

# **Ruminant Restraint and Basic Physical Examination**

# Beef Cattle

- Prior to entering the feedlot, beef cattle spend most of their time in open range or field settings.
  - Handled and restrained only occasionally: vaccination and deworming.
  - Suspicious of humans and enclosures, and are usually more difficult to segregate and restrain.



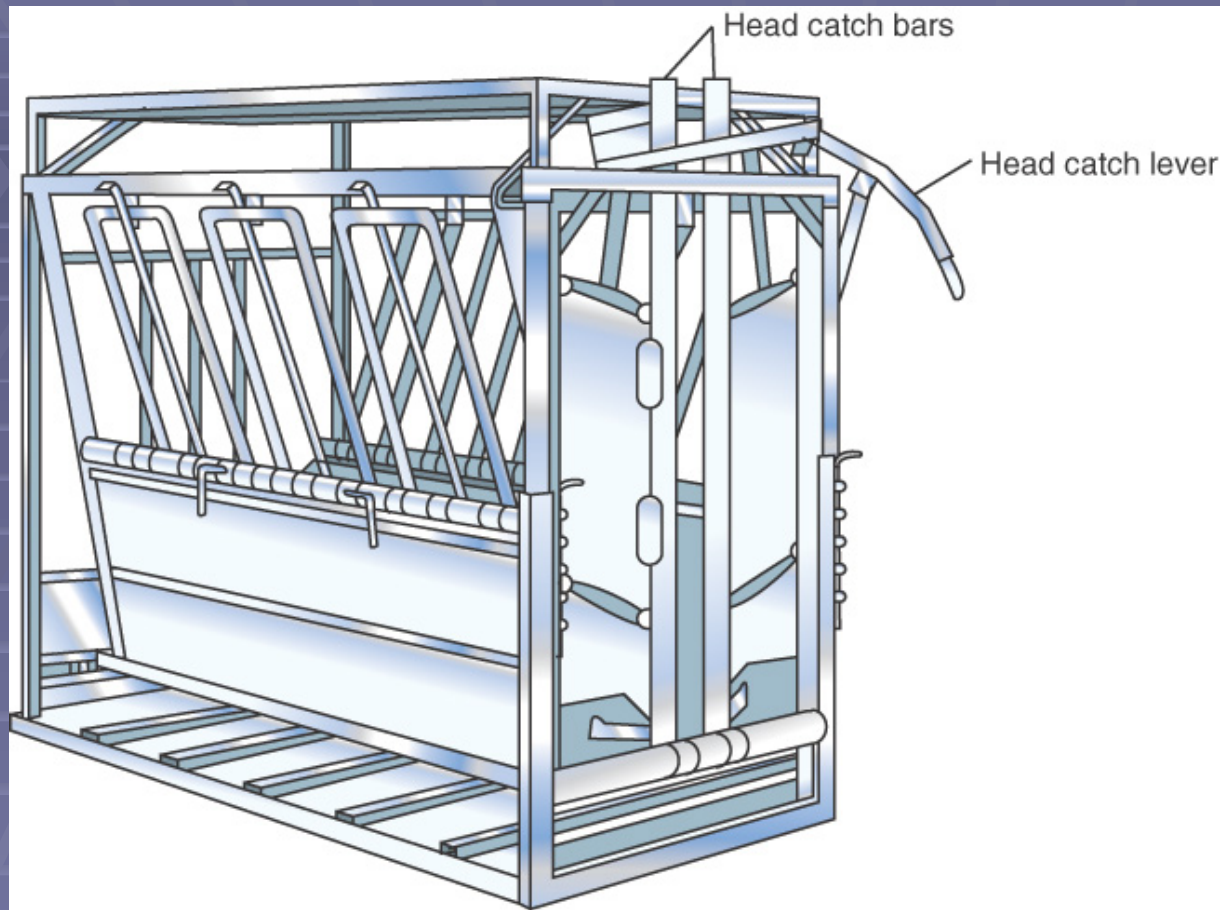
# Dairy Cattle

- Dairy cattle are handled more frequently and spend much less time in open settings.
  - Dairy cows are milked twice daily while lactating, and the lactation cycle lasts on average 8-10 months of the year.
  - Breeding is done by artificial insemination.
  - Calves are often reared in enclosures with frequent human contact.
  - In general, dairy cattle tend to be much easier to handle and restrain. (Caution on dairy bulls)



Most veterinarianian procedures required two stages of animal handling:

1. The individual most be separate from the herd.
2. The individual must then be restrained appropriately for the procedure



- The working chute is designed to hold one animal at the time

**Fig. 13-1.** Typical cattle squeeze chute with side bars that can be removed or lowered for access to the animal. Note the vertical head catch bars at the front of the chute.



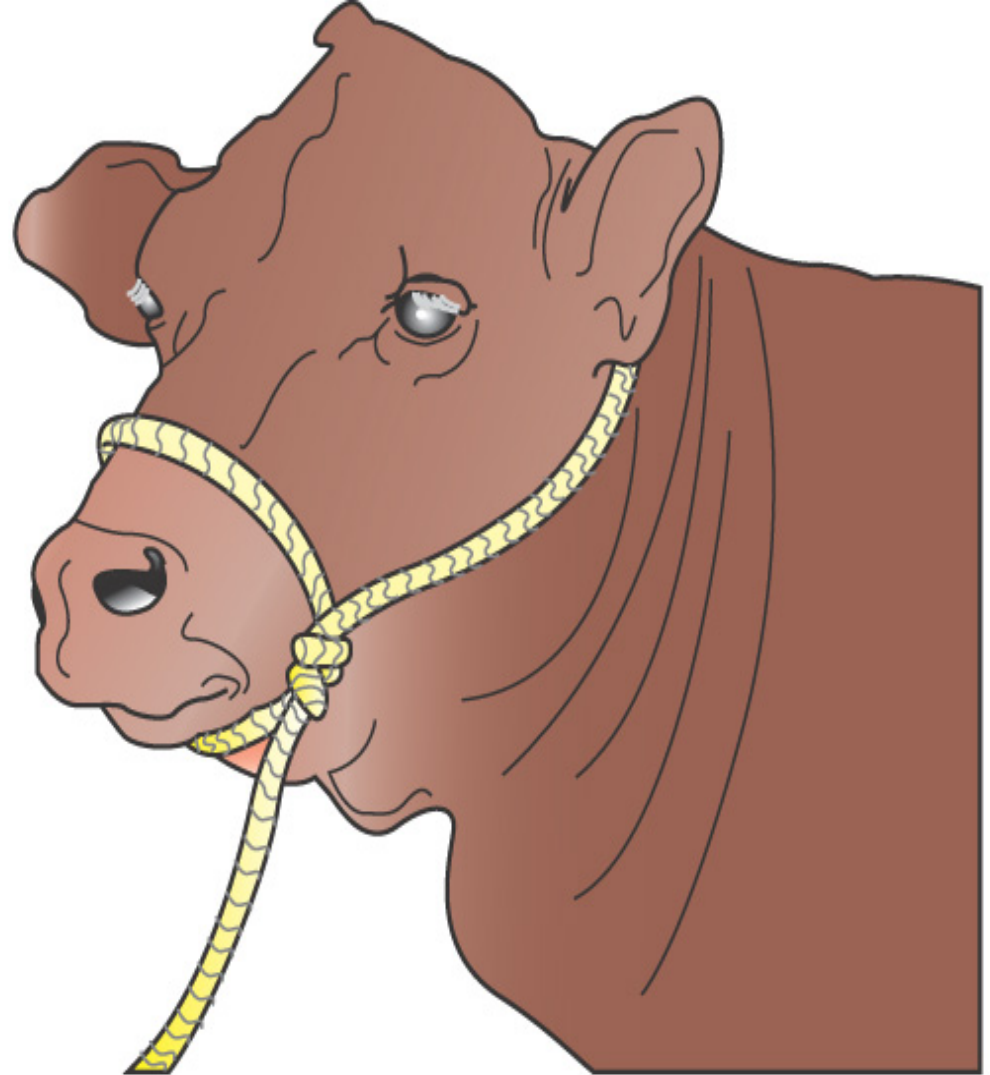
# Nose lead







- Head restraint may be applied to cooperative animals, without use of a chute, but most individuals must be placed in a chute first.
- **"the part that draws goes under the jaws."**



**Fig. 13-2.** Proper placement of a rope cattle halter.



**Fig. 13-3.** The cow has been placed in a chute with a head catch; a rope halter has also been placed to allow further control of the head.

(From McCurnin DM, Bassett JM: *Clinical textbook for veterinary technicians*, ed 6, St Louis, 2006, Saunders.)

- Cattle halters are used to control the head by tying or securing the head to an immovable object with a rope attached to the halter

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**Fig. 13-4.** Cattle nose tongs with ball tips and attached rope.

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- Nose leads are another method of head restraint. They apply blunt, pinching pressure to the nasal septum.
- Nose tongs are not to be used as the only head restraint
- Nasal septum may be torn with violent movement

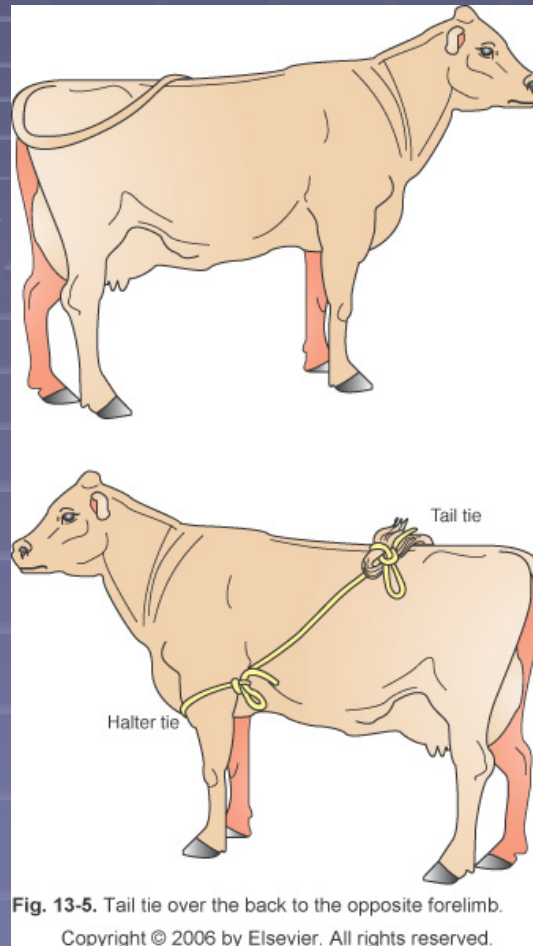
# Nose rings

- Placed through the nasal septum and are often used in bulls
- Should not be used to tie the head for head restraint, it is only for additional control of the head but, as with nose leads, the nasal septum can be torn



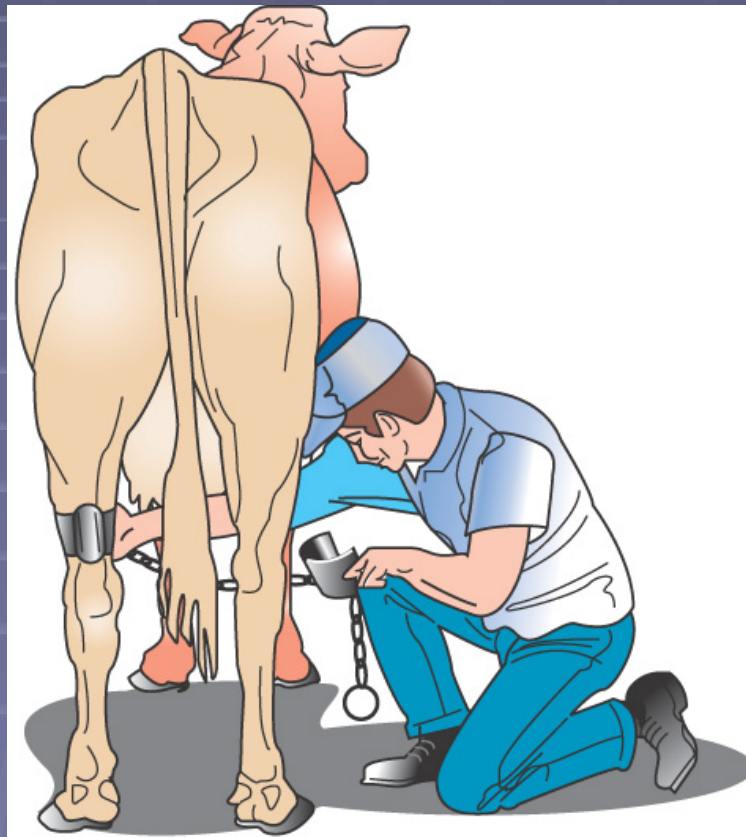


# Tail Restraint



**Fig. 13-5.** Tail tie over the back to the opposite forelimb.  
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# Hobbels/ Hoppels – No Kicking

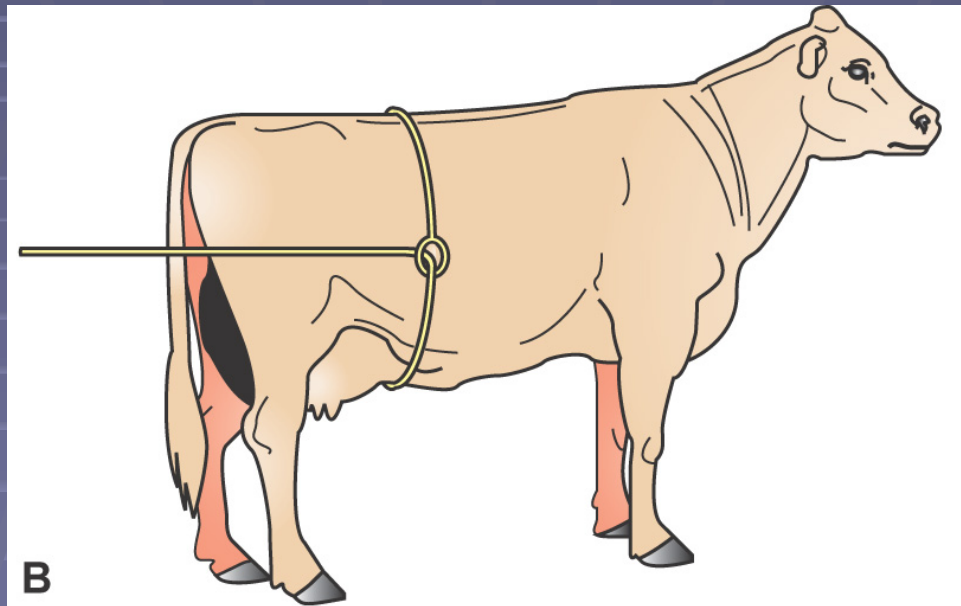


Over common  
calcaneal tendon  
Just above the  
hocks

**Fig. 13-7.** Placing milking hobbles.

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# Flank rope – No Kicking



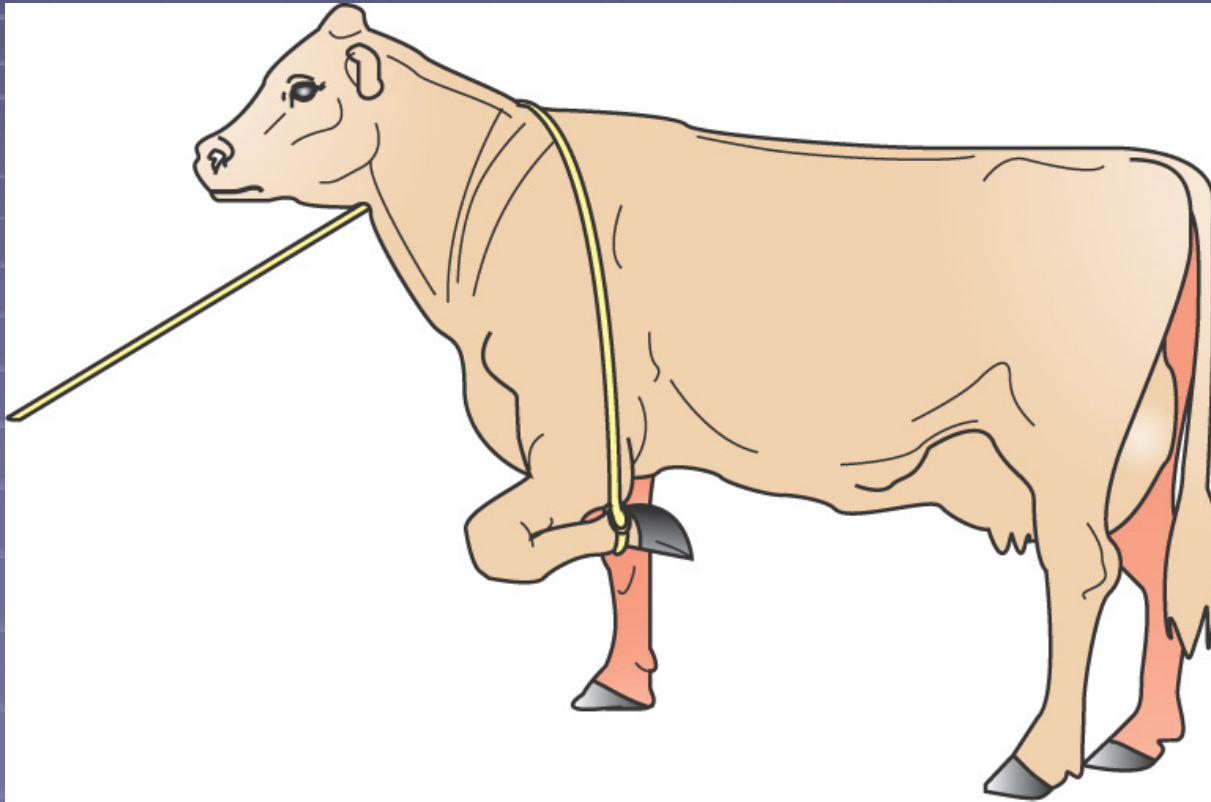
**Fig. 13-9B. A, Flank rope. B, Use of a flank rope on a cow in a cattle chute.**

(From McCurnin DM, Bassert JM: *Clinical textbook for veterinary technicians*, ed 6, St Louis, 2006, Saunders.)



# Front Leg Hoppel

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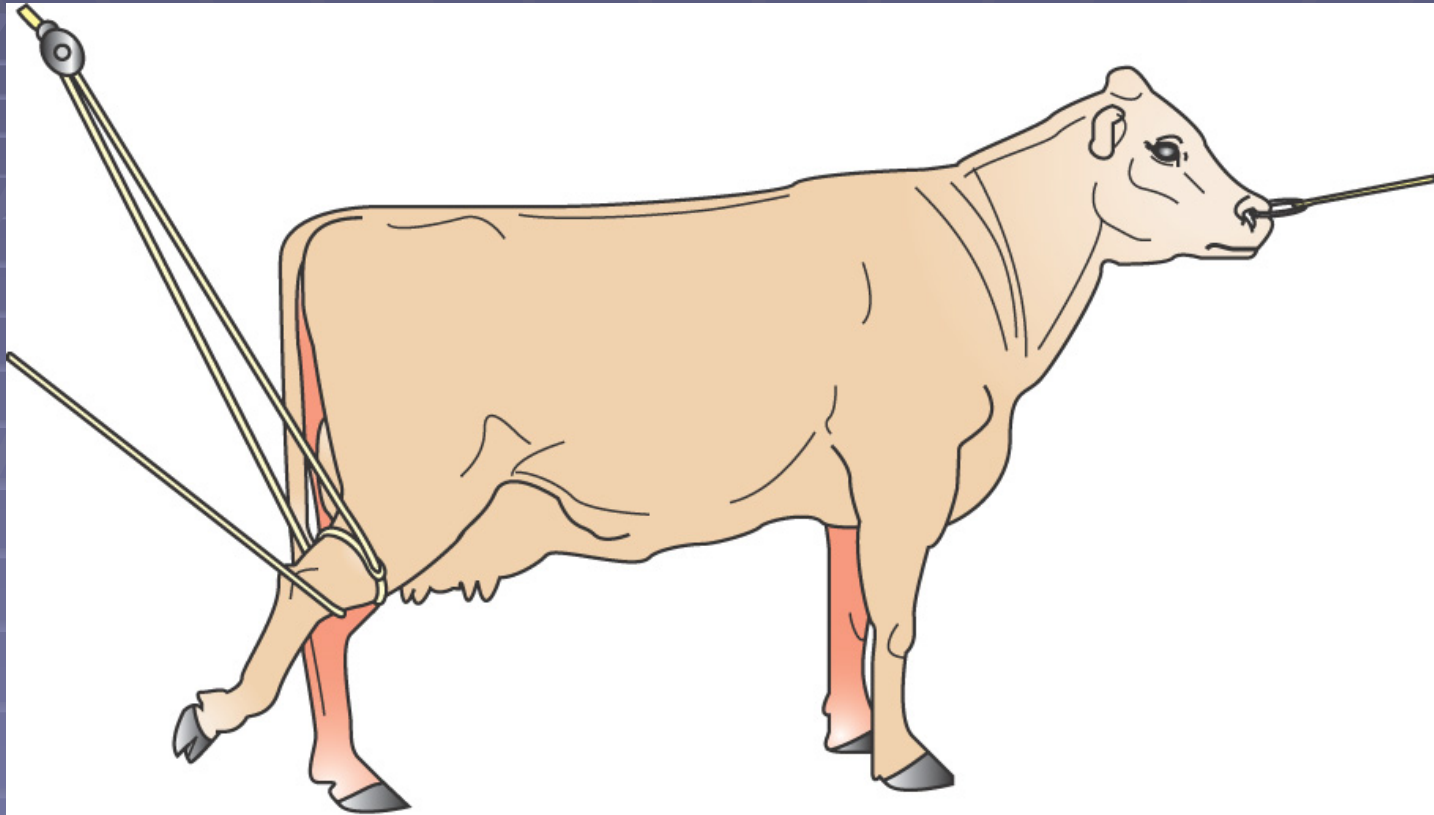


**Fig. 13-10.** Leg rope for elevating a front limb.

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# Beam and Hook - HL

Other method



**Fig. 13-11.** Use of a rope around the hock and elevated hook to elevate a hind leg.

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# Casting – Rope Squeeze

- Casting is a method of forcing an animal to the ground, usually with ropes
- Prefer R lateral recumbency: discourages bloat

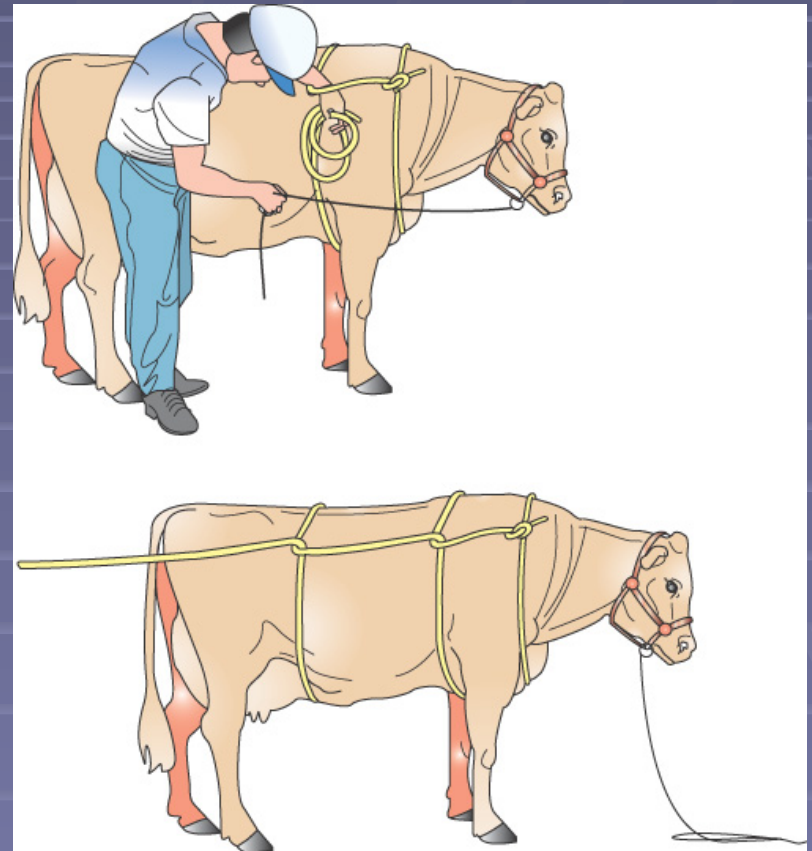
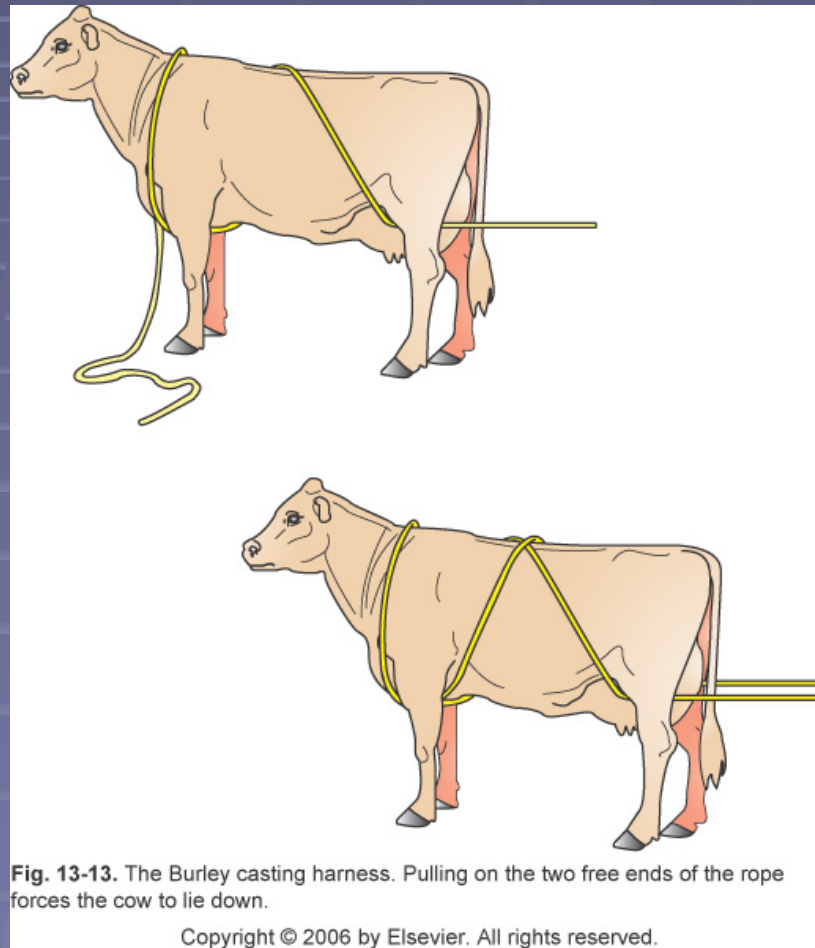


Fig. 13-12. One method of applying a casting harness. Pulling caudally on the free end forces the animal to lie down.

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# Casting – Burley Method



**Fig. 13-13.** The Burley casting harness. Pulling on the two free ends of the rope forces the cow to lie down.

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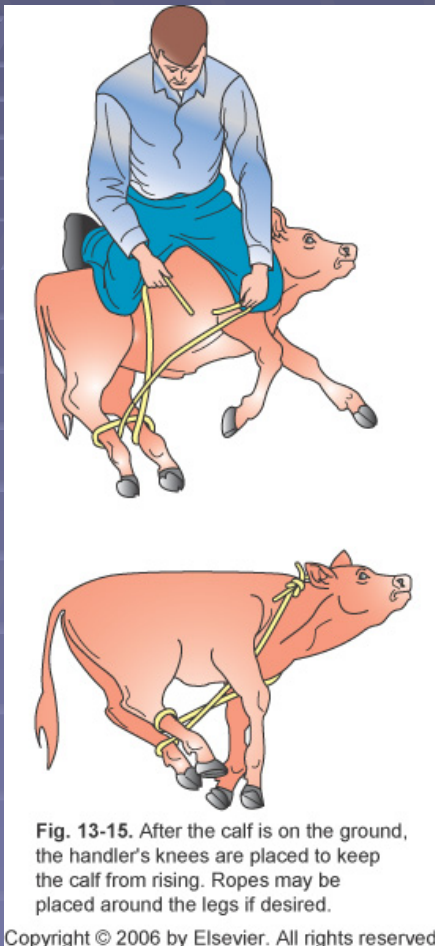
# Calf restraint

- Separate the calf from mother first.



**Fig. 13-14.** One method of flanking a calf. The handler's legs are used to slide the calf to the ground.

# Calf restraint



- Do not throw the calf to the ground
- Do not place the entire bodyweight on the calf and do not occlude the trachea

# Video

<http://vetvideos.com/restraintcattle.htm>

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