

A Monthly e Magazine  
ISSN:2583-2212

March 2024 Vol.4(3), 1111-1113

Popular Article

## Casting In Farm Animals

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10863445>

Casting means throwing the animal on the ground. Casting is done, if the animals are to be kept for longer time in controlled condition such as for special examinations, operations, trimming of over grown hooves, dehorning, disbudding etc. Some times during handling of dystokia cases (difficult birth) casting of animal is essential. Sometimes it is used for control of vicious animals.

### Site Preparation for casting

A well grown grass land, a sandy area or a bedding material made of wheat straw or saw dust is ideal surface for casting of large animals. It is desirable to ensure that there should be no bricks, stones, wires, wooden pieces, nails or sharp object on or around the place of casting. Also, the site should be leveled properly to minimize the injury during throwing the animal on the ground.

### Precautions

- ❖ Animals should be fasted 12 hours before casting to prevent injuries due to extended digestive organs.
- ❖ Arrange for sufficient number of assistants for the casing of animal.
- ❖ Cattle can be casted on either side but left side is mostly preferred.
- ❖ The vicious animals like bulls should be tranquilized for ease in casting.
- ❖ Do not leave the animal down for a long time as bloat may develop.

### Casting Methods

#### 1. Reuff's method

It is the commonest and efficient method of casting cattle and buffaloes. At the end of an eight-meter long rope a running noose is made and the same is fixed around the base of horns. In case of hornless cattle, the noose can be fixed to the neck. Then a series of 2 or 3

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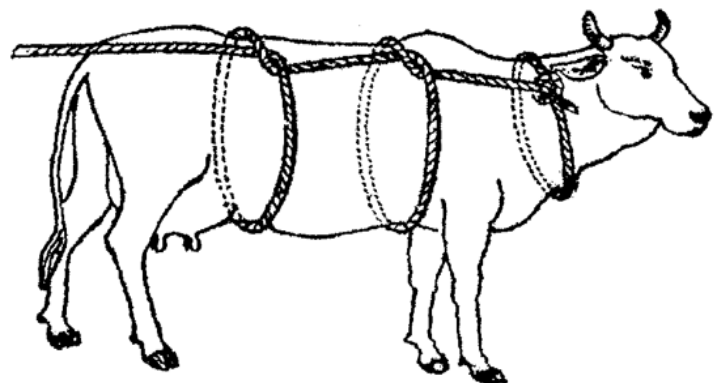


half hitches are made—first around the neck, second around the chest immediately behind the elbows and the third around the abdomen in front of the udder or scrotum. If sufficient length of rope is not available the half hitch around neck can be dispensed with. The half hitches are made by first throwing the loose end of rope (standing on one side of the animal) under the animal's belly to an assistant on the other side, who should return it over the back. The man at its head should steady the head and turn it towards the opposite side as it has to be cast. Two men should pull the loose rope backwards and towards the side it has to be cast. The animal will crouch and sink to the ground. After throwing the animal the man at head should keep the head pressed to the ground or turn it over on the shoulder of the animal and keep pressing down. One man on rope should simultaneously pass the tail forwards from in between the thighs and pull

it tight around the topside thigh and press its hips down. The second man on rope can then secure the animal's feet with another rope which is held together along with the tail by the same person. The same operation should be carried out in reverse order for releasing the animal.

## 2. An alternative method

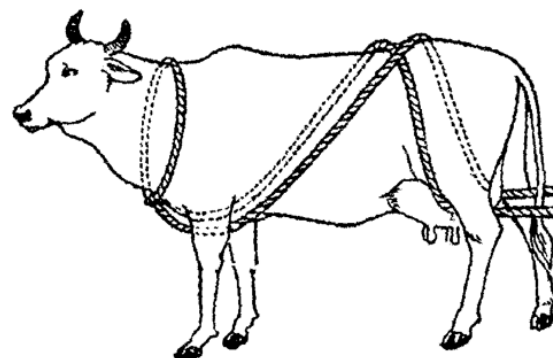
It is to place the middle portion of a rope around the cow's neck and crossing the free ends under the neck. Then each free end is passed from in between the elbows backwards one on either side of the animal. Each end is passed over the loin region to the other side and then backwards between the thighs. The ropes on either side should pass through the space between the under and thigh. The animal will crouch and sink to the ground if the free ends of the rope are pulled backwards.



Reuff's method

## 3. Indian Method

A rope of about 7 meters (20') length is taken. One end of the rope is thrown around the belly at the region of flank. It is tightened and fixed by twisting. The other end of the rope is passed through opposite hind limb at pastern from inside to outside and



Alternative method

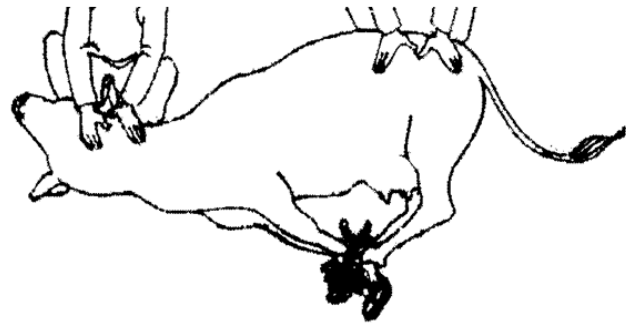
returned back to the man. Two or three persons will pull the rope and the animal will sink



down and bend down on the opposite side. One man will force the animal's body, while others are pulling the rope. While animal is sinking down, one man should secure the head properly.

### 3. Casting for castration (Sideline method)

Here a 20 meters (60 feet) long rope is taken and it is doubled up. At one end the loop is made by eight knots. The loop is passed from the neck and the loop is of such size that the knot should fix at the region of brisket. The remaining two parts of the rope are passed from the hind leg



Casted Animal

above the hock from inside to outside and the rope is passed from the neck loop. One rope is held by two persons in front and two persons behind the animal.

In conclusion, casting is a method used in animal husbandry for various purposes like examinations, operations, and handling difficult situations. Proper site preparation and precautions are crucial. The Reuff's method is common, involving ropes and half hitches around different body parts. Other methods include alternatives like using ropes around the neck and hind limbs. Castration utilizes a sideline method with a loop around the neck and hind legs. Effective and safe casting requires coordination and consideration for animal welfare.

