



HOW TO IDENTIFY AND CONTROL CALF DISEASES



Kenya Climate Smart
Agriculture Project

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A calf suffering from pneumonia

Major clinical signs: watery to thick-coloured nasal discharge; moist cough; and a rapid, shallow respiratory rate may be noted. Crackles and wheezes.

Diseases with similar signs: Hypersensitivity/allergic pneumonia or farmer's lung, all allergies (including milk allergy).

Treatment: Long acting tetracycline, dexamethasone

2. Septicaemic colibacillosis or calf scours

Septicaemia is caused by *Escherichia coli*. It is a major cause of early calf deaths. The condition is often fatal or leads to post-septicaemic infections that are often non-responsive to treatment. The disease is transmitted by contamination of feeds with faeces from infected animals and affects young calves.

Major clinical signs: Listlessness and an early loss of interest in sucking. The feces are loose and mucoid, but severe diarrhea is not seen in uncomplicated cases.

Diseases with similar signs: Gastroenteritis (TGE), Coccidiosis and Strongyloides parasitism.

Treatment: Antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory therapy

3. Water poisoning (water intoxication)

Description: Occurs when calves are exposed to free access to water after a certain period of restriction. Calves are mostly affected.

Major clinical signs: Water intoxication is a common disorder in calves and is usually characterized by transient hemoglobinuria (red urine) and nervous signs.



A calf that died as a result of water intoxication

Treatment: Hypertonic saline 5% given intravenously has been recommended for treatment of water intoxication. However, this is effective only in mild to moderate cases. In severe cases, use of both 5% dextrose-saline solution intravenously and a tranquillizer such as acetylpromazine has been found to achieve better response in calves.



Healthy calves

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Bacterial pneumonia

It is a bacterial cattle pneumonia caused by *Mannheimia haemolytica* serotype 1. It is the bacterium most frequently isolated from the lungs of cattle with BRD. The disease affects all cattle age groups.