

## TREATMENT OF CALF SCOURS –VE Vets

### IMPORTANT POINTS;

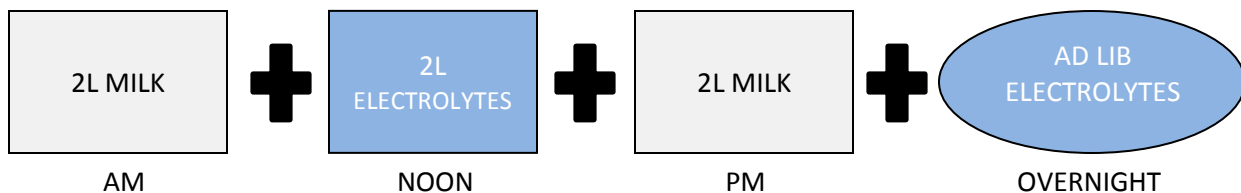
- Calves can **die from dehydration** and rapidly. Correcting dehydration (e.g. with oral electrolytes) is **the most important treatment** for calf scours.
- Any calf that has scoured for one day is likely to be at least 5% dehydrated.
- Oral electrolytes are low in energy. Milk still needs to be feed while a calf is scouring as much as possible. Milk should not be withheld for longer than 24 hours.
- Feed no more than 2 L per feed. Therefore calf with diarrhea will need to be feed 3-4 times daily.
- You need to be clean. If the cause of scours is infectious you are at risk of spreading infection to other calves. Scouring calves need to be isolated incase scours in infectious and treat/feed last.
- Take faecal samples in outbreak so you know what you are dealing with. Get immediate veterinary involvement in outbreak.

### Quick guide to level of dehydration of scouring calf

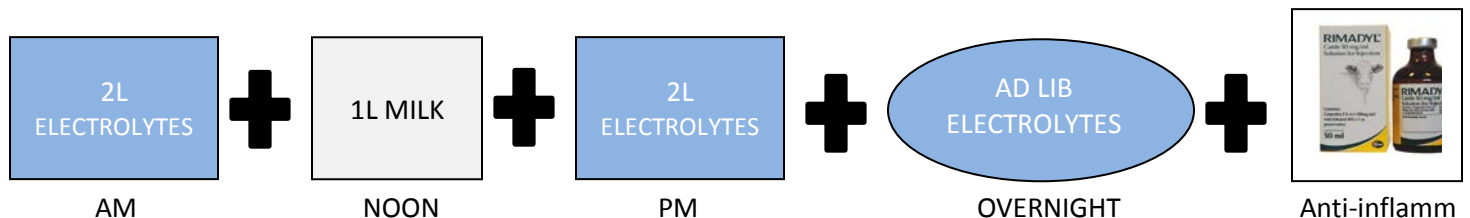
CALF SIGNS OF DEHYDRATION	% DEHYDRATED	SEVERITY	TOTAL FLUIDS required L/day*
Scouring only	5%	MILD	6L
Eyes a <i>little</i> sunken, skin slow to flatten (when pinched), gums sticky to touch and calf flat	7%	SEVERE	7-8L
Eyes sunken, skin slow to flatten (when pinched), gums sticky to touch and calf flat	9- 10%	SEVERE and needs intravenous fluids	8L
Eyes <i>very</i> sunken, skin not flattening (when pinched), calf will not stand	12%	CRITICAL and needs intravenous fluids	9L plus

\*This is for a 40 kg calf. For 50 kg calf multiply by 1.25; 60kg by 1.5; 70 kg by 1.75

### Treatment guide for mild scours (5% dehydrated) for 40kg calf



### Treatment guide for severe scours (7% dehydrated) for 40kg calf



### TREATMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- As the calf recovers from dehydration tailor daily treatment accordingly. E.g. if improves from severe to mild dehydration on day 2 change treatment to mild scours regime.
- Calves with severe scours will benefit greatly from anti-inflammatory injection such as Metacam or Rimdayl.
- If calf flat treat calf with course of anti-biotic such as Depocillin. Otherwise antibiotics are rarely indicated.
- Intravenous therapy can save a calves' life.