



Wearable Infrastructure
Automated Headbail &
Neck Extenders

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Head Related Animal Handling Task

Restraint Requirements in category of head hold and extension benefits

Almost every routine health, husbandry and identification task on cattle is carried out on or around the head and neck. Each task places different demands on how the animal must be restrained — from a simple secure catch through to full head immobilisation and clear access to the side and underside of the neck. This sheet maps the common tasks to the restraint they require, so the right handling set-up can be matched to the job.

A – Head Bail / Head Hold	B – Head Bail / Head Hold	C – Head Bail / Hold and Neck Extender	D – Plus Side Access / Neck Extender
Secures the animal with the head caught at the poll and jaw. The baseline restraint for every task on this sheet.	Immobilises the head against upward, downward and sideways movement. Required for precision work close to the eyes, nose and mouth.	Draws the head and neck forward and steady, presenting the side and underside of the neck. Required for collar fitting and jugular access.	Provides clear lateral access to the side of the head and neck without reaching over the animal.

Task Group	Task	A	B	C	D	Why – restraint notes
Identification & recording	Ear tagging – NAIT/RFID & management tags	●	○	●		Head caught and reasonably steady; a head holder/ extender reduces ear movement and improves tag placement and retention.
	Retagging lost or damaged tags	●	○	●		As above; locating and re-piercing a healed site needs a still ear.
	Ear notching / TSU tissue sampling (genotyping, BVD)	●	○	●		Clean sample requires the ear held still; head holder helps on fractious stock.
	Aging by dentition / dental check	●	●	●	●	Mouth must be opened and inspected with the head held firmly against movement.
Horn management	Disbudding of calves (cautery or paste)	●	●			Precision work on a small moving target; full head immobilisation is essential for welfare and accuracy.
	Dehorning of older cattle	●	●	●	○	Significant force, bleeding and precision — head must be locked solid; side access aids the operator.
	Horn tipping / scur removal	●	●	●		Head held firm to control the cut and the animal's reaction.
Oral administration	Drenching – anthelmintics & minerals	●	●	●		Head needs to be raised and steadied to deliver over the back of the tongue and avoid spillage.
	Bolus / capsule administration; magnets	●	●	●		Head elevated and held still to pass the bolus gun safely and reduce choke risk.
	Stomach tubing / oral fluid therapy	●	●	●	●	Head and neck must be extended and held steady to pass the tube safely.
	Oral antibiotics / anti-inflammatories	●	●			Head steadied for safe, accurate dosing.
Eye health	Pinkeye treatment – ointments, sprays, patches	●	●	●	○	Close, delicate work at the eye; the head must not move. Side access lets the operator work square to the eye.
	Subconjunctival / bulbar eye injection	●	●	●	●	Highest-precision head task — full immobilisation is non-negotiable.
	Cancer eye (ocular SCC) examination & treatment	●	●	●	●	Sustained, careful work; clear side access required for examination and any minor procedure.
Nose & muzzle	Nasal swabbing – M. bovis, BVD, respiratory	●	●	●		Head held still with the nostril presented; movement contaminates or fails the sample.
	Bull nose ring insertion & ring checks	●	●	●	○	Forceful, precise procedure on a large animal; head locked, often with nose tongs as well.
	Muzzle & nostril examination / treatment	●	●	●		Head steadied for close inspection of the muzzle and nares.
Mouth, jaw & throat	Lumpy jaw & wooden tongue treatment	●	●	●	●	Repeated, close treatment of the jaw and tongue; side access lets the operator reach the lesion safely.
	Mouth lesion / foreign body treatment	●	●	●	●	Mouth held open with the head immobilised.
	Clinical exam – head, lymph nodes, mucous membranes	●	●	●	●	Side access to palpate the jaw, throat and lymph nodes without reaching over the animal.
Sampling & diagnostics	Jugular blood sampling	●	●	●	●	The neck extender presents the jugular groove; side access lets the operator raise the vein and draw cleanly.
	Facial / coccygeal vein sampling	●	●	●		Head held steady to locate and bleed the facial vein.
	TB testing – cervical site	●	●	●	●	Neck must be presented and steady for the injection and the 72-hour read; side access for measurement.
	Saliva sampling	●	●	●		Head held still to collect from the mouth.
Topical & external	Pour-on / spot-on at poll and neck (lice, flies)	●			○	Baseline catch is enough; side access speeds application along the neck line.
	Insecticidal fly tag application	●	●	●	●	Ear held still for placement — same requirement as routine tagging.
	Ringworm treatment on face and head	●	●	●	●	Repeated topical work on the face; head held still, side access to reach lesions.
	Wound dressing – poll, face, ears	●	●	●	●	Sustained, careful work; head immobilised with clear side access to the wound.
Vaccination	Neck-region vaccination	●	●	●	●	Head and forequarter controlled; side access presents the neck injection site safely.
Collars & halters	Fitting, adjustment and removal	●	●	●	●	The neck extender presents and steadies the neck; side access lets the operator work the strap and buckle with both hands.
Collars & halters	Management / virtual-fencing collar fitting & adjustment	●	●	●	●	Purpose-built collar fitting task — neck extender plus clear side access on both sides of the neck is the safe, efficient set-up. This is the Collar Care use case.

Key: ● Required restraint level ○ Recommended / improves safety and efficiency blank = not required for the task

Matching the set-up to the work: A head bail handles the baseline catch for every task. Adding a head yoke rubber lined unlocks the precision work — eyes, mouth, nose, disbudding. A neck extender, with clear side access, is what makes the higher-value neck tasks — jugular sampling, TB testing, and halter or management-collar fitting — safe, repeatable and quick. The TechniPharm head bail and Collar Care range is built to carry an operator across this full span of tasks from a single handling position.