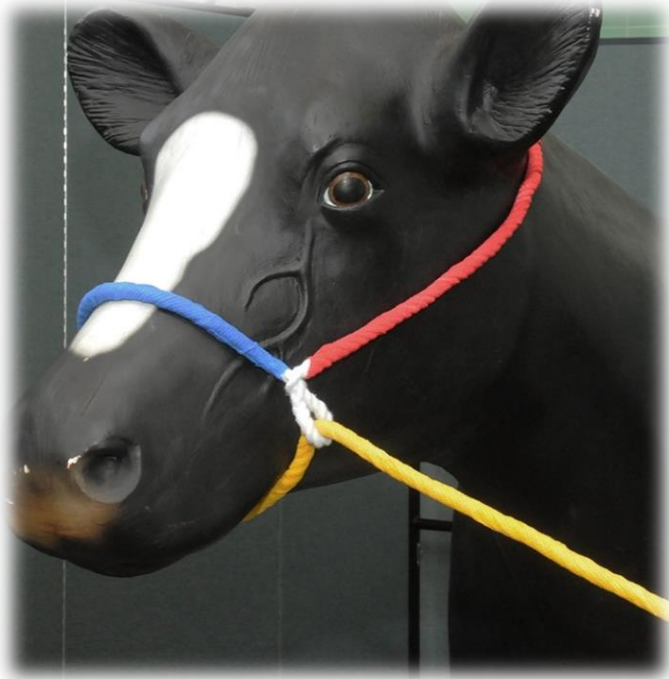


# Putting on a Halter



## Disclaimer

A series of booklets has been developed by the Clinical Skills Lab team (staff, recent graduates and students) from the School of Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol, UK. Please note:

- Each booklet illustrates one way to perform a skill and it is acknowledged that there are often other approaches. Before using the booklets students should check with their university or college whether the approach illustrated is acceptable in their context or whether an alternative method should be used.
- The booklets are made available in good faith and may be subject to changes.
- In using these booklets you must adopt safe working procedures and take your own risk assessments, checked by your university, college etc. The University of Bristol will not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from failure to adhere to such practices.

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Year Group: BVSc1 +



## Equipment list: Putting on a Halter

### Equipment for this station:

- Model cow or model sheep
- Halter
  - Please note a colour-marked halter is used in teaching to help identify each part
  - A plain halter is also available
- Ring, loop or bar (to which the halter lead rope is tied)

### Considerations for this station:

- After using the colour-coded halter, try practising with a normal halter.
- The halter is ready made; it is also useful to learn how to make a halter from a piece of rope.
- When you are confident, try putting a halter on a goat in the Live Anatomy Barn (there is a halter in the barn for use).
- There is a video available on Blackboard demonstrating fitting a halter. It can be found in: Animal Management 1 (VETS10300) > Cattle videos and CAL > Videos > Cattle handling

Anyone working in the Clinical Skills Lab must read the 'CSL\_I01 Induction' and agree to abide by the 'CSL\_I00 House Rules' & 'CSL\_I02 Lab Area Rules'

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

# The Halter

5) Second adjustable loop (red) - placed behind the ears.

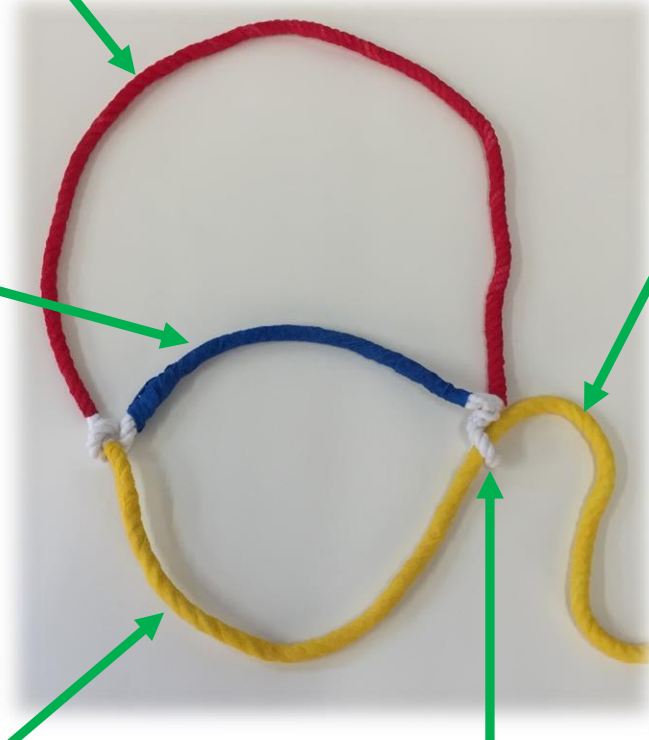
When identifying parts of the halter, it is useful to find each part in the order (1 → 5) listed below:

1) Fixed nose band (blue) - placed on top of the nose.

2) Free end - rope used for leading animal or to be tied e.g. to a bar or ring.

4) Adjustable chin band (yellow) - runs through the two loops at either end of the nose band and is placed under the lower jaw (mandible).

3) Loop to adjust size of halter (white) - should always be on the left of the animal. It may be made of rope or a metal ring. The rope that passes through this becomes the 'free end' (see 2 above).





# Clinical Skills: Putting on a Halter

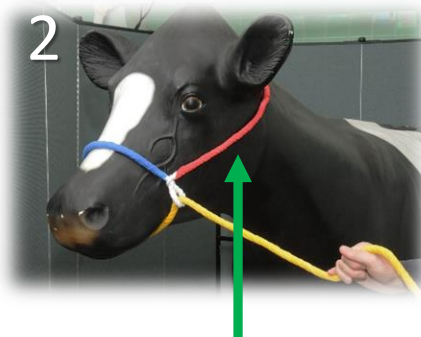
1



Take the halter and decide which way is up!

The free end (lead rope) passes through a loop that may be metal or rope.

2

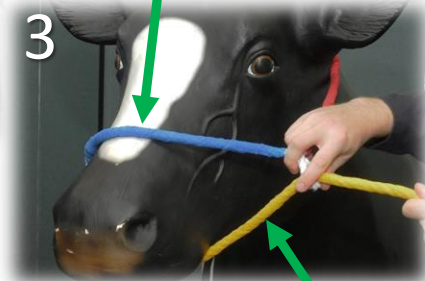


The long loop (red) is placed over the ears.

In a live cow, it is usually easiest to put the rope over the ears first.

The short, immovable section (blue) goes OVER the nose.

3



The adjustable loop (yellow) MUST go UNDER the chin.

The photo below shows a calf with a halter on **correctly**.

4



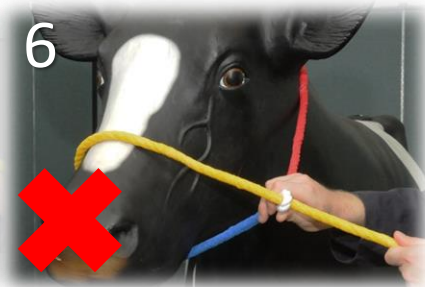
The halter can be tightened or adjusted by sliding the loop (indicated by the arrow) closer to, or further away from, the animal's head.

5



The halter in the photo above has been fitted **incorrectly** with the adjustable chin band (yellow) behind the ears. As a result, the fixed nose band will pull up the face and impinge on the eyes when the halter is tightened.

6



The halter in the photo has been fitted **incorrectly** with the adjustable chin band (yellow) over the nose. This will give less control over the animal's head movement.

N.B. After using the colour-coded halter, try practising with a plain normal halter.



# Clinical Skills: Putting on a halter



Pass the rope behind a firm post or through a ring and bring the free end back parallel to the part of the rope leading to the calf or cow's head.



Make a loop with free end. Then pass the free end of the rope perpendicularly underneath the part of the rope leading to the calf or cow's head.



Bring your fingers up through the loop to take hold of the free end of the rope.



Pull the free end through the original loop to form a new loop.



Tighten by pushing the knot towards pole (or ring) and pulling on halter end (i.e. the part of the rope leading to the calf or cow's head).



The knot will tighten if the animal pulls back. The knot will untie ('quick release') if a handler pulls the free end.



# Clinical Skills: Putting on a Halter



This rope is tied too long so the animal can move too freely.



This rope is tied too short so the animal will be unable to move its head.



Ideally, the rope should be tied at a length that will allow the animal a little head movement but still ensures it is controlled and can't move too much.



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# Resetting the station: Putting on a Halter

1. Remove the halter from the cow/ sheep model
2. Replace in labelled cupboard or drawer with instruction booklet

*Station ready for the next person:*



Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

# I wish I'd known: Putting on a Halter

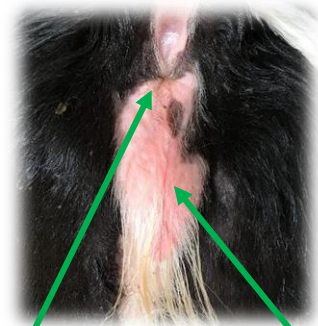
- Make sure you have a halter as part of the kit in your car and do not assume the farmer has one.
- Having a calf halter in your car as well can prove useful.
- Clean the halter after use e.g. in a bucket of water with iodine.
- Once tied up you can practise examining the calf to determine if it is male or female:



Anus



Prepuce



Anus

Vulva

### Male calves

- Lift the tail: there is only an anus present
- Palpate the scrotum between the legs
- From the side, the prepuce can be seen and palpated; take care not to confuse with the navel

### Female calves

- Lift the tail: a vulva is present underneath the anus
- There is no prepuce or testes present. However, the navel can be confused with a prepuce.