



CALF MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

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BASIC CALF CARE SKILL SHEETS

18. Observe for Respiratory Illness

Equipment:

- **Thermometer.**
- **Stethoscope.**

Physical Observations:

- **Normal calves are able to drink their milk continuously either from a bottle or pail rather than having to stop drinking repeatedly to breathe through their mouths.**
- **Normal calves will have temperatures below 103.5°.**
- **Normal calves will not have labored breathing – this often appears in sick calves as shallow and/or irregular breathing as if taking a breath was painful.**
- **Normal calves will not have thick white nasal discharge.**
- **Normal calves will not cough repeatedly.**
- **Normal calves will not have wheezes, whistles, crackles or other abnormal lung sounds. By listening with a stethoscope (a process called auscultation) to the calf**

breathe, these sounds may be picked up separately from heart sounds. The lung sounds can be compared from side-to-side and to those of a normal calf.

Biosecurity:

- **Be careful not to carry pathogens from calf-to-calf as you make examinations. Respiratory pathogens are easily spread through oral and nasal secretions.**