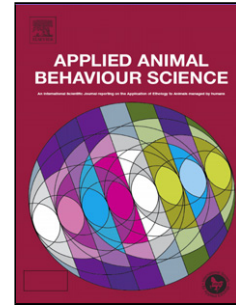


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Behavioural response of dairy goat kids to cautery disbudding

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Highlights

- Cautery disbudding is a painful procedure that can impact animal welfare.
- The simple “occurrence” of certain behaviours were not useful indicators of pain.
- Changes in frequency of specific behaviours may serve as useful indicators of pain.
- Head shaking, scratching and rubbing and body shaking increased following disbudding.

ABSTRACT

Behavioural changes associated with cautery disbudding of female Saanen dairy goat kids were assessed. At 4 ± 2 days of age, kids were randomly assigned to one of two treatment groups: (i) disbudded with a cautery iron (CAUT, $n = 5$) and (ii) sham handled and not disbudded (SHAM, $n = 5$). Animals were video recorded 12 h pre- and post-treatment in the home pen. One trained observer recorded the frequency of 11 behaviours: allogrooming, body shaking, ear biting, feeding, head butting, head rubbing, head scratching, head shaking, jumping, running and self-grooming. In addition, total lying duration and number of lying bouts were measured using accelerometers. The mean post-treatment frequencies (corrected for the frequencies pre-treatment) were compared

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