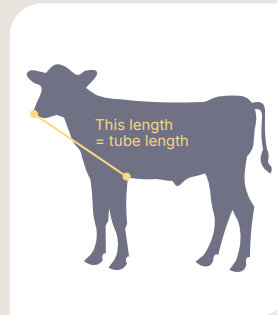
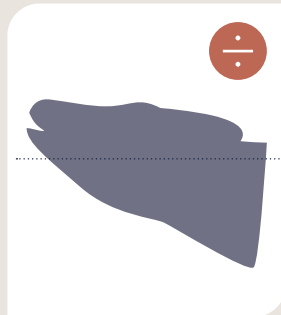
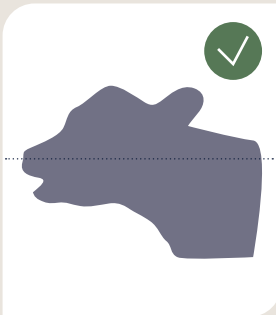




Using a stomach tube on calves

Before you start

- Make sure the calf is standing upright and well restrained. Use both hands to handle the calf. If it cannot stand, place it lying on its chest.
- Keep the calf's head in a natural position – the nose should be below the ears.
- Measure the tube before you start. The tube should be as long as the distance from the calf's nose to its shoulder.

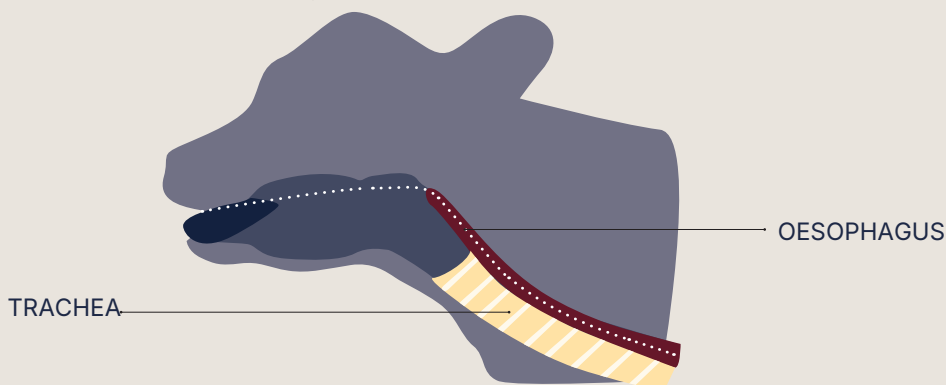


What to avoid

- Do not lift the calf's head while inserting the tube.
- Never force the tube down.
- Do not pull the tube out before the line has been closed.
- Do not overfill the calf – no fluid must come up into the mouth once the tube is removed.
- Do not let the tube touch the floor, dirty hands or manure.
- Do not use the same tube for several calves without thorough cleaning.
- Use separate tubes for sick and newborn calves.
- Never give milk by tube (unless it is colostrum for a newborn calf that cannot drink on its own).
- Do not use a damaged tube with scratches or bite marks.

How to place the tube correctly

1. Insert the tube from the left side of the mouth and over the tongue.
 2. Work calmly and gently – never use force.
 3. Feel the left side of the calf's neck while the tube is passed down into the oesophagus:
- You should be able to feel two tubes:
 - the windpipe (with distinct rings)
 - the oesophagus with the tube
 - If you can only feel one tube, the tube is probably in the windpipe – take it out and try again.





During tube feeding

- Let the fluid run in slowly. Do not hold the container too high.
 - The calf's stomach needs time to expand.
- If you lose control of the calf:
 - Stop the fluid immediately by closing the line or kinking it.
 - Get the calf upright again and start over.

When you have finished

- Wait until all the fluid has run through before pulling out the tube.
- Close the line before you pull out the tube.
- Clean and disinfect the tube straight away.

Cleaning the tube

1. Set up your calf kitchen so the tube is easy to wash hygienically.
2. Wash the tube in lukewarm water with soap, e.g. washing-up liquid. Use a pipe cleaner for the tube line.
3. Rinse thoroughly with lukewarm water.
4. Empty the line completely of water.
5. Disinfect with a chlorine-based disinfectant.
6. Hang the tube up to dry, or store it in the freezer until next use.
7. Replace the line/tube as needed (it does not last forever).



**Watch this video
on correct use
of the tube**

EVIDENCE-BASED CALF ADVISORY – WHERE KNOWLEDGE MEETS PRACTICE

This protocol is part of the project "Evidence-based calf advisory – communicating research results to calf advisors", supported by Kvægafgiftsfonden and Mælkeafgiftsfonden. The project responds to the cattle industry's growing demand for effective, documented advice, and makes it possible, in a busy everyday life, to build knowledge of calf care, health and welfare.



Read more at videnomkalve.dk