

THE MODIFIED HORN RING METHOD AS A TOOL IN DETERMINING THE AGE OF CARABAO (*Bubalus bubalis*)

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ABSTRACT

*The accuracy of the modified horn ring method to determine the age of carabao (*Bubalus bubalis*) was tested using 127 carabaos of both sexes, aged one to 23 years old, randomly selected at an auction market. The length and circumference of the horns were measured while the number of rings were counted in both the right and left horns. The results showed that although variations occurred in the length, circumference and number of rings between right and left horns and between male and female animals in relation to age, such variations were not statistically significant. Furthermore, the linear regression model showed a direct correlation between the number of horn rings and the age of the animal. Thus the formula:*

$$y = 1.22322503 + .264245856 (x)$$

where y is the age and x is the number of horn rings, was arrived at to estimate the age of the carabao. Using this formula, a table of confidence interval (Table 2) was subsequently made to facilitate age determination.

Key words: age determination, bubalus bubalis, horn ring method, ruminant.