

# PROPER CARE FOR NON-AMBULATORY CALVES

## PREVENT

1. Provide **high-quality colostrum**, milk replacer, feed, and water in sufficient volumes and in a **timely manner** for disease prevention.
2. **House animals in groups of similar age and size.** Larger animals can injure smaller calves and prevent their access to resources. Older calves can also spread germs to younger calves.
3. Maintain facilities so that ventilation, stocking density, and bedding aid in maintaining a **clean environment**.
4. Always handle animals using **quiet, low-stress** handling techniques.
5. Ensure **calf health** is being **monitored daily**.
6. Work with the **herd veterinarian** in developing **health protocols** and **training** caretakers on recognizing disease **early**



## PLAN

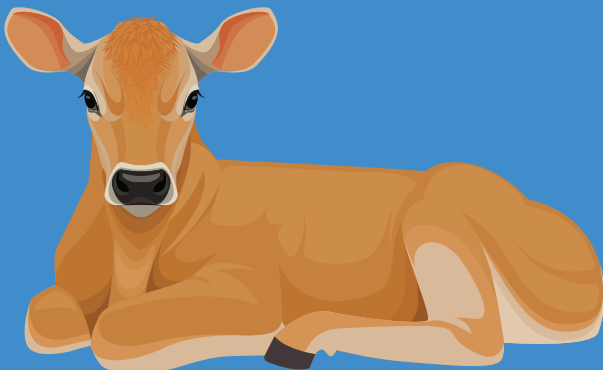
1. **Identify and train** a team of individuals to be **notified and properly move** non-ambulatory calves.
2. Have a **written** non-ambulatory animal **protocol**.
3. Utilize resources found at **[calfcareqa.org](http://calfcareqa.org)**.
4. Ensure **caretakers are trained** in humane euthanasia techniques, including timely decision making.

## CARE

1. Move the calf to a **separate area** where it can be **easily assessed, monitored, and treated**.
2. Provide **clean, dry bedding, water, and feed**.
3. Conduct a **physical examination** to determine why the animal is unable to stand. Consult a **veterinarian** if needed.
4. **Follow protocols** developed with the help of your veterinarian for the **treatment** of disease.
5. **Do not transport** non-ambulatory animals
6. Make a **timely decision** to **move, treat, or euthanize**.

*These animals are vulnerable and may be in pain; they require special handling to facilitate their recovery.*

Every hour an animal is non-ambulatory reduces the chance of their recovery.



## What Can You Monitor?

### SIGNS OF PHYSICAL INJURY

Broken bones and/or limbs, lacerations, punctures, bleeding.

### SIGNS OF ILLNESS

Nasal discharge, coughing, increased respiratory rate, diarrhea, swollen navel, joint ill.

### RECTAL TEMPERATURE

Normal is < 103°F.

### HYDRATION

Look for placement of the eyeball within the socket.

### BODY CONDITION

Animals should have body coverage around the tailhead and short rib region. Back, hook and pin bones should not be pronounced.

### WILL THEY RECOVER?

Consider whether this animal can be reasonably treated with a realistic chance of recovery, or if euthanasia is more appropriate to prevent or end undue pain and suffering.



**CALF CARE &  
QUALITY  
ASSURANCE**

