

Large Volume Blood Collection

Donald R. Lynch, D.V.M.
Frederick, MD

Large volumes of blood can be collected easily using the milking vacuum source.

Materials: Milker Hose
Gallon glass jug
 $\frac{3}{16}$ firm rubber hose
2-hole rubber stopper

Suitable adapters for attaching hose through stopper

Attach the $\frac{3}{16}$ hose to a 12ga or bleeding trocar and insert into jugular vein. Other end is inserted into jug. Milker hose is attached to jug also and other end is fitted onto stall cock. The jug will fill quickly with blood when vacuum is applied.

Use of a Come Along in a Bovine Practice

Richard W. Meirig, D.V.M.
Fort Recovery, OH 45846

What I would like to do this evening is spend a few minutes and talk about some of the uses that we found in our practice for a device, which all of you know is a come-along or power puller. It's a very simple device. It has a metal frame with a steel cable with a hook on the end of it, and a winching device. A very simple thing. You can buy these in hardware stores from anywhere from \$15 to \$30. In our practice we prefer the ones with just a single cable. These have about a one ton capacity. You can get them with a double cable that have about a two-ton capacity. We just don't work on anything that takes two tons to lift. We find that the single cable puller has a longer cable on it which is preferable in our situation.

So with that in mind I would like to show you a few things we do with them. This is the first thing, the number one thing. This is work on cows with bad feet. A few years ago I got involved with a cow that took the better of me. I needed to find a safe, simple, and efficient way to work on bad feet because I found I just couldn't pick them up any more. It so happened that one day I was at one client's farm. He suggested we try using his come-along which was hanging on the wall next to the treatment area and it worked great. It met all our criteria.

The come-along is used to lift a rear leg by attaching it right above the hock. The winch part of the come-along will be positioned slightly behind the rear leg and above, probably about a foot posterior where the leg will normally stand. The cable is then just attached directly right around the hock. Once you have it attached you can lift the leg. Most cows resist very little to winch the leg up with the come-along. Some cows will kick just a little bit. But once you have the leg to this position, most cows don't object. They'll stand there very easily. Once you have them in this position they are very easy. If you want to trim the foot, carve out a subsolar

abscess, bandage the foot, whatever you want to do to it, most cows will put up very little resistance and seem very comfortable standing with the come-along around their leg.

Here's just another shot of how we use the come-along. Again, it is positioned slightly behind that leg. It is not quite maybe as big a tool as the instrument Dr. DeJong talked about, but it is very portable and most of our farmers have some place where we can hang these things on a beam in the barn in the treatment area.

We also use them for front legs. You can position these on a front leg one of two ways. This position is located right above the knee. My partners and I disagree a little bit about where to put it. But as with the back foot we just put it right around, hook it on itself, and then go ahead and winch that foot up. The cow is not going to lie down on you as you are trying to work on that foot. As one of my clients told me, you can do a lot better job, because you're not fighting the cow. You are doing what you need to do to that foot.

A couple of other uses for the come-along we've found when we've attached them to the legs is a very handy thing. If you want to put on a hook lock that leg will stay in that position for an indefinite period without any problem to the cow. We also do minor surgeries such as taking out interdigital corns by using these things. If you have a cow with a laceration on her foot, possibly around the fetlock, it makes a very nice tool to get that foot up and out of the way. It also acts something like a tourniquet when you get it around the leg that way. The number one criterion we have is that we want something safe. It is very safe. We've been using these things for a couple of years now and we've never had any cows injure themselves with these things on and more importantly, we've not had any of the veterinarians hurt since we have been using these things either. A couple of other

things you can do with these things. Place it around the cow ahead of her hips. It makes a great kicker control. Some fellows will use a rope this way. You can put the come-along around and control the amount of tightness you want. It won't slip like a rope will, very easy to tighten or loosen it as you need to. If you need a quick "kicker" on a cow you might try this.

Another thing we'll do with ours is put it around the withers, right behind the forelegs. If we have a cow we are going to do some surgery on such as paralumbar DA surgery or something of that nature and you get a cow that wants to strike occasionally, we'll put this right behind the withers and it works very nicely. Really plants the back feet on the ground

and makes surgery a whole lot easier without any chemical restraint. A couple of other things you might consider with these things, they make a good emergency calf puller, if your field extractor is broken or lost. Colleagues from Michigan may find it handy to pull their cars and trucks out of the snow banks once in awhile. But we've found these to be very good. They are a cheap tool. They are readily available. Most farmers have them already on the farm. We carry one in each of our units and I'm sure there are a lot more uses we have not come upon yet. I hope if you ever run into one of these things go ahead and give it a try. I think you will like it, especially for using on bad feet. I hope you find more uses than I have.

Using Chem-Cast to Dehorn Baby Calves

W. Mark Hilton, D.V.M.
DeWitt, IA 52742

I began using Chem-Cast (Bio-Ceutic, 88% Lactic Acid USP) to dehorn baby calves about 18 months ago. I began my experiment with a few Brown Swiss calves owned by a client on a monthly dairy herd health program. The owner had used dehorning paste in years previously with only limited success and it was my hope that I could teach him and others how to dehorn with Chem-Cast.

The technique to inject a small amount of Chem-Cast under the horn bud has proved to be difficult enough that I have not had the owner try to do this himself.

Calves from 1-30 days of age have been dehorned with about equal success, but I feel that calves about 3-15 days of age are easiest. The calf is grasped and restrained in a standing position by the owner who pulls his head as far to the side (caudally and medially) as possible. A 3 ml. leuer-lock syringe with a 20 gauge, 3/4 inch needle containing about 1 ml. Chem-Cast is used for this technique. I use 1/8 to 1/2 ml. per hornbud; whatever it takes to fill the small area subcutaneous to the horn bud. With the owner restraining the calf I place the syringe in the palm of my hand with my fingers wrapped around the syringe and my thumb resting on the plunger. This way I can rest the back side of my hand on the calf's head and if he moves, the needle doesn't come out. This placement also prevents self-injection because the needle is not close to my fingers. The needle is placed so that the tip ends up near the middle of the horn bud and the Chem-Cast is injected. I used to inject 1/4 ml. on small calves and 1/2 ml. on larger calves but have found it easier to inject until no more material can be injected. It takes moderate pressure to inject the Chem-Cast because of the viscosity of the material and relatively small area to fill. This is why a leuer-lock syringe is a must!

Within 30 days, a small scab forms where the Chem-Cast was injected and this falls off around 60 days post treatment.

By 90 days there is virtually no horn tissue present if the technique was adequate.

The success rate of this technique was determined by examining calves at 4-10 months after using Chem-Cast to dehorn them. I scored each horn on a scale of 0-10 with zero being all the horn was present and 10 equalling a perfect job of dehorning.

On the first 50 calves treated in this manner, I achieved about a 65% success rate (horn score 7-10). I felt that any heifer with a score poorer than 7 would need some additional dehorning if she was to be a show animal. Steer calves with scores lower than a 5 were additionally dehorned because of the possibility of further horn growth in the feedlot, but those above 5 were left alone. The horn tissue in these calves had been adequately destroyed to prevent much additional growth.

I expect my success rate to improve as I do more calves, but I doubt we will ever reach 100% success. The two biggest problems with the technique deal with restraint. The first is just inadequate restraint where the calf moves during the needle puncture or injection and the second is when I have to make 2 or more punctures with the needle due to movement. When this occurs, you can actually see the Chem-Cast leak out of the initial needle puncture sites. I usually know immediately if the procedure is going to be a success, and I have considered using dehorning paste concurrently on calves that I am fairly certain will not be adequately dehorned by injection, but I have not done this yet.

As I stated at the beginning, I intended this to be an easy procedure to be used by our clients to dehorn calves where paste dehorning was not possible or produced inadequate results. As of now, I have not had anyone want to try it! I think it looks more difficult than it actually is. Without doubt,