



serval

ADVICE SHEET

Prevention Virus
Parasite Bacteria
Diarrheas Rehydration
Weaning

REARING CALVES





Diarrheas of calves



DIARRHEAS OF CALVES

THE FACTORS THAT TRIGGER DIARRHEA

There are 4 kinds of calf's diarrhea:

-  bacterial
-  viral
-  parasitic
-  due to feed






25% of the calves are affected during first month of their life. The quick identification of the kind of diarrhea is therefore determining to eliminate the cause and to give an effective rehydration

WHAT IS A DIARRHEA ?

It is the emission of profuse feces with abnormal consistency, color and smell. It comes from a more or less severe disturbance of the absorption of feed ingested through the intestinal mucous membrane. It leads to a sudden loss of water and mineral elements (sodium, potassium, magnesium) with a quick weakening of the animal.



DESCRIPTION OF THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF DIARRHEA

AGE OF HEIFERS	APPEARANCE OF THE DIARRHEA	COMBINED SYMPTOMS	ORIGINS	EXAMPLE
From the first day	Very liquid diarrhea, Colour yellow straw	Quick dehydration Sometimes high mortality	Colibacillus	Colibacillus 
From the first day	Mucous diarrhoea colour: brown, green or orange If cryptosporidium, pasty, sometimes with blood streams Colour: yellow	Dehydration Loss of appetite Curled attitude Feces with strong smell Low or no temperature	Rotavirus coronavirus	Cryptosporidium 
From the 5th day			Cryptosporidium (very often associated with a virus)	
More than 11 days	Very liquid diarrhea, with lumps and acid smell Colour: white	Possible alternation of liquid and pasty episodes	Bad digestion of the milk very often due to mistakes in feeding plan & preparation	Feed diarrhoea 
	Diarrhoea + or - sticky with rancid butter smell or rotten smell	Difficulty to remain on its feet Staggering Enflated and painful belly Slight dehydration	Bad milk digestion + Colibacillus	
	Very liquid diarrhea associated with blood and false membrane	Fever High mortality	Salmonella, Colibacillus	Coccidiocis 
More than 18 days	Bloody diarrhoea or black	Expulsion efforts	Coccidiocis	Viral diarrhoea 
	Lumpy or mucous diarrhoea	Tearing and slaver Sometimes fever Loss of appetite Mouth ulcers curled attitude	Bovine Viral Diarrhea/Mucosal Disease Virus (very often associated with other agents)	

RISK FACTORS OF ONSET OF DIARRHEAS

General management of the herd:

- Hygiene and cleanliness of premises and material
- Mix of animals of different ages
- No vaccination of mothers (recurring diarrheas)
- Beware of the healthy carriers adult animals (virus and parasites)

The mothers:

- Feed deficiencies under gestation
- Insufficient quality of colostrum or milk

Housing of calves:

- Unfavourable ambience of breeding: ventilation, moisture, insufficient or excessive temperature. Overpopulation.
- Lack of hygiene: no isolation premises for sick animals, the housing has not been disinfected nor held empty correctly, insufficient straw...

Calves:

- Insufficient intake of colostrum
- Particular weaknesses: varied deficiencies, stress

CONCLUSION

Identification of the type of diarrhea, reactivity of the veterinarian and fast rehydration of the calf will allow to save the animal and to protect its development potential. The knowledge and the control of the risk factors of onset of diarrheas allow to make an effective prevention. SERVAL offers its experience in your service to help you to overcome these delicate steps for the calf.



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SHEETS**