



Tern Vets Ltd

PUTTING CARE INTO PRACTICE

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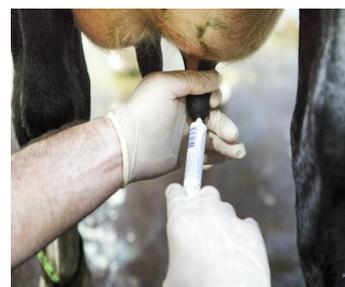


Reminder for Arla Farmers

From 1st October 2015, the UK will be implementing Arlagården, Arla's quality assurance programme, alongside the current Red Tractor scheme. As part of this, all Arla farmers will be required to discuss and agree with his or her vet the use of antibiotic dry cow therapy. The key points include the following:

- Preventative antibiotic use should be avoided, and antibiotics must be used responsibly.
- Selective dry cow therapy will be encouraged, and the attending vet will be asked to complete and sign off a form relating to antibiotic dry cow therapy use. This will include whether selective dry cow therapy is already used and, if so, the selection criteria for individual cows.
- If blanket dry cow therapy is recommended, then the reasons for this decision must be noted.
- Farmers must commit to reviewing mastitis management practices on farm to move to selective antibiotic dry cow therapy in due course.

Please do speak to your routine vet about this. For many of you, little will change, but we'll do all we can to help and to ensure any transitions are as smooth as possible.



TB Audit

We are committed to continue offering TB testing as part of our farm animal service at Tern Vets. The recent tender agreement has demanded extra auditing of every participating vet practice to ensure the test is being carried out as effectively as possible. Our vets will be audited for a week from 21st September so we would ask for your continued co-operation and patience if we are testing on your farm during that time.



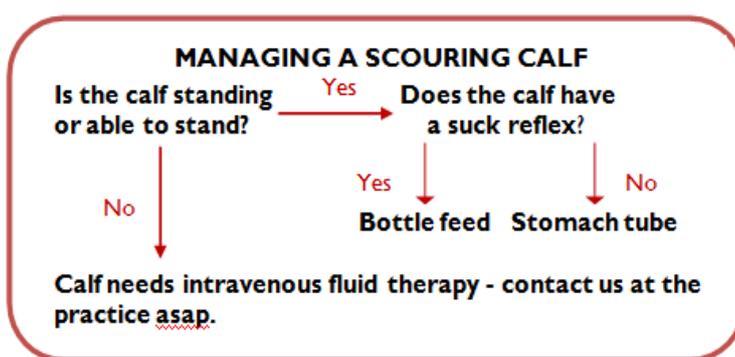
Fluid therapy for scouring calves - what's best?

Whatever the cause of the scour, addressing the fluid loss is of vital in ensuring a good outcome. A healthy calf should receive a minimum of 6L of milk (at least 8-10% of body weight) per day for 'maintenance', fed in 2 or 3 feeds, and as the calf's body weight increases its milk requirements will also increase. In addition to this, fresh water should always be available for calves.



Scouring calves can lose vast amounts of fluid through the scour, and the need to replace this fluid in addition to the 'maintenance' requirements means that in reality, a minimum of 8-12L of fluid (16-20% of body weight) should be given to calves, spread in feeds across the day.

The route of getting fluids into these calves depends on whether the calf is able to stand, and whether it is able to suck. If the calf can't stand, it needs intravenous fluids asap - oral fluids given to a down, unresponsive calf, can risk fluid getting onto the calf's lungs. The calf is also likely to be too dehydrated by this point for oral fluid therapy to be of much benefit.



Standing calves should be either bottle fed (if they have a suck reflex and will drink) or stomach tubed (if there is no suck reflex) with rehydration fluids in between their normal milk feeds throughout the day. Keeping the calf on milk ensures that it gets adequate nutrition while it recovers. Without this nutrition the calf's immune system will not be able to function, recovery can take much longer and the calf may starve. While the scour may initially look worse in calves which are kept on milk, they recover much more quickly than calves that are effectively starved by being taken off milk for prolonged periods. Milk and electrolyte feeds should generally be separated by a few hours as the electrolyte can affect the milk clotting in the abomasum.

The underlying cause of the scour should also be identified and treated, as the varied causes of calf scour require different treatments. Anti-inflammatories can be very helpful, but you need to make sure they are kept well hydrated to reduce the risk of the drugs causing kidney damage. Ideally a muck sample should be taken as soon as the calf is noted to be sick and before any treatment is given. We now have scour test kits in ours cars that give us results in a few minutes so we can get you a diagnosis and tailor treatment for the individual affected calf and help prevent disease in the other calves.

In general, excellent hygiene and adequate colostrum intake are key in the prevention of calf scour. In addition to this, we may recommend vaccination of the cows (in the case of scour caused by rotavirus, coronavirus or E. coli) or the use of antiprotozoal agents (in the case of scour caused by cryptosporidium or coccidia). Without knowing the underlying cause it is much harder to effectively treat sick calves or to prevent further cases of scour on your farm.