

PRE- AND POST-OP CARE OF FISTULATED COWS

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines the pre- and post-operative procedures and long-term care for dairy cows that have undergone rumen fistulation surgery.

2.1 Trained and qualified personnel

2.2 Herd Veterinarian

3.1 Antibiotic (Depocillin®)

3.2 Anti-inflammatory drugs (e.g. Metacam®, Anafen®)

3.3 Disinfectant (e.g., Endure®)

3.4 Insecticide (e.g., Vetolice®)

3.5 Paper towels

3.6 Antibiotic card

3.7 Red leg bands

3.8 Latex/ Nitrile gloves

3.9 cannula

3.10 Treated cow logbook.

3.11 Dairy logbook

4.1 A fistulated cow is a cow with a passageway (Cannula) connecting the rumen (stomach) to the outside. By creating this opening into the stomach, one can learn, for example, how a stomach works, about the microflora in the stomach, and how fast certain foods are digested.

4.2 Immature cows are not ideal

5.1.2 36 hours pre-op: Feed half the regular ration.

5.1.3 24 hours pre-op: Feed Hay only.

5.1.4 12 hours pre-op: Remove all feed.

5.1.5 6 hours pre-op: Remove water.

5.2 PERI-OPERATIVE PROCEDURES: DAY 0:

5.2.1 PRIOR TO SURGERY:

5.2.1.1 Ensure the box stall is properly cleaned.

5.2.1.2 Dust surgical area prior to surgery.

5.2.2 SURGERY:

5.2.2.1

5.3.2.11 Spray the cow on the back with

5.3.6 DAY 4:

- 5.3.6.1 Feed full ration + 2nd cut hay.
- 5.3.6.2 Administer antibiotic (e.g., instructions.
- 5.3.6.3 Continue antibiotic treatment for the prescribed number of days.
- 5.3.6.4 Record all medications administered in the Dairy logbook.

5.3.7 DAY 5:

- 5.3.7.1 Continue antibiotic treatment (if required).
- 5.3.7.2 Record all medications administered in the Dairy logbook.

PRE- AND POST-OP CARE OF FISTULATED COWS**5.6 LONG-TERM CARE:**

- 5.1.7 House the animal indoors if the flies are problematic.
- 5.1.8 Additional care is not required if the cannula is in good condition and not leaking.
- 5.1.9 If the plastic/ rubber of the cannula becomes cracked,