

# Casting a Cow



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- 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.
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## Equipment list: Casting a Cow

### Equipment for this station:

- Model cow
- Long rope
- An assistant

### Considerations for this station:

- Please do not attempt to pull the model cow over
- The technique is also referred to as Reuth's method
- Towards the end of the 'Clinical Skills' section there is a series of photos describing how to tie the bowline knot i.e. for practising tying just the knot with a piece of string or rope

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: Casting a Cow



1 Find one end of the rope and place the rest of the rope in loops over your right arm. Stand on the left side of the cow. Pass the short end of the rope over the dorsal aspect of the cow's neck and let it fall down the far (right) side. Collect the short end from under the cow's neck in your left hand.



2 Secure the loop around the cow's neck by tying a bowline knot (not a slip knot). To start, the short free end of the rope should be in your left hand (*the short end is identified in the photos with a piece of green tape*); the long piece of the rope is in your right hand.



3 Make a loop in the long piece of the rope in your right hand (see also in photo below).



4 Pass the short free end of the rope through the loop, moving the end of the rope towards yourself.



5 Continue pulling the short free end of the rope through the loop.



6 Pass the short free end of the rope under the long section of the rope.



# Clinical Skills: Casting a Cow



7  
Pass the short free end of the rope back through the loop.



8  
Tighten the knot by pulling both ends of the rope. This is a bowline knot (not a slip knot).



9  
Move the knot dorsally and then extend the rope along the cow's neck towards the withers.



10  
Ask an assistant to stand on the far (right) side of the cow. Pass the rope over the withers to the assistant.

*If an assistant is not available, drop the rope down the far (right) side of the cow.*



11  
Ask the assistant to pass the rope under the cow behind the front legs. Continue to hold the rope at the withers in your left hand.

*If an assistant is not available, reach under the cow for the rope.  
N.B. It may not be possible to continue holding the rope at the withers while reaching under the cow.*



12  
Collect the rope as it is passed under the cow by the assistant. Bring the rope up the near (left) side of the cow towards the back.





13  
Pass the long end of the rope underneath the section of the rope that is over/along the neck at the withers.



14  
Tighten the rope.



15  
Pass the rope along the back and then hand it to the assistant on the far (right) side of the cow just cranially to the tuber coxae.

*If an assistant is not available, drop the rope down the far (right) side of the cow.*



16  
Ask the assistant to pass the rope under the cow in front of the udder. Continue to hold the rope on the back in your left hand.

*If an assistant is not available, reach under the cow for the rope.*

*N.B. It may not be possible to continue holding the rope on the back while reaching under the cow.*



17  
Bring the rope up the near (left) side of the cow towards the back. Pass the long end of the rope underneath the section of the rope that is over/along the back just cranial to the tuber coxae.



18  
Tighten the rope.



# Clinical Skills: Casting a Cow

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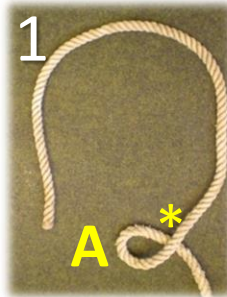
Check that the rope is tight with the 'knots' in the correct positions (as shown in the photo).

20



Stand behind the cow and pull on the rope to cast the cow.  
*Do not try to pull the model cow over.*

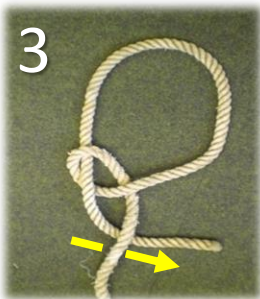
To practise tying a bowline knot in a piece of rope or string (i.e. when not with the cow):



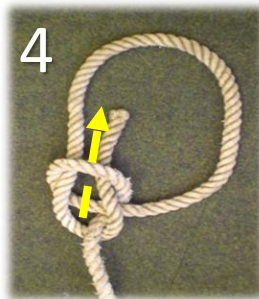
1 Make a small loop (A) in the rope in your right hand. N.B. The short piece of rope is on top at \*



2 Pass the short free end of the rope through the small loop.



3 Pass the short free end of the rope under the longer section of the rope.



4 Pass the short free end of the rope back through the small loop.



5 Tighten the knot by pulling the short free end of the rope with left hand and the longer end of the rope with the right hand.



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# Resetting the station: Casting a Cow

1. Untie the rope and remove from the cow
2. Role up the rope tidily
3. Replace the rope in the box under the cow, or in the labelled cupboard or drawer, with the 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: Casting a Cow

- Have a rope of sufficient length as part of the kit in your car and do not assume the farmer will have one.
- The bowline knot can be tied before putting the rope loop over the cow's head; practise both as under different circumstances one approach may be more suitable than the other e.g. cow temperament, the cow is already tied up.
- Have enough help to hand, at least one other person is especially useful when passing the rope over the back, down the far (right) side and then underneath the cow.
- Bunch (or loop) the long section of the rope so it is easier to pass over and underneath the cow. It will also keep the rope cleaner!
- Plan beforehand where you want the cow to go down so she doesn't end up lying in an awkward position.
- When ready to pull on the rope and cast the cow, remember the cow needs to be haltered and tied or held first!