



Painless Calf Debudding Service and Removal of Extra Teats

Clutha Vets offers a calf debudding service for calves over 2 weeks of age. The technique involves sedating the calves to provide what's called 'Chemical Restraint'.

Sedated calves lie down and go to sleep, which eliminates the need to physically restrain them for debudding. They are done in their calf pens so mixing or moving calves is not necessary. Usually, all that is required is a spare gate so the calves can be cornered in their pen and given the sedative. Sedated calves are injected with local anaesthetic around their buds, which are then burnt off and cauterised using a gas debudder.

Advantages

1. **Painless procedure** for the calf which results in a quicker recovery with less rubbing and vocalization.
2. **No labour input from farm staff.** Clutha Vets will provide the necessary personnel
3. **Extra teats removed,** and other conditions e.g. minor hernias and umbilical infections are treated as we go
4. **Stress free:** Calves don't become suspicious of human contact
5. **BVD and/or DNA profiling** An ear notch can be taken at the same time from selected animals.
6. **Calf rearers** can ear tag or dock tails while the calves are sedated
7. **Vet present throughout procedure:** The sedative, while safe, is fully reversible. Advice can be given on any calf rearing issues

Calves will start to wake up after about 30 minutes although many will remain lying down for up to an hour as they recover. The sedative is safe and fully reversible at any stage of the procedure.

Preparation

Calves should not be fed within 2 hours either side of being sedated. This is to prevent the calves becoming bloated.

Debudding Service - includes vet and technician, sedation, local anaesthetic, debudding and other routine jobs such as extra teat removal

Call - 03 418 1280 for more information