

Scurs on Show Goats

Scurs are small horn re-growths that develop after a kid goat has been disbudded. Frequently, this is a result of the dehorning iron not being hot enough or not left on long enough at the time of dehorning. It may also be due to not waiting long enough between kids (to allow the iron to reheat). Sometimes scurs can occur even if a good job of disbudding is done.



Figure 1. This scur can easily and safely be twisted off.

However, you can usually twist off the scur with a pair of pliers, if you catch it early enough. You should clip the hair around the horn to avoid discomfort to the goat. Next, you should check to see if the scur is firmly attached to the head or not.

If the scur has movement, then it is safe to twist off with a pair of pliers in a quick circular motion (see figure 1). If it feels solidly attached to the skull, then you may have to re-burn it (see figure 2). If removed when firmly attached to the skull, the horn will bleed excessively (figure 3).

For the most part, the scurs will not come back after you have twisted them off. There is greater success if this is done before the scur gets over ½ inch long.

A “polled” head looks more attractive in the show ring and also eliminates the discomfort on the exhibitor’s hands when showing with a collar (see figures 4 & 5).

Pascual Hernandez
Sutton County Extension Agent-Ag



Figure 2. Scur is firmly attached and cannot be twisted off, but may possibly still be burned off.



Figure 3. Horn regrowth is excessive & should not be twisted off by pliers.



Figure 4. Showing with a collar.



Figure 5. Close-up: scurs can be painful for an exhibitor’s hands.