horses, mules and burros in an open area instead of a crate since they are more prone to panic and struggle. The key to handling horses is to make slow, deliberate movements around them and avoid surprising them with sudden noises or gestures, or by suddenly approaching or poking them. Horses do not see well, particularly straight in front of them, so approach them from the side. Talk quietly while working so they know where you are at all times.



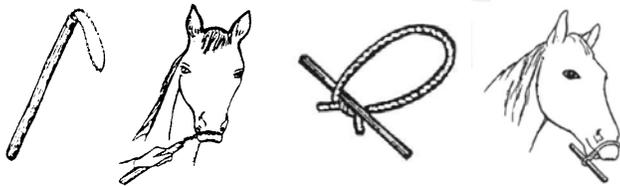
Halter

Gentle horses, mules and burros can be restrained using a halter with a rope attached to it to control the animal's head.



Twitching

Horses, mules or burros that are nervous, which will not hold still or are likely to react during a certain procedure or treatment, can be restrained using a "twitch." A twitch can be made with a small loop, made of rope or chain, attached to the end of a stick. When placing a twitch on a horse, mule or burro, always stand to the side of the animal's head and never directly in front of it to avoid being struck by its front feet. Place the loop around the upper lip and twist the stick until the loop tightens. Do this slowly and deliberately to minimize a bad reaction. Once it is tight, the horse, mule or burro is usually well restrained. Stay to the side of the animal at all times while using the twitch.

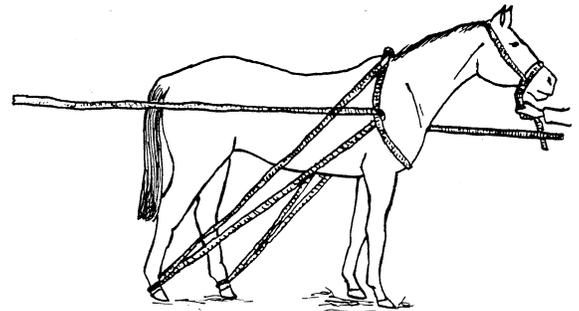


Casting a Horse

For some procedures, like castrations, it is necessary to cast a horse and tie its legs. Use a soft cotton rope (if possible) at least 15 meters long and one finger-width in diameter.

1. Tie the horse to a strong post with a short rope attached to its halter or around its neck using a bowline (i.e. non-slip) knot. Tie the rope low on the post, near the ground.
2. Take the long rope and tie the middle portion of the rope around the neck of the horse, using a non-slip knot. The rope should be fairly low on the neck, near the chest.
3. Pass each of the two free-ends of the rope along the sides of the horse's body.

4. Pass these ends on towards the back of the horse and make a loop around each hind leg, just above the hoof. Some owners prefer to wrap a rag, towel or leather band around the back legs before casting to avoid rope burns.
5. Pass the free ends of the rope up alongside the body, and then slip the ends of the rope under the rope that is around the neck.
6. Pass the ends of the rope towards the back of the animal.
7. Have two or more people pull on the ropes until the horse "sits down." Then roll the horse onto one side.
8. Have another strong person immediately grab the head and hold it firmly against the ground. The horse cannot stand up when its head is held on the ground.
9. The rear legs of the horse should be tied firmly in place, wrapping the ropes thoroughly around the hock (knee) and fetlock (ankle). The rear legs can be pulled forward along the horse's side or tied to the front legs.



SHEEP AND GOATS

Sheep and goats are easier to handle due to their smaller size. As with other animals, sheep and goats should be handled as gently as possible. Too much stress from rough handling can kill a goat or sheep.

Feeding medicine to sheep, goats, & small calves

1. Hold on to the head, and back the sheep, goat or calf into a corner.
2. Continue holding the head and straddle the animal's neck such that the back of your knees are in front of the sheep's shoulders.



Once your legs are blocking the animal's shoulders (so it can't move forward), your hands are free to work.

Another method of restraining sheep & small goats

Note: This method is not for large goats. For fat-tailed sheep, lean them to one side.

1. While on the left side of the sheep, place your left hand under the jaw of the sheep and your right hand behind the sheep to keep it from going backwards.
2. With your right hand, grasp the fold of skin directly in front of the rear leg.
3. Lift the front of the sheep off the ground, mostly with your left arm, and, with the help of your right arm, place the sheep's rump in a sitting position on the ground.
4. Hold the sheep between your legs in a sitting position. As long as it cannot place its feet firmly on the ground, it cannot get up and it usually will not struggle to get up.

For large, gentle goats

Larger goats, particularly dairy goats that are accustomed to being handled, can often be restrained by simply holding their head firmly. Sometimes lifting one of their front legs also helps to restrain them.



PIGS

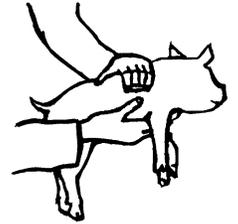
Mother pigs (sows with babies) and adult males (boars) are unpredictable and often dangerous since they may attack and bite when they are upset or protecting their babies.

Handle pigs as gently as possible, particularly in hot weather. Pigs of all ages can overheat if they struggle, and can even die from heat stress. If boars overheat, they can be sterile for several months. Sows easily overheat when giving birth. In hot

weather, pigs should be handled during the coolest parts of the day, that is, early morning or evening.

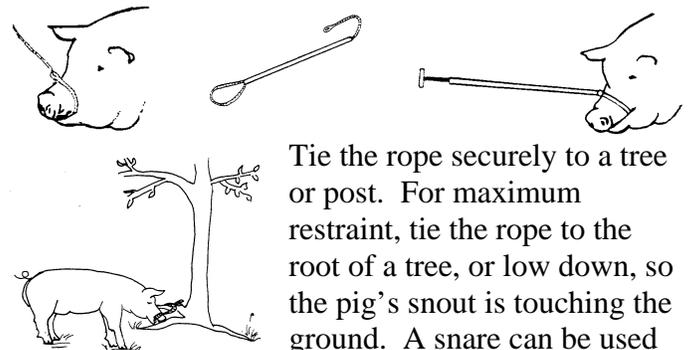
Small and Medium-Sized Pigs: (for castration)

1. While standing behind the pig, grab one or both hind legs, or with both hands grab the pig just behind the shoulders.
2. Hold it by its hind legs so that it hangs down with its belly facing away from you.
3. Steady the pig by holding its shoulders between your knees for castration.



Restraining Big Pigs Using a Rope or Snare

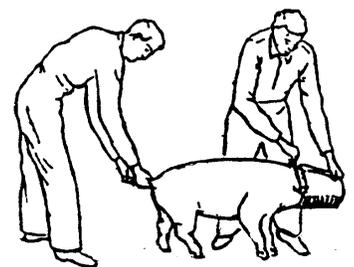
Ropes and snares are used for larger pigs. A snare keeps the pig more at a distance. When using a rope, it must be at least ten feet long and the diameter of your finger. The rope should have an "eye" on one end, and the free end of the rope should be passed through the eye to make a loop. Approach the pig from behind and place the loop over the pig's snout and into its mouth. Move the rope behind the large canine teeth and tighten the loop.



Tie the rope securely to a tree or post. For maximum restraint, tie the rope to the root of a tree, or low down, so the pig's snout is touching the ground. A snare can be used in the same manner except that it cannot be tied to a tree or post.

Method of moving a large pig using a bucket:

Pigs will usually back up when they cannot see ahead. Place a bucket on their head and guide them by pulling on their tail.

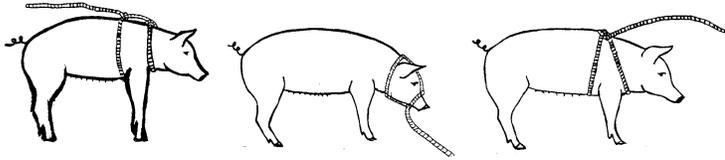


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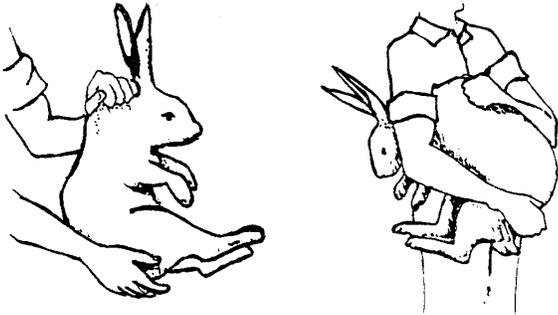
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Methods of safely tying pigs so they cannot slip out of a rope or suffocate by strangling.



RABBITS

- Grasp the rabbit gently by the loose skin on the back of its neck.
- Lift it up, immediately grab the back legs (to prevent it from scratching you) and support its back end so the rabbit feels secure.
- After catching the rabbit, the rabbit can be tucked gently under your arm in order to restrain it. This is a common method of restraint when determining its sex.

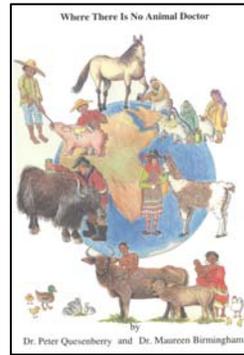
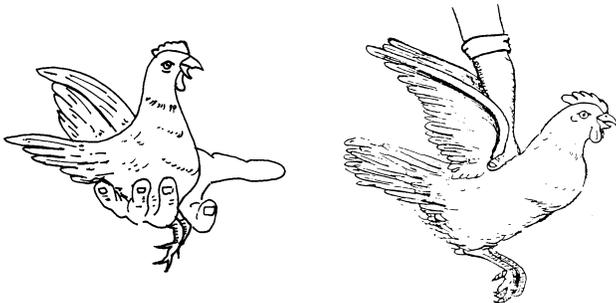


Note: Do NOT pick up a rabbit by its ears, because it might struggle & break its back.

CHICKENS

To handle its head, sit the bird's breast on the palm of your hand and hold the legs between your fingers.

For injections in the breast muscle, turn the bird over and hold its wings between your fingers.



The material from this article is taken from the book *Where There Is No Animal Doctor* by Dr. Peter Quesenberry and Dr. Maureen Birmingham (DVM with the World Health Organization) published by Christian Veterinary Mission. If you enjoyed this article, you will enjoy the rest of this book.

To purchase this book for \$25 from CVM, go to our website at www.cvmusa.org and click the link to Education. A modified version of this book is available in Russian and Chinese.

New Brochure "Bats and Rabies"

An excellent new brochure titled "Bats and Rabies" has been developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bat Conservation International, Inc. The brochure has color photographs and illustrations. It provides rational information about the legitimate concern of bat rabies without giving the reader "bat phobia." Very few human rabies deaths occur each year in the United States, but of infections acquired inside the U.S., exposure to bats is the most frequent source.

We recommend this free brochure for clients. Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Rabies Section, MS G-33, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30333 (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/rabies).

From Dr. Victor Nettles, *Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study newsletter*, Vol 14, No. 3. October 1998, p.6 and Bruce Lawhorn, DVM, MS, Associate Professor and Extension Swine Veterinarian, Texas Agricultural Extension Service and College of Veterinary Medicine, The Texas A&M University System.

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