

Calf scours is a broad, descriptive term referring to diarrhoea in calves. Calf scours is not a specific disease but the clinical sign of a disease complex with many possible causes.

**Non-infectious scours** - Caused by changes to feeding, not usually severe enough to cause death. non-infectious diarrhoea can weaken the calf and make it more susceptible to infectious diarrhoea.

**Infectious scours** - rotavirus, cryptosporidium, E.coli, corona-virus, salmonella and coccidiosis.

### Prevention

- Ensure the calf has had 2 litres of colostrum within 6 hours of birth and at least 4 litres in the first 12 hours
- Minimise stress and chilling during sale & transport
- House in a dry, draft-free, hygienic shed
- Avoid sudden changes in the type, quantity and tempera-ture of milk or milk powder
- After significant transport feed electrolytes for the first 12 hours
- Clean pens and any equipment regularly with a virucidal spray e.g.Vetsan.

### Treatment

- Keep it in a clean, dry, draught-free environment and keep warm (put a calf cover on if available)
- Alternate feeding between 2 litres milk and 2 litres of good quality electrolyte such as Revive or Diarrest using the pro-protocol below
- Use a tube feeder for any slow or weak drinkers.
- All scouring animals should be kept separate from healthy animals until they have recovered
- Spray the pens and equipment with virucidal spray daily e.g.Vetsan



## CALVES: A GUIDE TO Treating Scours

### Dehydration

- For calves with moderate to severe dehydration, additional fluid therapy over and above normal requirements is often required. Refer to the table below for fluid requirements for dehydrated animals with ongoing fluid loss from scours.
- Note that these animals may need to be tubed, or provided sub-cutaneous/intravenous fluids to facilitate recovery.”

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Morning	Electrolyte 2L	Electrolyte 2L	Milk 2L
Lunch	Electrolyte 2L	Milk 2L	Electrolyte 2L
Evening	Milk 2L	Electrolyte 2L	Milk 2L
Overnight	Leave 3L electrolyte in feeder overnight		

### When to call us

- For any calf which is weak, cold in the ears or limbs or unable to stand
- For vet advice on how to tube a calf.
- If calves temperature is between 39.5-42°C.

Fluid required (L/day)										
% dehydration	0%			5%			8%			
Estimated loss through scours (L/ day)										
		1	2	4	1	2	4	1	2	4
Calf weight (kg)	30	4.6	6	8.8	6.7	8.1	11	8	9.4	12.3
	40	5.6	7	9.9	8.4	9.9	12.7	10.2	11.6	14.4
	50	6.6	8	10.9	10.2	11.6	14.5	12.3	13.8	16.6
	60	7.6	9.1	11.9	11.9	13.4	16.2	14.5	15.9	18.8
	70	8.7	10.1	13	13.7	15.1	18	16.7	18.1	21
	80	9.7	11.1	14	15.4	16.8	19.7	18.8	20.3	23.1

\*Updated Sept 25