CASE 3

Intra-Op Measures

Aim

* To completely remove the horns of an animal and cover the site with surrounding skin to give the appearance of a polled animal.

Potential Issues For Cosmetic Dehorning

* The skin may not fully cover the incision.
* Due to how close together the horns may be, the incisions made may communicate, leaving a larger than intended incision.

Risks or Contraindications

* Pain
* Sinusitis due to bone fragments remaining
* Haemorrhage
* Myiasis
* Tetanus
* Infection
1. Incisions are made about 1cm from the horn bases, and the skin is undermined.
2. The horns are removed with a Gigli wire or small saw in a craniolateral direction.
3. The cornual artery should be blocked, either by pulling, twisting, or ligating.
4. Bone should be removed rostrally to the horns, along the frontal ridge, to allow the skin to cover the incision site.
5. Fragments of bone and blood clots should be removed to allow easier closure of the surgical site and prevent infection.
6. The site of the surgery should be flushed with sterile saline.
7. The incision should be closed with a non-absorbable suture in a cruciate pattern.
8. A light non-adhesive bandage should be used to cover the surgical site. It should be replaced on the second day post-op and again 5-6 days after the first change.
9. A single dose of an injectable antibiotic, along with a dose of meloxicam, should be given.
10. Remove sutures 2 weeks after surgery.