

Animal welfare concerns

1. Pain (acute and chronic) after castration procedures.
2. The ability to efficiently and skillfully perform the procedure.
3. The availability and efficacy of pain relief measures (analgesic).
4. Age limits before pain relief is necessary.
5. Healing issues that may include severe infections.

Points to note:

- No one method is ideal under all circumstances; as they are each associated with a degree of pain to the patient. Measures should be taken with each method to reduce discomfort and provide pain relief.
- The age limit given for the procedure is 12 months (1 year). This encourages the castration procedure to be done prior and maintain proper animal welfare.
- The earlier the castration procedure can be done the better.
- Person castrating must have the required knowledge and skill.
- Proper castrating tools and methods must be used.
- Calves < 2 weeks should be castrated via the cutting method rather than the elastic band or burdizzo.
- Rings and tension bands potentially lead to chronic pain.