Another Surgical Method of Preparing Heat-Detector Bulls

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Another Surgical Method of Preparing Heat-Detector Bulls

by

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A method is proposed in which the bull is sterilized by caudal epididymectomy and rendered unable to copulate by closing the preputial orifice and establishing a small fistula between the preputial cavity and the ventral surface of the sheath for urine egress.

Young (7-9 mo. old) sexually aggressive bulls are desirable subjects. Individuals with excessive and pendulous sheaths should be avoided.

Surgery may be done with the animal standing in a chute or in recumbency as the operator chooses. A generous area around the preputial orifice is shaved, cleansed, and infiltrated with a local anesthetic. The preputial cavity is flushed repeatedly with a mild antiseptic.

1) The glans penis is extruded manually and grasped with forceps on its dorsum 2 in. from the tip. A Penrose drain, 1 in. diameter, long enough to reach from the scrotum to the preputial orifice, is fitted over the end of the glans and fixed in place by use of interrupted sutures of #0 chromic catgut placed at the dorsum and at each lateral aspect of the glans. The penis is then allowed to retract.

2) An elliptical piece of skin, ¾ in. × 3/8 in. (2 cm. × 1 cm.) is removed from the midline about 2 in. (5 cm.) caudal to the preputial orifice. Communication is established with the preputial cavity by slitting the preputial lining, which is then sutured to the edges of skin with simple interrupted sutures of #1 chromic gut. The free end of the Penrose drain is then brought through this newly made opening. The drain serves to carry urine past the fresh incision and also prevents excessive stenosis of the opening.

3) At the preputial orifice a ring of exterior skin and preputial lining ¾ in. (0.8 cm.) wide is excised. There is no advantage in removing a wider strip; healing is actually delayed by doing so. The preputial lining is closed with closely placed stitches of a continuous Lembert pattern using #0 chromic gut. The closure should be made watertight. An intermediate line of Cushing pattern is used to bury the previous line. The skin is closed with a continuous interlocking pattern using nonabsorbable material (e.g. 0.4 mm. Vetafil).

The bull is sterilized by removal of the tails of the epididymides. This is done by forcing the testicle tightly into the bottom of the scrotum and incising the skin and common tunic over the epididymal tail. The tail of the epididymis is carefully freed from the testicle by blunt dissection. The vas deferens is then stretched and cut, following which the body of the epididymis is cut. This sould give about 2 in. (5 cm.) separation between the cut ends. The small skin incision is closed under suture.

Three weeks is usually required for healing. The Penrose drain can be removed after ten days.

Field experience with bulls prepared by the above method indicates that they tend to maintain their level of libido. This may be related to the stimulation of the intact galea glandis while the penis is movable, although restricted.

Complications include dehiscence of the closure of the natural preputial opening, stenosis and closure of the new opening, or possible copulation through the new opening. Keeping the new opening to the prescribed dimensions and strict attention to cleanliness and first intention healing should prevent these complications.

REFERENCES

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