

October 2026

Why Isolate Sick Animals

One calf in the group or main shed starts scouring, or you notice a cough at the back of the shed. It doesn't look like much on day one. Ten days later, half the pen or downwind calves are affected and you're working through a course of treatments. Autumn is exactly the time of year this happens, and isolating that first sick calf early is a beneficial prevention technique.

Calves are more exposed to disease pressure once the weather turns. Housing goes up earlier, ventilation gets shut down to keep sheds warm, and temperature swings between damp mornings and milder afternoons put extra strain on young immune systems. Pneumonia and scour organisms spread far more easily once calves are back indoors in closer contact, sharing air space and, often, the same buckets and feeding equipment. A bug that might fizzle out at grass can run through a shed in days if conditions are right for it.

Why isolation works

Separating a sick calf is about buying time and limiting spread while you get on top of the problem. A calf with scour is shedding huge numbers of pathogens into bedding and onto surfaces; one with pneumonia is coughing infectious droplets into the air around it. Moving that calf to its own pen cuts down the dose of infection every other calf in the group or shed is exposed to. It also makes monitoring and treatment far easier – you can see appetite, temperature and demeanour clearly, without wading through a group to find the one that isn't right.

Make it practical

You don't need a purpose-built isolation facility to do this well. A spare pen, a hurdled-off corner, or even a solid-sided calf hutch works, if it's away from the main airflow of the shed and has its own feeding equipment. Boots and overalls should be changed or disinfected between the isolation pen and the main group (something we could take from pig and poultry set ups) and that calf should be seen last, not first. Early separation, even for 24–48 hours while you assess things, could stop a single case becoming an outbreak.

If you're seeing early signs of scour or respiratory disease, please give us a call – early diagnosis means the right treatment goes to the right calf, and isolating promptly protects the rest of the group while we work out what's going on.



1. ISOLATE EARLY

Move sick calves to a dedicated isolation area at the first sign of illness.



2. CLEAN & DISINFECT THOROUGHLY

Clean and disinfect the isolation area between calves. Focus on high-touch surfaces.



3. USE DEDICATED EQUIPMENT

Use separate buckets, feeders and equipment for sick calves only.



4. PRACTISE GOOD BIOSECURITY

Change clothing and footwear or use boot dips when entering and leaving the isolation area.



5. ENSURE GOOD VENTILATION

Fresh air helps recovery. Maintain good airflow without draughts.



6. MONITOR & RECORD

Monitor calves closely, follow treatment plans and keep records of cases.

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Levacide Injection is Back!

Due to popular demand we have sourced Levacide injection. It is the same concentration as before and administered under the skin. We have found this drug to be particularly useful when there is a high burden of worms (especially Lungworm) in the cattle as it kills them a little slower so is not as big a shock to the cattle. Please contact Parklands for more information.

Introducing “Cattlezen”, Supporting Calm in Cattle

When to use

CattleZen should be used on healthy cattle to maintain balanced behaviour and mitigate the negative impacts of stress associated with handling, transport, mixing of animals, and other routine management practices.

How to apply and how it works

1. Apply above the muzzle
A single-site, low volume, topical application to the skin above the muzzle. No injection, no ingestion - just apply and go.
2. Pheromones are detected. The animal inhales the pheromone blend, which is sensed by the vomeronasal organ.
3. Calming signals are sent to the brain
Signals from the vomeronasal organ maintain the animal's sense of calm.
4. Balanced behaviour is maintained
CattleZen mitigates the negative impact of stress induced by handling, transport, mixing animals and other necessary management practices.

This is an ideal time of year to use this product as it will mitigate the stress of necessary procedures like:

- Weaning
- Housing
- Castration
- Dehorning
- Vaccination
- Mixing into groups

For more information on its benefits and how to use it please contact a Parklands vet.



Worming ahead of Housing

If the stock are due to be wormed or if you are not sure how many worms they are burdened with then leave in some dung samples to Parklands to get them tested. It is particularly dangerous to house cattle with worms (especially Lungworm) as it predisposes them to disease including pneumonia. Certain wormers are long acting and so if these have been used within their active period before housing then another dose at housing should not be needed (for worms, fluke are different). Contact a Parklands vet for advice.