

Calf-Link



Issue 3, 2018

Welcome to the third edition of our newsletter for calf-rearers! In this issue, we will focus on calf collection, which is a crucial part of the process of giving your calves the right start and reducing the chance of infections.

Calf collection

When Ideally 2 - 4 times/day. This allows for earlier feeding of colostrum, reduces chance of navel infection, and the calves are removed from the disease source.

Trailer

- Take the trailer whenever the cows are checked so you can easily pick up calves then and there.
- Provide wind protection - as simple as wrapping a tarpaulin around the front/sides.
- Ensure calves have enough room so none are trampled.
- Provide a bedding to keep the calves off the cold metal of the trailer.
- Rubber mats are ideal as they are soft, warm and easily cleaned.
- Straw needs to be refreshed daily as it quickly gets wet and dirty.

Identification Use neck bands when you collect the calves; and then when you get them to the pen remember to disinfect the tagger after each calf.

Navel spraying Use a 10% spirit based iodine to spray the calf's navel going on and off the trailer. The spirit base does a much better job of drying the navel than other solvents.



Remember to check out our facebook page -
[facebook.com/clutha.vets.calf.link](https://www.facebook.com/clutha.vets.calf.link)

Top Tips!

- ♦ Use a teatspray bottle/pump to apply navel spray
- ♦ Have a set routine for cleaning the trailer
- ♦ Make sure there is a good quality radio in the shed to keep spirits up!



This seasons competition for your top calf rearing tips is underway. To enter simply text a top piece of calf rearing advice to 0275500505 with your name and the reference "Calfink". All contributors will go into the draw to win a handy chilly bin packed with goodies.

