

Equipment for treating lameness

General Advice

The best advice is to purchase the best equipment you can afford rather than to select equipment on price alone. Well made equipment will last longer. The same goes for tools. Buy the best available and look after them as if they were your tools-of-trade; which they are. Clean and oil metal parts before storing them away from damp. Sharpen hoof knives immediately after use, or at the very least on the same day, so they are always ready to use when next you need them.

Restraint of the cow

- A suitable cattle crush that allows safe access to the cow's front and rear legs
- Good quality rope or webbing straps for restraining legs
- Back bar or rope and/or wide webbing support belt(s) for the cow

Safety

- Cut-resistant gloves made with Dyneema or Kevlar type material
- Cut-resistant arm/wrist guard made with Dyneema or Kevlar type material
- Heavy-duty earth leakage power lead and safety switch (Residual Current Device) for use when using power tools
- Rubber matting on the floor of the crush

Essential tools

- Double-action articulated hoof trimmer for cattle
- Hoof tester (also called hoof testing pliers)
- Standard hoof knives – various types
- Hoof knife pouches (old teat-cup liners are adequate)
- Sharpening stone and/or Diamond hoof knife sharpener
- Fine round chain-saw file
- Demotec hoof gauge
- Methylated Spirits
- Cow slip or wooden blocks and suitable adhesive – discuss safety issues with supplier
- Antibiotic – must be prescribed by your veterinarian. Observe withholding periods
- Antiseptic spray.

Optional tools

- Paring hoof knife
- Rasp or cordless angle grinder with sanding discs
- Hoof trimming and/or grinding/cutting discs and adapters to fit standard right-angle grinder
- Hoof cutter – eg. Merlin (for advanced users only)
- Hoof Chisel (eg. Nordic) and small sledge hammer
- Rubber Abrasive Knife Sharpening Wheel (eg. Matz)
- Felt buffing wheel.

Suppliers of hoof care tools and accessories include:

Innovative Farm Imports Pty Ltd
www.innovativefarmimports.com.au
198 Main Road (P O Box 152)
Neerim South VIC 3831
Telephone: 03 5628 1251

The Farmers Mailbox
www.fmb.com.au/index1.html (click 'Hoof Care')
40 Laurel Street (Tools on display in showroom)
Whittlesea VIC 3757
Telephone: 03 9716 3312 or free call: 1800 81 66 99

Bainbridge Veterinary Instruments
<http://bainbridgevet.com.au>
(Click 'Animal Equipment' then 'Hoof Care Large Animals')
6/92 Killara Road
Campbellfield VIC 3061
Telephone: 1300 721 099

Please note that this list is not exhaustive. Inclusion of a manufacturer in the list does not imply endorsement of the company or recommendation of the products made by that company. Contact details are correct as at 12 Oct 2009 but may change in the future.

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