

# Pronto



## Oral rehydration with PRONTO for CALVES is an effective, natural, rapid, and simple way to reverse the symptoms of dehydration in calves on-farm.

- Mixed with warm water it is palatable, and includes specific salts and sugars designed to promote the active transfer of electrolytes from the calf's stomach to its blood stream – restoring energy and lost electrolytes and fluids.
- Boosted with vitamin C.
- Helps seal the wall of the gut, helping stop diarrhoea & halting further fluid loss.
- Coloured orange for easy identification when it's mixed with water.
- Also ideal to support calves (between milk feedings) when they have been (or will be) placed under a stress event (like transporting or heat stress).
- Nil withhold.

### DOSAGE

- 50g per 1 litre of warm water.
- Feed 2 hours before or after a milk feed.



1KG PC: PR01

Available in 4KG PC: PR04

8KG PC: PR08

16KG PC: PR016



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# HOW REHYDRATION THERAPY HELPS SAVE LIVES

## Scouring calves is a time-sensitive conversation.

A young calf's bodyweight is made up of 70–75% water, and calves can lose 5 to 10% of their bodyweight in water within one day of scouring. A scouring calf – which has no other clinical signs (and a strong suckling reflex) – is already 5–6% dehydrated, and needs electrolyte support. At 8% it requires IV treatment, and at 14% it can end with a fatality.

Although electrolytes are easy to use and effective, calf scours remain a major cause of death and economic loss globally. Close observation and quick intervention remains key for healthy and thriving calves.

## TWO CAUSES OF SCOURING

*Calves typically start showing clinical scouring symptoms aged 3-21 days.*

*Quality colostrum is critical.*

**Nutritional scours** can include changing temporary high stress situations for the calf – like changing a brand of milk replacer – resulting in a flight response which purges the gut with scours. The condition of calves can improve even without treatment once stress is removed. However, in weaker calves, nutritional scours can cause as much water loss and dehydration as pathogenic scours, and these calves should still be monitored closely, and supported with PRONTO for CALVES.

**Pathogenic scours** can include any bacteria or virus found on a farm and can vary between farms. Infection can come from contact with other calves, workers, or the environment. Common pathogens include rotavirus, coronavirus, E. coli, salmonella, and cryptosporidium.

## ASSESSING DEHYDRATION LEVELS

A calf's dehydration levels can be quickly assessed on-farm by assessing skin-tenting, gum condition, its attitude, and its ability to stand or suckle.

**Skin-tenting – pinch a fold of skin on the calf (best done on the neck), and count the seconds it takes to flatten:**

- Less than 2 seconds – normal hydration.
- 2-6 seconds – 8% dehydrated.
- More than 6 seconds – severe dehydration above 10%.

A healthy calf's gums should be pink and damp. If the gums are white and dry it indicates 8 to 10% dehydration.

A calf's attitude during milk feeding is one of the earliest indicators of dehydration and illness. Calves may show no symptoms of dehydration, but if they need encouragement to drink, monitor them closely for scouring or another potential illness.

## Should you feed milk and electrolytes?

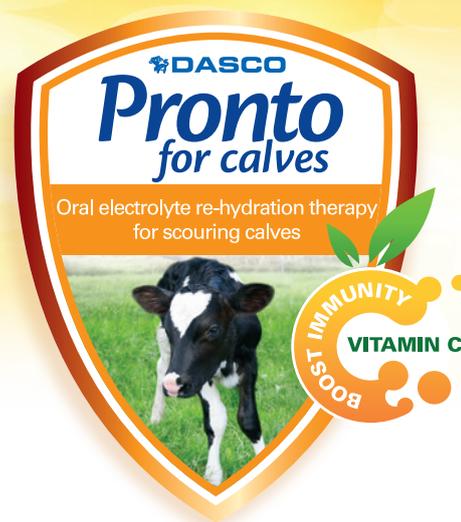
Oral rehydration solutions cannot provide enough energy because they are limited in the amount of glucose that can be added in order to keep the osmolarity of the solution low.

## ACTIVE INGREDIENTS:

**DEXTROSE:** Efficiently replenishes blood glucose levels to correct hypoglycaemia and stimulates electrolyte and water assimilation. Dextrose powers the cellular processes in the animal with liquid energy.

**SODIUM BICARBONATE:** Rehydration requires water and carboxyl ions (derived from bicarbonate). In a healthy calf, carboxyl is derived from CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) – produced in normal metabolic processes. It helps bile neutralise acidic stomach contents as they pass to the lower digestive tract. Carboxyl is also re-absorbed and recycled. In a scouring calf, normal cellular process is much reduced, gut transit time is cut short, and much of the calf's supply of carboxyl is lost in its faeces. When it loses too much fluid it can no longer regulate its blood-salt levels, which drives acidosis and acidemia (when the kidneys and lungs fail to keep the calf's blood pH in balance – 7.35 +/-0.04 max). Bicarbonate in PRONTO for CALVES provides a stable and balanced source of carboxyl ions. It also makes the lower GI tract more alkaline, and less hospitable for viruses and bacteria – like E.coli and salmonella – which typically prefer more acidic conditions.

For Dextrose to be readily absorbed, the calf's blood pH must be correct. That's where Sodium Bicarbonate is valuable. It is absorbed directly into the blood stream, and buffers the blood to a pH of 7.35. Dextrose can then efficiently restore blood glucose levels to correct hypoglycaemia (low blood glucose) and stimulate electrolyte and water assimilation.



**TANNIC ACID:** Its role is as an astringent agent – which as it passes down the bowel – makes the bowel tighten up slightly, helping purge it of any remaining bacteria and pathogens in the intestinal tract.

**VITAMIN C:** Boosts immunity.

**GLYCINE:** is a non-essential amino acid that is commonly added to oral rehydration solutions. It has been shown to enhance glucose absorption.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Always mix PRONTO for CALVES with warm water (never with milk).
- **There should be a two-hour gap between feeding milk and offering PRONTO for CALVES. Why? Because Sodium Bicarbonate neutralises the calf's stomach acid, and therefore interferes with the normal digestion of milk/milk replacer.**

## Important notes:

- It is recommended to have fresh, clean water available for calves at all times.
- Best results are achieved when calf dehydration is identified early.
- If symptoms persist, seek veterinarian advice.
- Scouring – in most cases – is not readily treated by antibiotics. And, products that rely on physically plugging the calf's intestine may cause permanent damage.