

**RESOLUTION #14—2023
Regular Annual Session**

Submitted by
Board of Directors

NEW POLICY ON SHEEP AND GOAT CASTRATION

RESOLVED that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt a new policy on Sheep and Goat Castration as noted below.

Sheep and Goat Castration

Castration of male sheep and goats is a routine animal husbandry procedure used to avoid unwanted pregnancies and behavioral problems. ~~When castration is done at a young age, it can also improve meat quality and tenderness.~~ If castration is performed, the AVMA recommends that sheep and goats be castrated as early as practicable. All methods of castration (e.g., banding, Burdizzo, surgery) cause ~~acute and chronic~~ pain. Therefore, procedures and practices that reduce or eliminate pain should be used, including the use of approved or Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA)-permissible clinically effective medications. When castration is done at a young age, it can also improve meat quality and tenderness. Castration and its associated negative welfare implications can be avoided in some management systems where males are separated from females prior to puberty and intact animals are slaughtered at lighter weights.

The AVMA encourages research leading to new or improved techniques and approved pharmaceuticals that reduce or eliminate pain and distress associated with sheep and goat castration.

Statement about the Resolution

The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP), in conjunction with the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), drafted the policy on Sheep and Goat Castration. The current AVMA policy on Bovine Castration was also considered in the creation of this new policy. The AASRP guidelines on Castration of Sheep and Goats (<http://aasrp.org/resources/castrationsheepgoats2022.pdf>) were used as a reference in the creation of this policy.

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #3	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X (as amended)	X (as amended)		
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...			...the BOD for further clarification by the Animal Welfare Committee	...the BOD for further clarification by the Animal Welfare Committee
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				
(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)				