

## Swine castration

- Open castration
- Inguinal or scrotal incision

Important to remove all tunics for prevention of scirrhus cord or abscess formation

### Castration of piglets

#### Open method:

1.	Hold the piglet by both hind legs with its head down.
2.	Using the thumb, push up on both testicles.
3.	Make an incision through the skin of the scrotum over each testicle in the direction of the tail.
4.	Be sure the incisions are made low on the scrotal sac to allow for fluid drainage.
5.	It does not matter if you cut through the white membrane of each testicle or not.
6.	Pop the testicles through each incision and pull on them slightly.
7.	Pull each testicle out while pressing your thumb against the piglet's pelvis.
8.	Thumb pressure on the pelvis is important to ensure that the testicular cords break off at the point of your thumb rather than deep inside the body, which may promote development of a hernia.
9.	If necessary the testicle may be cut free of the cord using a scraping motion.
10.	Cut away any cord or connective tissue protruding from the incision and spray the wound with antiseptic.

#### Chemical castration:

##### Improvac

A vaccination called Improvac is used as an alternative to surgical castration. It is used to stop boar taint by delaying the maturity of pigs. It involves injecting the male pig with a vaccine that stimulates the pig's own immune system to produce specific antibodies against Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH). This stops the release of luteinising hormone (LH) and follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) that would be released from the pituitary gland travelling in the blood to activate the testes to mature, when they would release testosterone and

androstenone. The vaccination cannot be found in the meat and is perfectly safe. It is not a hormone and should not be referred to as chemical castration which is when toxic chemicals are injected into the testes directly, causing pain and irreparable damage. It is sometimes called 'immunocastration' however it only delays puberty rather than castrating the animal.

#### Castration of boars

Injectable anesthesia is xylazine at 2.2 mg/kg, IM, followed by tiletamine-zolazepam at 6.6 mg/kg, IM, both injections in the hams. Determining whether both testicles are descended before surgery is important. An inguinal hernia is another possible complicating factor. The midline skin incision is made cranial to the scrotum, and structures such as the vas deferens and blood vessels are ligated and excised. Both inguinal ring areas should be closed to prevent herniation. Removal of tunic, cremaster muscle, and extraneous subcutaneous tissue, followed by closure to obliterate empty space, help prevent seroma formation. At the time of castration, the preputial diverticulum or "scent gland" may be removed by eversion and excision to minimize the pooling and discharge of foul-smelling preputial fluid. Umbilical hernia may complicate removal. Early castration may interfere with the development of the preputial diverticulum, making its removal unnecessary. Tetanus antitoxin (if no current tetanus toxoid vaccination) and antibacterial injection are given after surgery of the reproductive tract.