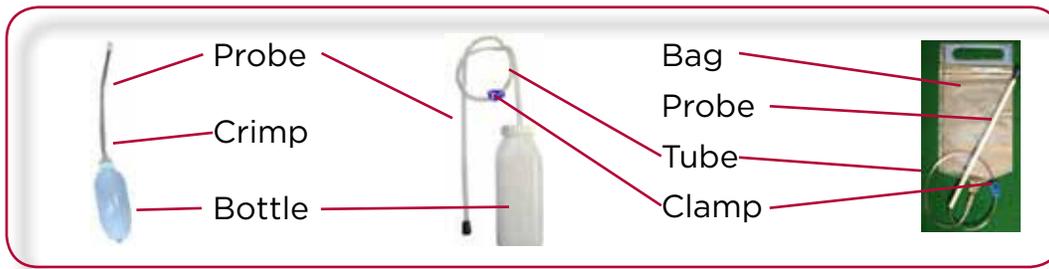


How to Properly Tube a Calf

Professional Services Veterinarian Department Technical Bulletin



Note: Not all calf feeder devices have tubes or clamps as shown with the first Calf Feeder device. In this case, the first device has a crimp that you can use to stop flow of fluids.



1. Fill the calf feeder bag or bottle with fluid (colostrum, milk, electrolytes, etc.).
2. If using a calf feeder bottle, attach the probe to the bottle. (If using a calf feeder bag, the probe or tube will already be attached.)
3. Make sure the tube is clamped off directly underneath the bag or bottle so there is no liquid in the probe.
4. Restrain the calf by backing it into a corner and place its head between your legs. You should be facing the same direction as the calf.
5. Moisten the tip of the probe with the fluid so it will slide easier.
6. Insert finger into the corner of the calf's mouth to open it gently.
7. Gently insert the tip of the probe into the calf's mouth and over the tongue.
8. Continue to slowly slide the probe to the far left of the calf's mouth. Keep the bottle or bag below the calf's head to ensure that no fluid comes out.
9. The calf will likely struggle a little while you are inserting the probe. If the calf coughs or struggles fiercely, then pull out the probe and try again.
10. Feel for the trachea or wind pipe. It will be a slightly firm tube on the bottom of the calf's neck. *This is where you **DO NOT WANT** the tube!* The calf's esophagus will be directly above the trachea and towards the calf's left side.



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11. Feel for the probe moving in the calf's neck. If you have the probe correctly placed in the esophagus, then you will feel two "tubes"; one is the trachea, the other is the probe in the esophagus. Move the probe in and out to make sure you can feel it moving outside of the trachea.

If you only feel one tube or you can't feel the probe moving back and forth, you are in the trachea. You **MUST slowly pull the probe out and try again! If you give fluids in the trachea, the fluids will go directly into the lungs and kill the calf.**



12. Once you are sure you have the probe in the calf's esophagus, elevate the calf's head and the bag or bottle.
13. Un-clamp the tube and allow the liquid to drain in. **DO NOT** squeeze the bag or bottle!
14. Make sure the calf is still breathing while you are giving the fluids.
15. Once the bag or bottle is empty, re-clamp the tube.
16. Slowly pull the tube and probe out.



Electrolytes can be safely tubed to calves at any age; however, milk replacer should only be tubed if the calf is less than 7 days old.

ANIMART vets are willing to train on-farm to ensure tubing calves is done safely and correctly. Call 920.382.8580 to schedule your on-farm training today or visit www.animart.com/dpms-request.

QUESTIONS?

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