

Calcium Transition Bolus

Calcium TRANSITION Boluses contain a unique combination of calcium and vitamin D3. Cows given Calcium TRANSITION Boluses receive supplemental calcium and vitamin D3 when they need it the most at calving time.

Calcium TRANSITION Boluses include:

- ◆ Calcium chloride
- ◆ Calcium carbonate
- ◆ Vitamin D3
- ◆ Calcium propionate



Vitamin D3 is included to help the absorption and metabolism of calcium.

Administer one bolus immediately after calving.

Boluses are 176gm and contain 44g Calcium.

\$10.87 per bolus (excludes GST)

Rumenox

Bloat Control

Bloat oils are used to simply treat bloat with no added benefits.

However, one product that is getting wide acceptance not only for its ability to effectively prevent bloat but at the same time increase milk production and improve cow condition is Rumenox.

Cows don't always drink regularly. In fact, they drink very little on wet days.

With conventional bloat oils, cows are still vulnerable to a bloat challenge once they stop drinking. But, Rumenox's unique mode of action means herds are protected for a longer period, giving farmers added peace of mind.

Rumenox has a single dose rate regardless of the bloat challenge at any given time which eliminates the need for estimating the level of bloat challenge and adjusting rates accordingly like that of bloat oils. There are no issues with administering Rumenox while calves remain on the milking platform.

Reduce Ketosis

Recent Dairy NZ studies show 65-80% of New Zealand dairy herds tested are affected by sub-clinical ketosis. This disease has now been strongly linked to increased endometritis and a staggering 7% reduction in six week in-calf rates.

Rumenox significantly reduces ketosis with studies consistently showing a 30-40% reduction in the disease.

Administering Rumenox

Rumenox is a water-soluble granule and is easily administered through your in line water dispenser.



Rumenox 12kg = \$943.47 exc GST

(7.86cents x per 1g dose/cow/day)

Vetco Ltd

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**We're on the
web!**

www.vetco.co.nz

Special Interest:

- Ergot—As the season progresses and Ryegrass seed head appears, watch out for ergot. It looks like a mouse poo where the seed should be. It can cause heat stress and cause grazing animals feet to die off.

Extended Opening Hours

From Saturday 10th August until Sunday 29th September 2019 our clinics will be open 7 days 8.00am-5.00pm

After Hours Veterinary Service

Please phone the listed clinic telephone number when you require veterinary services after hours. Your call will be automatically transferred to the cellphone of the on call veterinarian. If you are required to leave a message please leave your name and phone number. As many calls to our after hours service are made from cellphones, reception at times can be distorted. If the veterinarian has not responded to your message please do not hesitate to call again.



Merchandise and Product Requirements

All products will be available from the clinics during our weekend hours

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Delivery Service

If you require product delivered (this includes the above weekends) please phone before 10.00am and the delivery will be made the same day. You can also email us your delivery requirements on the following address: deliveries@vetco.co.nz



Milk Replacers – Clot or non-clot forming

Milk replacers have become commonplace in modern farming, whether it be calf or lamb rearing enterprises. Before deciding to use a milk replacer or even which one, a better understanding about the way you are going to feed the calves or lambs is needed. As well as identifying the different milk replacers currently available.

When you think of the challenges the newborn calf or lamb face in their quest for growth, it's not unthinkable that the effort you make and quality of milk replacers used when it is growing up, will be rewarded in a healthy and strong adult cow or ewe. We are not only talking about the development of the rumen but also the challenges of illness and environmental conditions.

The advantages of feeding milk replacements far outweigh the disadvantages.

Advantages:

- ◆ Consistency of product - causes less risk of digestive upsets when mixed properly.
- ◆ Can be stored and handled more easily than liquids foods
- ◆ Easily fortified with additional vitamins and minerals and medicines if needed
- ◆ Potential cost benefit over saleable whole milk
- ◆ Less risk of disease transfer between cow and calf
- ◆ Well suited to automatic calf/lamb feeding systems

Disadvantages:

- ◆ Cost compared to feeding unsaleable and waste milk
- ◆ Labour required to mix properly
- ◆ Need space and facilities for dry storage
- ◆ Risk of spoilage and contamination by rodents etc.

The different types of milk replacers available can be broadly classed in to two categories: Clot vs. non-clot forming. That all comes down to what kind of protein is the main ingredient in the milk replacer. Cow's milk contains casein protein and whey proteins which is better absorbed and increases growth and development in the calves than for example plant based proteins like soy or wheat. That is especially true in the younger animals. With increasing age, the calves develop better capacity to digest other proteins.

To get the best for the calves and lambs, it is advised to feed milk proteins but there is still a difference in the casein and whey proteins and how it will affect the calves and lambs. Casein based milk replacers have dominated the market as it has the same affect as colostrum and whole milk in that it forms a clot in the abomasum. The side effect there is that it could sometimes cause scouring in calves and bloat in lambs.

The improvements made in filtration and purification methods have seen Whey based milk replacers manufactured that can produce the same average daily weight gains and performance compared to casein based products. Whey proteins are digested in the small intestines and do not form a clot in the abomasum and would prevent bloat from occurring. It is also cheaper than casein based milk replacer.

Mixing of milk replacers: Consistency is the key. Always read the label and mix according to the manufacturer direction. Many automated feeders are designed to handle powdered milk making it easier to transport food to the calf shed.

Here at Vetco we have a variety of milk replacers available from colostrum powder to whole milk or even whey based lamb milk replacement. Please give us a call if you want to place an order or discuss what would work better for your system.

The Pudgy Pup

“Look at his size”
Dave says with pride
Big rolls of fat
Hang from his pups side

When pups are overfed
Their bones grow too quick
They sometimes grow bendy
And their joints go ‘click’

Don't overfeed your pup
'Causes arthritis you've been told
Keep its weight healthy
To keep it running 'till its old.

Cooked brekkie in the morning
A dozen eggs for dinner
“This fat pup
Is gonna turn into a winner”

The click in their joints
Can later cause trouble
Early onset arthritis
Can burst their mobility bubble



Phosphate Supplementation

With the increased popularity in fodder beet feeding there is continuing concern about low phosphate levels in cows at calving time. Fodder beet is rather low in phosphate meaning a cow grazing this crop over winter can deplete their reserves and end up with low blood phosphate at calving. It is also important to remember that brassicas can also cause low phosphate, as can grass when grown on a property with a low Olsen P test.

Phosphate is stored in the body along with calcium in the form of bone. This means that calcium and phosphate levels are tied together and the body has

to adjust the levels of both together. This means if the body's phosphate levels drop and calcium levels remain unchanged the body can have difficulty maintaining the levels of both. In extreme cases this can deform the bones of its unborn calf, more commonly it causes downer cows at calving.

Phosphate is most commonly supplemented over winter using DCP (dicalcium phosphate) in either the form of powder dusted on baleage or in lick blocks. It is important to ensure enough is being supplied, this means the recommended number of lick blocks needs to be

provided, this is usually a large number of blocks.

A simpler solution is to provide sodium phosphate in the water. This requires a dosatron system but if one is available then this would be the best recommendation.

At calving time there are a few different treatments to treat down cows with low phosphate. Richtafort is an injection which can be given in the muscle and has a long action. Fleet enemas can be given in the vein and give a big, short lasting hit of phosphate, both of these should be used in conjunction with a calcium/magnesium treatment for milk fever. Finally a new

product, Calform Phosphorus is on the market that is given as a drench. This supplies a very effective dose of phosphate, magnesium and calcium.



Disbudding Calves

There are multiple reasons why horns are routinely removed from cattle. Cattle with horns are a risk to herd mates and stock people. The horns can also curl around and become ingrown. Additionally, the welfare laws state that animals with horns of a length that might cause injury or be damaged cannot be transported unless special provisions are made so that injury cannot occur.

Right now is the ideal time to get onto disbudding the calves. Most of them will have little horn buds ready to grow into big horns if left untouched. Disbudding involves cauterising the horn bud using a hot iron. Between the ages of 2-6 weeks is the ideal time to disbud calves. As they grow the buds become harder to remove.

Calves are routinely given local anaesthetic and sedated before disbudding. This provides pain relief and restrains them during the procedure. The local anaesthetic lasts 2 hours after which time feeling returns to the wound and signs of pain such as foot stamping, head and tail shaking, ear flicking, reluctance to graze, vocalisation and general restlessness may be seen. Recently there has been a lot of research to determine if anti-inflammatories such as Metacam and Tri-Solfen can be used along with sedation and local anaesthetic. The results show that the use of these anti-inflammatories along with local anaesthetic provides the best pain relief. Calves graze and ruminate after the procedure and their behaviour is comparable to calves which have not had any painful procedure at all. Because normal grazing behaviour isn't interrupted, it has been shown that average daily gain in body weight is more in the calves that have received anti-inflammatories as opposed to those without any pain relief.

The use of anti-inflammatories along with local anaesthetic and sedation is now the recommended procedure for calf disbudding throughout the world.

Veterinary Options;

- Debud with local anaesthetic and sedation
- Debud with local anaesthetic, sedation and Metacam (Long Acting anti-inflammatory)
- Debud with local anaesthetic, sedation and Tri-Solfen (Short Acting anti-inflammatory)

We recommend the use of anti-inflammatories to minimise the negative effects that dehorning may cause. Please do drop in or give one of our vets a call to discuss the pros and cons of anti-inflammatory use with disbudding of your calves.