

Stomach Tubing a Cow



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A series of booklets (instructions for skills and flipped classroom materials) has been developed by the Clinical Skills Lab team (staff, recent graduates and students) from Bristol Veterinary School, University of Bristol, UK.

Please note:

- Each flipped classroom booklet includes ways to prepare for learning a skill in class; it is acknowledged that there are often other approaches. Before using the booklets, students should check with their university or college to determine whether the approaches illustrated are acceptable in their context or whether an alternative resources should be used.
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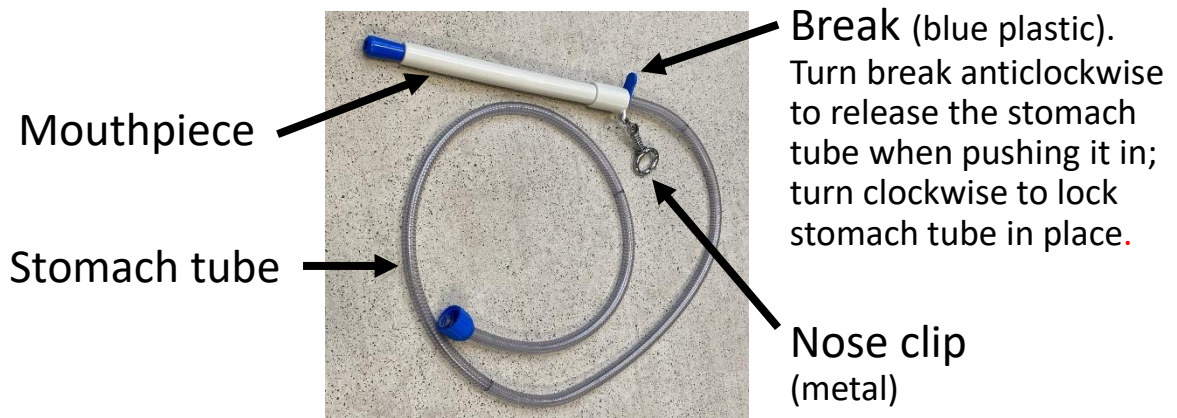
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Equipment list:

Stomach Tubing a Cow

Equipment for this station:

- Cow stomach tubing model
- Tubing equipment consisting of:



Considerations for this station:

- The cow stomach tubing model should be placed on a table so that the cow's head is at a realistic height and can be accessed from the left side (or preferably both sides).

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.

Clinical Skills:

Stomach Tubing a Cow



1
Prepare the stomach tubing equipment for use by making sure the stomach tube (clear plastic pipe) is fully retracted within the mouthpiece and the break is in the locked position.



2
Grasp the mouthpiece with your dominant hand at the end closest to the nose clip. Put the stomach tube over the same shoulder as your dominant hand. Stand next to the cow model facing the same direction as the cow. Restrain the cow by placing non-dominant hand over dorsal aspect of the muzzle.
Note: The photos show a **left-hander** doing the task.



3
Gently introduce the mouthpiece into the cow's mouth.



4
Carefully advance the mouthpiece to the caudal part of the cow's mouth.



5
Stop advancing when the end of the mouthpiece is at the caudal aspect of the mouth.



6
The mouthpiece is kept in place by attaching the nose clip to cow's nose. First, open the nose clip by retracting the spring and pulling the two 'arms' of the clip apart.

Clinical Skills:

Stomach Tubing a Cow



Place the open nose clip into the cow's nose, with one 'arm' of the clip in each nostril.

Close the 'arms' of the nose clip and release the spring, keeping 'arms' in place.



Twist the break (blue plastic lever) anti-clockwise to unlock the stomach tube.



Move into a position so that you can visualise the left side of the cow's neck.

Gently advance the stomach tube down the cow's oesophagus.



10



If the tube is within the oesophagus, you should be able to see it moving down the neck on the left hand side of the cow.

11



When the stomach tube has reached the level of the rumen (equivalent to the bottom of the bucket on the model) stop advancing.

Twist the break in a clockwise direction to lock the tube in place.

At this point, once you were happy the tube was in the correct location, you would use the pump to administer oral fluids (do not do on the model).



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Unlock the break by twisting it in an anticlockwise direction.



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Clinical Skills: Stomach Tubing a Cow

13



Retract the stomach tube all the way back to the mouthpiece. It is fully retracted when you hear it hitting the back of the mouthpiece.

14



Depress the spring on the nose clip, open the 'arms' and remove nose clip from the cow's nostrils.

15



Gently pull mouthpiece (with contained stomach tube) out of the cow's mouth.

Resetting the station: Stomach Tubing a Cow

1. Make sure stomach tube is fully retracted into mouthpiece.
2. Twist the break clockwise to lock stomach tube.

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: Stomach Tubing a Cow

- Stomach tubing a cow can be performed by any trained person (vet/farmer/student).
- It is a method used to safely administering large volumes of fluids to a sick cow.
- Cow must be well restrained, using a crush/head yolk/halter before attempting to pass a stomach tube.
- Ideally another person would assist in restraining the cow's head while you pass the stomach tube.
- You **MUST** see or feel the stomach passing down the oesophagus (left side of the neck) before passing any fluids.
 - If unsure, withdraw the stomach tube and pass down again.
 - There is the potential to **KILL** the COW if the stomach tube is in the trachea instead of the oesophagus when fluids are passed down the tube.
- When passing the fluids down the tube, start by pumping slowly, checking the cow is not resenting this or coughing.
- When you have finished passing the fluids, do a few extra pumps to make sure all the fluid is pushed out of the tube and into the rumen, so that when you remove the tube from the oesophagus there is not any fluid left in the tube that may run into the lungs.
- An adult Holstein Friesian cow would require around 50-60L of fluid, but judgement must be made on an individual cow basis, in terms of size of cow and the level of dehydration.