

# CALF 911

## HYPOTHERMIA

**Are your calves in the eye of the storm?**

Know the risk factors that can spiral into calf hypothermia.



Scan to watch video or click here:  
Managing Hypothermia in Newborn Calves

## NORMAL CALF VITAL SIGNS



**Temperature**  
38°C - 39°C



**Heart rate**  
90 - 160 beats per minute



**Respiration rate**  
40 - 70 breaths per minute

## SIGNS OF HYPOTHERMIA

### Mild to moderate

- Body temperature between **35 - 38°C**
- Low or weak suckle reflex
- Shivering
- Cold extremities

### Severe

- Body Temperature **<35°C**
- Shivering stops
- Lethargy or comatose state
- Slow breathing
- Very cold mouth, ears and feet (due to vasoconstriction)
- Calf lying on side, unable to rise

## PREVENTING AND TREATING HYPOTHERMIA

✓ **Get Them Dry.** Piloerection helps calves retain heat by raising the hair to trap warmth; when the hair is wet, it cannot stand up and heat is lost.

✓ **Get Them Fed.** A calf is born with only enough energy to survive without supplementation for a maximum of 18 hours. Feeding warm colostrum boosts energy stores to ensure adequate energy is available for movement, shivering and finding shelter.

✓ **Get Them Warm.**

### Internal Warming Methods

- Warm colostrum at body temperature restores energy and provides internal heat.
- Severely hypothermic calves may require warmed intravenous fluids under veterinary guidance.

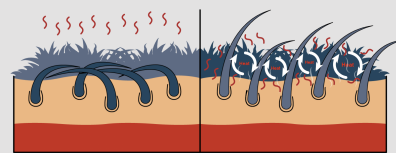
### External Warming Methods

#### 1. Heat Source (Warm Air)

- Place calf in a clean, dry area with warmed air at ~40°C.
- Dry air warms the calf both externally and via inhaled warm air.
- *Note:* Warming huts must be thoroughly cleaned between calves to avoid pathogen spread.

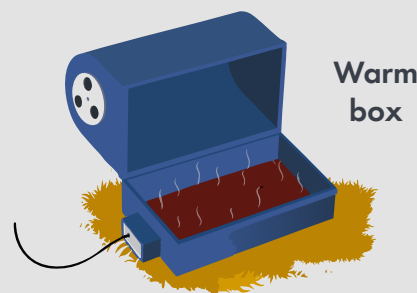
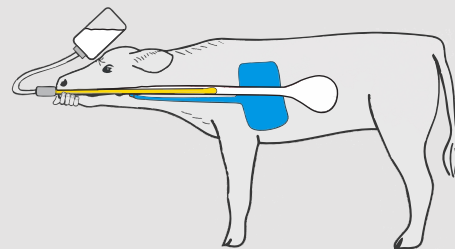
#### 2. Warm Water Bath

- Effective and often faster than warm air systems.
- Water must be maintained at ~40°C.
- Ensure the calf's head is supported above water level at all times

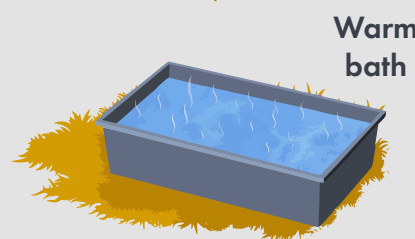


Wet hair

Dry hair



Warm box



Warm bath



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