



# *Calf Sense: Hands-On Evaluation & Inspection*

	<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Potential Problems</b>
<b>I</b>	Intake	How much starter feed is being consumed?	Any disease; Feeding Management
<b>N</b>	Nose	Signs of nasal discharge, character, color, quantity.	Pneumonia, Depressed attitude, ADR
<b>S</b>	Skin (Hair coat)	Is the hair coat rough or smooth? Any skin lesions present?	Emaciation, External parasites, Indigestion, Environment
<b>P</b>	Pulse	Determine heart rate and character of beat. Are the jugular veins distended and pulsing?	Toxic or Septic, Heart Disease, Congenital defects, Hypothermia
<b>E</b>	Eyes	Check for discharges, lesions, ability to see.	Pneumonia, Pinkeye, Trauma
<b>C</b>	Condition	How does body condition compare to expected? the herd?	Feed problems; Disease; Environmental conditions
<b>T</b>	Temperature	Determine rectal temperature.	< 100 Hypothermia; Septic or Toxic; > 104 Infections, Hyperthermia
<b>H</b>	Hydration	Determine fluid status - eyes, skin pinch, mouth.	Scours, Digestive disease; Septic or Toxic diseases,
<b>E</b>	Eating Behavior	How is she eating? Aggressive or passive at milk drinking? Not interested at all? Milk accumulating in rumen? Attitude toward starter feed?	Digestive diseases; Oral lesions; Rumen drinker
<b>R</b>	Respiration	Determine breathing rate, quality of lung sounds.	Pneumonia, Bloat, Septic or Toxic diseases; Metabolic acidosis
<b>C</b>	Congenital	Evaluate calf for presence of congenital defects of anus, palate, heart, vagina, abdomen (hernia), others	Various congenital defects
<b>A</b>	Attitude	Mental status of calf - excited, depressed, alert, comatose.	Septic or Toxic disease; Hypothermia; BVD; Neurologic disease
<b>R</b>	Rumen	Assess rumen activity, fluid fill.	Abomasal displacement, Indigestion, Rumen drinker
<b>E</b>	Ears	Are the ears warm or cold?	Hypothermia; Septic or Toxic; Scours
<b>F</b>	Feces	Evaluate character, content, consistency of feces.	Digestive diseases, Septic or Toxic diseases
<b>U</b>	Urine, Umbilicus	Evaluate urine color, quantity. Evaluate size, dryness, tenderness of umbilicus. Urine from umbilicus?	Dehydration; Umbilical infection, abscess
<b>L</b>	Legs	Presence of lesions of joints, hoof or legs.	Septic disease; Joint ill from umbilical infection
<b>L</b>	Lameness	How does the calf move? Obvious limps or nonuse of leg? Can the calf stand properly?	Laminitis, Musculoskeletal diseases
<b>Y</b>	Your Records	Record all calf observations and exam findings.	Loss of important health information





## *Calf Sense: Defining the Normal Calf*

<i>Descriptor</i>	<i>Normal</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Behavior</b>	Calves are alert to what is going on around them and are actively curious.	Depressed, sick calves will be less responsive
<b>Eating</b>	Appetites are usually good and most calves come up to the feeder when new feed is offered.	
<b>Comfort</b>	Comfortable calves are usually standing up eating, lying down resting or chewing cuds.	
<b>Stance</b>	Calves usually stand squarely on their front feet	Calves will lie down curled up when cold
<b>Heart rate</b>	72 – 100 beats per minute	Heart sounds should be loud and distinct; Muffled sounds are abnormal
<b>Breathing rate</b>	20 – 40 breaths per minute	Normal lung sounds are “wet” in newborn calves
<b>Rectal temperature</b>	100.4 – 102.5°F	May be up to 103°F on hot summer days
<b>Nose</b>	Wet, cool to touch	
<b>Skin pinch</b>	Skin should flatten in no more that 1 to 2 seconds	
<b>Eyes</b>	Clear, no excessive tearing	Cornea becomes cloudy when calf is hypothermic
<b>Ears</b>	Warm	
<b>Urine color</b>	Pale Yellow	
<b>Feces</b>	Yellow and somewhat looser in consistency	Feces consistency and hydration status should be closely monitored



# *Calf Sense: Distance Evaluation & Observation*

<i>Descriptor</i>	<i>Comments/Questions</i>	<i>Potential Problems</i>
<b>O</b> Outline	What does the overall appearance of the calf look like, both from the side and from behind (Distended, bloated, tucked up)?	Bloat, Abomasal Displacement, Indigestion, Ascites
<b>B</b> Body Condition	Determination of body condition score (Use handout).	Emaciation due to energy deficiency
<b>S</b> Stance	How the calf walks and holds her legs when standing (Arched back, limping).	Colic, Systemic disease with Joint infections, Hoof injuries
<b>E</b> Eating Behavior	Is the calf interested in eating? How much starter grain or forage is being consumed?	Any disease problems, Feed availability problems
<b>R</b> Respiration	How is the calf breathing (fast, slow, with difficulty)? Any nasal discharges?	Pneumonia, Digestive problems
<b>V</b> Viability	Alertness, ability to stand and move around, attitude and responsiveness to stimuli	Weak calf syndrome; Prematurity; Congenital defects or infections; Septic disease; Hypothermia
<b>E</b> Ears and Eyes	Are the eyes- bright or dull, and ears- erect or droopy? Evaluates attitude.	Infectious or Toxic diseases, Scours or other digestive disease
<b>D</b> Defecation	What does the manure look like? Define color, character, contents, consistency.	Septic/Toxic, Indigestion, Scours, Constipation





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