



Heatwave 'hints and tips' for Calves

Before using the Heatwave:

Feed colostrum at 10% of body weight in the first 6 hours of life, i.e. 4 litres for a 40kg calf. Continue twice a day (minimum 2x2 litres) for 3 to 5 days individually, before group penning. Ideally, using a teat similar to the ones on the Heatwave. Move to the group pen when they recognise the teat and are feeding vigorously. **Do not feed colostrum or Transition milk through a Heatwave**

Feed each calf before introduction to the group pen, then while their stomach is full, allow them access to ad- lib milk and allow them to restrict themselves.

When introducing young calves, it is best to prime the Heatwave lines with milk first. Either keep pumping the teat with your hand until the milk draws through, or use the hand pump provided. Immerse the pump inlet in the milk reservoir, and connect the spout end to the milk inlet pipe. (pull off metal weight and yellow filter). Pump milk through to fill the line. Once the line is full replace yellow filter and weight and put into the milk.

If you have only a small number of calves on the Heatwave, i.e. less than 8, only use one line of the Heatwave to keep milk moving through the tubes, and/or blank off one outlet from the Y connector using only one teat using a short piece of silicone tube folded and tied to keep air tight.

As each calf comes to the teat and feeds without help, mark with a wax marker while feeding. You only need help those calves without a mark, and stir them up once or twice a day, to remind them where the teat is. They generally suck your finger long enough to bring them over to the teat.

Calves soon learn that the feed is available all the time and feed little and often. If they do gorge on the first introduction, their muck may be loose for a day, but this is only a transient nutritional scour, and the calf should not appear ill in any other way, and will not have an abnormal temperature.

Do not feed colostrum or transition milk through the Heatwave. If you use whole milk, sieve any clots out first with the bucket filter (optional)

If you use milk powder, use an instant version which mixes cold.

Wash through the Heatwave every day. This is easiest done using 2 x 5L containers. One with water and one with diluted dairy circulation cleaner. Disconnect the line behind the

teat then use the same method as when priming the teats I.e. start by removing metal weight and filter, then use pump to flush with water, then circulation cleaner, then water again. Then reconnect pipe to the teat.
Clean both lines daily.

Do not mix old milk with fresh milk.

Do not allow calves/lambs to run out of milk, this can result in gorging.

Weaning.

The method depends on the equipment available.

If you have previously used treated buckets, these could be used for weaning.

Draft any animals which have doubled their birthweight (use a weigh band), and are 6-8 weeks old into a separate pen, and put on a once a day 3 litre feed, then 2L then 1 litre, so the concentration remains the same but the volume is reduced over 7-10 days.

Once they are ruminating and eating a minimum of 1.5 kg of cake a head then remove the milk.

Ad lib fresh water is very important to stimulate feed intakes and rumen development.

Alternatively, if teated buckets are not available, then simply draft the biggest calves into a separate ad lib pen. Turn off the heat on the heatwave and allow access to ad lib COLD water for the 12 hours at night. Increase the amount of time they have access to water and wean over 7 days, until they are totally on cold water and dry feed.

DO NOT LET THE TEAT RUN DRY, or they will chew the teats!!!

At this stage remove the teats from the pen and let them settle onto ad lib cake and water before removing to adult accommodation. By 10- 12 weeks they should be eating 3 kg of dry feed and ad lib straw and fresh water.

At 12 weeks they are ready for the next stage i.e. introducing, hay silage TMR etc depending on their final destination. Consult your feed adviser for a feed plan at this stage.

Pyon Products Ltd, Elm View, Westhope, Hereford HR4 8BU, UK

www.heatwavemilkwarmer.com www.calfigloo.com info@pyonproducts.com