
AVA NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 1

January 2014

Drying off Calves An Important Wintertime Job

Part 2 of 2
By Sam Leadley, PhD

Drying the calf

At first thought it does not seem as though much is involved in drying off a calf. Connect towel and calf. Rub. That is true. However, let's think about what we are trying to accomplish. The calf needs to get breathing well. Her circulation needs to be stimulated. Within roughly thirty minutes she needs to stand up. And, by the way, we need to get her dry.



I recommend giving first attention to breathing. Clear airways as needed. Roll the calf on to her belly. This belly down position promotes full inflation of the lungs. Then, go at it with the first towel. Concentrate on her neck and shoulders since this will contribute the most to getting her breathing well on her own. Getting her head cleaned off and dry will help, too.

Once we have her breathing well then I doubt if it makes any difference where we go from there. Be vigorous in your rubbing. Our aim is to stimulate circulation. Some folks like to rub around and around thinking that hair will "fluff" better than just wiping. I always get tired of drying before the calf is completely dry. So, the limits on drying are most likely to be us either running out of time or out of energy.



It is time again for the brave to take on the challenge of the freezing temperatures of Lake Ontario.

This year our veteran polar plunger, Ted Schwytzer, will be joined by Attica Vet's own Dr. Eila Susskind

If you would like to donate to this great fundraiser, stop in or call the clinic and ask us how.

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