

# Feeding with an Esophageal Tube Feeder



Clean the tube in water and lubricate the end of the tube with the liquid you are feeding the calf. Clamp the tube if a bag or bottle is attached



Fill the bag or bottle with colostrum, colostrum replacement / supplement product or electrolyte.



Properly restrain the standing calf by backing the calf into a corner or hold against a wall or fence



Determine how much of the tube should be inserted by measuring from the tip of the calf's nose to the point of the shoulder. Mark the length with a piece of tape. In general, you will only pass approximately 18-20" through the mouth.



To open calf's mouth, apply pressure to it's gum with your fingers. Insert tube along the tongue, which will cause the calf to swallow. Pass the tube down the esophagus. The end of the tube is large enough not to fit into the trachea. When positioned correctly, you will feel the tube feeder in the enlarged, smooth esophagus along the left side of the neck. The trachea will feel rigid. If you feel spurts of air at the exposed end of the tube, you have inserted the tube into the trachea. Remove the tube slowly and try again.



Attach the bag to the tube or release the clamp to dispense the liquid. Once the bag is empty, remove the tube slowly.



Clean the feeder thoroughly with soap and water.